



# SABA SPORTS

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Volleyball in Tortola

The Public Health & Sports Department supported the Saba Volleyball Association in sending a national volleyball team to represent Saba at the ECVA U23 Volleyball championship in Tortola, BVI. Other teams present at the tournament were from St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, BVI, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Antigua, Grenada, and Dominica.

The team was coached by NORCECA coach, Patricio Bridgewater and assisted by Lauren Risley. The team had 3 days of intense competition against the other teams in the region.

Saba had a good first showing at the tournament and gained knowledge how to better prepare for the next.

## Special Kingdom Games

Saba was proudly represented at the inaugural Special Kingdom Games in Bonaire by Jayden Renfurm, Nacio Zagers, and Nicolas Bautista. The team competed was set to compete in Bocce but were quick to adapt and actually ended up playing Bolas.

The team made a new friend the day before competition started, a boy from America who came to watch and ended up inviting him to join team Saba. The Special Olympics and Kingdom Games are all about having fun, making new friends, and being inclusive.

Team Saba once again made quite an impression at this event from their performance and welcoming attitudes. Saba should be very proud!



## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 7th → International Women in Sports Day
- Apr. 21st → SSS School Games - Hosted in Statia
- May 5th → SSS School Games - Hosted in Saba
- May 26th → SSS School Games - Hosted in St. Maarten
- June 14th & 15th → End of Season Volleyball Tournament



# SABA SPORTS

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



## Caribbean Sports Week

The Caribbean Sports Week was held in Bonaire last November and was a week where the main goal of the event was to transfer knowledge, expand networks, create collaborations & partnerships.

Joelyn Robinson and Lauren Risley both attended on behalf of Saba and had the opportunity to once again work together with organizations such as the Ministry of VWS, Dutch National Basketball Bond, Statia Sports and Facilities Foundation, INDEBON, and Jong Bonaire. There were also many new connections made between the various representatives of all 6 of the Dutch islands and the European Netherlands.

It is always valuable to be able to come together with the sports leaders of the Caribbean. One project focused on was the development of basketball among the islands in collaboration with the NBB.

## Softball with Statia

In an effort to stimulate more regular sports competitions on the island, the Public Health & Sports Department hosted 4 tournaments in 2023-- basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball.

Softball is a sport on Saba that has been very popular in the past, but is not currently played as regularly. When it came time for the "End of the Season" tournament, it became apparent there would not be enough Saba teams to hold a local tournament.

St. Eustatius Softball and Baseball Association (SESBA) was invited to play a couple friendly games and made for a fun Sunday afternoon. There will be more collaborations with the association in the future to include more teams, including females.



## Saba's Strongest

This was the third year of the renewed Saba's Strongest competition being a part of the Saba Day festivities. The event was split into 2 nights this year to host the weightlifting portion on a Friday night at the Juliana Sportsfield and the crossfit & team obstacle course race on a Saturday night at the Cruyff Court.

Both nights of competition had a great level of participation. In the weightlifting portion, 2022 runner-up, Chris came back with a mission to take 1st place and was successful. Joy-Ann Robinson took 1st place in the female category for the 2nd year in a row.

The crossfit winners were Saane Taal in the female category and James Granger for the males. Team Torpedo (Alejandro, Carlos, Pacho, and Oliver) were 1st place in the team obstacle course run!