

VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA

Monthly update

January 2015

Dear all,

I wish you all a happy new year 2016. Olympic years are very special for the sporting community as they provide a rare opportunity to showcase our sport nationally and promote our team globally.

Earlier this week, I attended the launch of Volleyfest on Manly Beach where, NSW Premier Mike Baird together with Destination NSW and VA President and board members announced a three year relationship between Destination NSW and Volleyball Australia to host an international beach volleyball festival in Manly (NSW). Since the announcement of an International Hosting Strategy in 2013, Volleyball Australia has built up an impressive portfolio of international events.

- 2013: Men's Indoor World Championship Qualifier
- 2014: (Re) introduction of the FIVB World League (Group 2 and Group 2 Finals); Oceania Beach Volleyball Championships.
- 2015: Introduction of the FIVB World Grand Prix Group 3 Finals and hosting the FIVB World League in new cities; Hosting The Hancock Cup (AUS v CHINA)
- 2016: International Beach Volleyball Festival "Volleyfest" incorporating the 2016 Asian Championships.

All these events have been critical in growing our profile and are giving our athletes the best chance to perform and been seen to secure better international contracts. They have also provided fantastic opportunities to attract new sponsors and partners to our sport. We are thrilled that we finally managed to secure a major Beach Volleyball event with a 3 year commitment.

On the Membership side, we have continued to work with Fortix and VWA to develop and launch a national platform from 1st of April 2016. Like most national roll out, we have to respect existing agreements and also demonstrate value for money so that the choice to move on the National Platform happens naturally.

We are also forming a Working Group (P. King, J. Gibbs & G. Rietschel) to tender for an insurance broker so we can secure the best coverage for our Public Liability insurance and Personal Accident Insurance for our members.

Discussions on membership fees are ongoing and the impact of not implementing nationally a proposed set of fees from the first of April has been discussed by the Executive Directors this week. It will have a significant impact on our 2015/2016 budget and we are now addressing this impact. Some states have made no provision for any increase in membership and this will make it impossible for us charge the suggested fees across the board from 1st of April.

Nevertheless, we continue our work to deliver a National Insurance Scheme as well as online membership solution by that date.

Roger FitzGerald has now finalized a draft risk management framework (RMF) for Volleyball Australia and it will be circulated for comments to the Executive Directors this week.

We are continuing discussions to secure a host for the FIVB Continental Cup (Olympic Qualifier).

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Now for the various areas:

Sport Participation:

Chloe Edwards, an intern working with Nic Kaiser, has been employed as the Sports Participation Administrator. Chloe is at this stage working part time on Thursday and Friday per week. Her duties will be within the Officiating and Coach accreditation areas with specific reference to the following:

- Administer the accreditation courses by: providing the States with the information for members to access relevant information, manage the moodle website, produce the accreditation certificates, monthly communication with the States to confirm participant numbers and invoicing.
- Manage the Officials and Coach databases to ensure data integrity and accuracy. Develop benchmark data to assist with development of yearly targets
- Coordinate the review of the education packages for the consistent delivery of presenting, mentoring and assessing the accreditation courses
- Assist with the annual data collection for the ASC's ASPR report on participation
- Develop a national schedule for accreditation courses being delivered in the States
- Develop accreditation course promotional pamphlets for distribution by States, links with Sporting Schools, schools cups and other introductory volleyball programs.
- Support VARC and to assist with the development of a similar structure to support Coaches
- Coordinate the ongoing review of all accreditation courses

Chloe's contact details

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Accreditation Course updates: As reported earlier with the disruption to the VA website over the Christmas holiday period, the recently updated Level 1 – Foundations of Coaching course was deleted. I am pleased to announce that course has now been reinstated and we are doing final checks to ensure the course is complete. I envisage this course will be back on line this Friday 22nd January. This reformatted course has been amended with appropriate language and content for beginning coaches to our sport.

A new Level 3 – Elite development for Referees course is in its final draft and should be available in March of this year.

Finally within this area of accreditation courses and with the employment of Chloe we will be seeking advice from our member States in how to improve the way we move people through these courses and the cost structures.

Sporting Schools Program: Term 1 of this year will be a huge opportunity for volleyball. Jolanta Moore has, with the assistance from our member States, developed a package suitable for a National rollout. Along with the new online Level 1 – Foundations of Coaching course, it is now possible for every school in Australia to implement the volleyball sporting schools program. I would ask if States are having difficulty with the implementation of this program to contact Jolly direct.



Participation Framework: As a direct result of the ED's meeting prior to the National Stakeholder's meeting a draft Participation Framework has been developed which will then progress into the VA Participation Plan. This document will help to shape how we develop participation in our sport now and into the future. It is planned that the final document will be completed by the May National Stakeholder's meeting.

Communications Framework: A draft Communications Framework has been developed and is currently with the State ED's for further refinement at the next ED's teleconference.

Member Protection Policy: VA redrafted the MPP to align with the latest template published by the ASC. This document has been approved by the VA Board and endorsed by the ASC. The document has been published to all member State ED's. It is now each member State's responsibility to edit this document to meet their States legislation and policies. The ASC has developed a template for Clubs and Associations, this template can be found on the ASC website. The Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) for VA is Ms Jolanta Moore.

For more information, contact Phil Muller at Phil.Muller@avf.org.au

High Performance & Volleyroos:

In December VA presented to the AIS and the State Institute Network **the Draft High Performance Plan for 2017-2020/2028**, covering the pathway development, competition schedules and staffing requirements over the coming years. The final plan is to be presented after Rio, but the draft was as outlined at the Stakeholder meetings at the end of November. The High Performance funding for 2016/17 will be announced in May of this year.

