

= Rachel Henderson =

Rachel Henderson (born 8 September 1992) is an Australian goalball player and is classified as a B2 competitor . While only starting playing the game in 2010 , she made the national team in 2011 and competed in the 2011 IBSA Goalball World Cup and 2011 African @-@ Oceania regional Paralympic qualifying competition . She was selected to represent Australia at the 2012 Summer Paralympics in goalball .

= = Personal life = =

Henderson was born in Nuriootpa , South Australia , on 8 September 1992 . She has the visual disability of retinitis pigmentosa , a heredity disease she was diagnosed with when she was four years old . As a child , Henderson was involved in javelin , and only stopped competing in 2010 following taking up goalball . She was also involved in swimming , representing South Australia in a few national competitions , before leaving the sport at the same time she quit athletics . She graduated from Nuriootpa High School in 2010 . As of 2012 , she is studying with the goal of becoming a preschool teacher .

= = Goalball = =

Henderson is a goalball player , and is classified as a B2 competitor . She has a goalball scholarship with the South Australian Institute of Sport . In 2011 / 2012 , the Australian Sports Commission gave her a A \$ 7 @, @ 000 as part of their DAS grant program . She does not play for a state team . Rather , she is coached by Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) Development Coordinator and athletics coach Cathy Lambert . Having not even heard of goalball a few months before , Henderson took up the sport in 2010 following an invitation to attend a team training camp . She made the national team in January 2011 at the national trials , and her national team debut in 2011 at the IBSA Goalball World Cup , where her team finished sixth , and she scored four total goals . Her team made it the quarter finals before losing to Russia 3 ? 6 . It then met the Spain women 's national goalball team to try to earn a spot in the fifth / sixth place match , where Australia walked away 8 ? 7 victors . In the fifth / sixth place match , it lost to the Israel women 's national goalball team 6 ? 8 . She played in the 2011 African @-@ Oceania regional Paralympic qualifying competition and in its gold medal game against the New Zealand women 's national goalball team , which Australia won .

Henderson was a named a member of the Aussie Belles that was going to the 2012 Summer Paralympics . She was the youngest member of the team , and the only South Australian . That the team qualified for the Games came as a surprise , as the Australian Paralympic Committee had been working on player development with the idea of qualifying for the 2016 Summer Paralympics . An Australian team had not participated since the 2000 Summer Paralympics , when they earned an automatic selection as hosts , and the team finished last in the competition . The country has not medalled in the event since 1976 . Going into the Paralympics , the team was ranked eighth in the world . In the 2012 Summer Paralympics tournament , the Belles played games against Japan , Canada , the United States and Sweden . They lost every game , and did not advance to the finals .