

VOLLEYBALL AUSTRALIA

Monthly update

October 2015

Dear all,

Welcome to the first **monthly newsletter to our stakeholders**. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information on the current activities delivered by our National Office. The newsletter will be sent on or around the 15th of each month and will include a report from each of our key areas. This newsletter can be distributed to the state boards but is not designed for wider distribution to the public. This is the first edition and I welcome any feedback on the format and/or the content as it is designed to provide concise information to our stakeholders.

Our purpose:

Volleyball Australia is a National Olympic Sporting Organisation that is committed to being a world leader in our sport. Our role is to inspire the love of Volleyball by fostering participation and sporting excellence for the benefit of all.

Our activities:

Our **newly appointed executive team** has been doing some tremendous work in a short period of time and I'm very excited about the long term impact for our sport. Rio is just around the corner and we have to allocate a fair amount of resources to capitalize on the opportunities it will generate but I have no doubt the new initiatives listed below will have long lasting effects.

In the last four weeks, Volleyball Australia has been involved in the **Annual Sport Performance Review**, a process where the Australian Sport Commission benchmark over 64 organizations on their Governance, Finance, High Performance and Participation performances. This process is very time consuming (including meetings and reporting templates) and assists the ASC to put together their Sports Tally (usually released in March).

Our office is preparing for the **AGM, the National Stakeholders Meeting and the Annual Awards Dinner**. We are working to improve the format of this meeting following the feedback received from our May meeting.

On the international scene, the **Asian Volleyball Confederation Assembly** will take place in November in Saudi Arabia and an election for the AVC board will take place. We have nominated a number of candidates to the various committees as we continue to strive to increase our international presence.

AJVC finished in Canberra and we receive numerous compliments on the co-hosting (thank you to VACT) of this competition. We announce during the closing ceremony that the event in 2016 will take place in QLD.

Last week, I was fortunate to attend the **Blue & White Jacket Awards Dinner in Victoria**. It is always humbling to see the countless volunteers that dedicate their time to our sports. Thank you to Volleyball Victoria for a great evening of celebration for our sport.

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I will also be traveling to Perth later on this month to meet with Paul (from **Fortix**) and discuss the progress made on the **national database**.

Another important meeting took place with our insurer to progress the roll out of a **whole of sport insurance** that would provide personal accident insurance to every member of our sport. Currently two participants in the same national competition do not enjoy the same coverage. We need to rectify this and maximize the economies of scale.

We are doing similar work on providing **IT support** and services nationally including the hosting of servers, domains, email addresses, etc...

These new offerings to our member state will be discussed at the next face to face meeting.

John and I met with the **Australian Olympic Committee** to discuss the preparation for the Olympic Games. The preparations are well under way and we start to get a clearer picture about the environment in Rio.

Some great work is also being made to get beach volleyball back on the agenda of **Commonwealth Games** for 2018.

We are having conversations with a number of parties on the **hosting of the various international events** next year, including the 2016 Beach Volleyball Championships, the Asian Finals of the Continental Cup (Olympic qualification tournament), the Women World Grand Prix and Men's World League.

We have had a number of conversations and teleconferences to progress **the membership fee and participation model**. This is a massive piece of work that will enable us to reset our standard of service delivery to our members and the volleyball community. The first step has been to realign our membership categories and agree on a common language that will facilitate the consolidation of membership data around the country. The next step is to defined the membership benefits across the country and finally to restructure the fees to sustain these services and the growth of our sport. We are expecting to circulate an update to the States Associations shortly.

Volleyball Australia (VA), Northern Beaches Volleyball Association (NBVA) and State Volleyball NSW (SVNSW) are finalising an agreement regarding a partnership to provide a **NSW-based high performance volleyball development centre**. You can find more information here:

<http://www.nswvolleyball.com/news/228-major-announcement-junior-beach-volleyball-camp-centre-of-excellence>. This is part of the roll out of the **Australian Beach Volleyball Network**. John is or will be in contact with the other state to continue the roll out.

We have also published a separate Expression of Interest as we are seeking to establish a **Centre of Excellence in Women's Indoor Volleyball** to be the home of the National Team (the Volleeyroos) and the Centre of Excellence for the development of the most talented female players aspiring to be selected in the Volleeyroos.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Women's Beach Volleyball teams that travelled to Hong Kong for the 2015 Asian Championships. **Louise Bawden and Taliqa Clancy won gold** for the second year in a row while Nicole Laird and Mariafe Artacho del Solar finished third.