December saw highly successful and well attended **junior indoor camps for men and women held at Bendigo and Churchill** respectively. The numbers for these camps continue to grow, and they are an important professional development activity for coaches throughout the network. On the beach side, junior camps have been held in January in Adelaide and Brisbane around the State Open events in those states, again with impressive numbers attending, and coach development opportunities.

The **VA Centres of Excellence for Indoor Men (Canberra) and Beach Men and Women (Adelaide)** will commence in late January. The final list of athletes selected will be published in the next weeks, when university places have become clear. The assistant coach for the Beach Centre of Excellence has been chosen after an Expression of Interest and Interview process, and it is Aden Tutton, former Volleyroo and Olympian. The Indoor Women's Centre of Excellence will be decided in the next months, with impressive applications from 5 states being assessed at the moment. It will become operational in the next financial year.

The **Women's Volleyroos program kicks off on 22 January** with a camp in Melbourne, presided over by newly appointed **Volleyroos Head Coach, Shannon Winzer**, who has the last three WAVL Championships to her credit. There is excellent take up from the Australian based players, with overseas based players keen to be considered for the World Grand Prix team which will assemble in May/June. Camps will also be held in Adelaide (February 26-28) and Sydney (Easter), followed by Brisbane in April (TBC).



Meanwhile the first Centre in the **Australian Beach Volleyball Network** is well under way at **Manly (NSW)**, and discussions are continuing with operators and State federations in Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast and Perth.

The Men's Volleyroos now know their opponents for the **Olympic Qualification Tournament in Japan from 28 May to 5 June**. The eight teams looking for 4 Olympic berths (top 3 in the tournament + the top Asian team) consist of Australia, Iran, Japan, China, Venezuela, Canada, France and Poland.

The **Asian Beach Volleyball Championships will be held at Manly Beach from 25-28 March**, where our senior teams will be looking for valuable points to assist in determining the seeding for the Continental Cup, as well as retaining the Asian titles which we hold for Men and Women. The Continental Cup (Olympic Qualification) will be hosted in Australia (venue tbc) from 21-26 June.

At the age group level, 2016 will see Australian teams vying for **World Championship Selection through Asian qualifiers** in Men's and Women's Beach Volleyball Under 17, Under 19 and Under 21; and in Indoor Men Under 20 Asian Championships and preparation for the Under 23 Asian Championships in 2017.

For more information, contact John Boulton at: John.Boulton@avf.org.au

Corporate and Finance:

With the Volleyball Australia Offices closing for the traditional Christmas, New Year break on 18 December 2015, re-opening on 4 January 2016, there is not much report in this newsletter. The usual month end procedures took place while work continued on the forecast and the Risk Management Framework was furthered.

Professional development was commenced during the month with Maie Metwally (Accountant) to enhance her abilities with on-the-job training. This will be expanded to other areas of the financial management of Volleyball Australia over the coming months. This training is to not only develop Maie's skill and provide her with a rewarding working environment, but also protect Volleyball Australia in the event of, e.g. illness and I am unable to complete.

For more information, contact Peter King at: Peter.King@avf.org.au

Sponsorship/ Marketing/ PR:

Volleyball Australia kicked off 2016 with the NSW Premier launching the **Manly Volleyfest** event on Manly Beach on Monday 18th January. The Premier was joined by Olympic legends Kerri Pottharst and Natalie Cook and Olympic hopefuls Nicole Laird and Mariafe Artacho Del Solar together with VA CEO, Commercial Director and Board Members, Craig Carracher and Tracey Holmes. The NSW Government through its major events and Tourism department, Destination NSW will partner with Volleyball Australia for the next 3 years.

The **Australian Beach Volleyball Championships kick off this weekend in Surfers Paradise** which will showcase some great match up's from players across Australia.



Sports Pass reward program heads of agreement is in its final stages to be signed. Volleyball Victoria the pilot state to be up and running in early February 2016 followed by other states in March 2016.

Volleyball Australia has been given hosting rights for the **AVC Continental Cup** Olympic Qualification event in June 2016, we are currently exploring our options as the best location to host such a critical event.

The **Sydney corporate networking function** took place on Thursday 18th December, it was a great night and we thank everyone that made it along and for making the night a success.

Commercial meetings across all of VA's core business areas are on-going and the feedback is very encouraging about our sport and our future, I look forward to sharing more information on new partners, broadcast and media in the next month's newsletter.

For more information, please contact Rod Harys at: Rod.Harys@avf.org.au

Events:

The 2015 AVSC was another record breaker with our biggest number of entries. Congratulations to the VA Event staff, especially Kasia Stawski, the AVSC review committee members, volunteers and the work our member States do in developing school aged programs and events that support the AVSC.

We are currently in the midst of our beach season and this year VA has invested in each of the State Open events, by supplementing prize money and infrastructure. This year will see the use of the National Beach Ranking points being used as a means to qualify for the Beach Tour Finals in Sydney.

This year each VA event will be reviewed one month following the conclusion of the event. This process will ensure that all of the items we should "keep doing", "stop doing" and "start doing" can be documented whilst this information is fresh in the minds of all involved.

For more information, contact Phil Muller at Phil.Muller@avf.org.au

Best regards,

Mathieu Meriaux

Chief Executive Officer

Volleyball Australia

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