Our men's indoor Volleeyroos finished the World Cup with three wins in a row beating Iran 3-0.

Now for the various areas:



Sport Participation:

The **Sporting Schools program** is in full swing for term 4 of this year. To date there are 130 schools and some 8 000 students registered. Term 4 will be a consolidation of the process for engagement and it is planned that a number of teleconferences will be scheduled so that your staff can review the current program and lesson format and to offer suggestions for improvement. From this consultation an updated program will be available for the commencement of term 1 next year. Further there will be discussions with the member states for the development of a communication plan for the Sporting Schools program. It is our aim to have as many schools as possible to not only be aware of the volleyball sporting schools program but to register.

The ASC has allocated funding for the review and rebranding of the existing **Spikezone program**. At this stage a scoping document is being finalized prior to the ASC going through a tender process to secure a consultant. Hopefully the consultant will be in place to start the review process by the AVSC event in Melbourne during the first week in December.

Our **data collection on membership and participation** for the annual Australian Sports Performance Review has been submitted to the ASC. Our lack of National Database is impeding our ability to collect up to date data. Phil will be working with the member states and respective education authorities from early next year to determine the best processes and protocols for this data collection.

As indicated earlier we are meeting with an insurance broker to finalise firstly the Public Liability and Directors insurance coverage and secondly a look at what is on offer under **the Personal Accident and Injury insurance coverage**. Obviously from a national perspective we will be seeking the best price for the best coverage.

The **VA Audit and Risk Committee** are ramping up their activity to include a process of consultation and information gathering in order to develop a risk management framework for Volleyball Australia. It is anticipated that during the lead up to the Annual General and Stakeholder meetings next month, you will receive further specific correspondence on this process.

Coach and Officials Accreditation courses: - 4 levels of accreditation for each section are now published on the VA website. Further consultation with the member states development officers and course presenters will occur throughout the remainder of this year.

VA is rewriting its **Member Protection Policy** to conform to the latest template published by the ASC. This document is being reviewed during this week for a draft to be published at the VA Board meeting scheduled later this month. Once this policy has been approved by the Board it will be distributed to all member states for their review and endorsement as a member state document. It should be noted that at the club level the ASC has developed a more refined document.

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

High Performance & Volleyroos:

Beach Volleyball Under 17 Camp. A camp will be held for Under 17 players interested in being considered for the Australian Team for the World Under 17 Beach Volleyball Championships which will be held March 1-6 next year in Maceio, Brazil. The camp will be in Adelaide from November 13-15. Those interested should contact the



Beach Volleyball Pathway Coaches, Andrew.Schacht@avf.org (men) and Lauren.Soderberg@avf.org (women). Would State Federations please communicate this as appropriate. We apologise for the late notice but we were only advised last week that the World under 17 Championships will be held as early as March.

Junior Coaching Appointments. We have received many Expressions of Interest for national junior and youth coaching positions in beach and indoor, men and women. We are reviewing these with a committee of the senior national coaches and making appointments in the next two weeks. State Associations will be informed.

Centre of Excellence Coaches and National Women's Coach.

Find on the Volleyball Australia website (news) the Expressions of Interest for the positions of:

- National Women's Senior Team (the Volleeroos) Head Coach
- Assistant Coach for the VA/SASI Beach Volleyball Centre of Excellence based in Adelaide.
- Assistant Coach for the VA/AIS Men's Centre of Excellence based at the AIS in Canberra.

We will eventually be calling for EoIs for the proposed Women's Centre of Excellence when we have determined where this Centre will be based. We are beginning to receive some indications of interest for this program.

State Associations are asked to communicate this call for Expressions of Interest as appropriate.

World University Championships – Beach Volleyball. These Championships will be held in Estonia from 13th to 17th July next year. More details will follow.

Olympic Nomination and Selection Criteria. The detailed criteria for membership of next year's Olympic Team are now on the VA Website.

2016 Calendar. Attached is a copy of the consolidated national calendar for 2016.

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

Corporate and Finance:

AGM and National Stakeholders Meeting

Friday 20th of November:

9:30am to 4pm: Executive Team Meeting (Executive Directors + VA staff members)

Saturday 21st of November:

8:30AM: Presidents' Meeting

11AM: Annual General Meeting

2PM: National Stakeholders Meeting

Evening (time TBC): Volleyball Australia Awards Nights

Sunday 22nd of November

9AM to 3:30PM: National Stakeholders Meeting

Financial result:

The year-end result was in line with expectations, which secured continued funding from the Australian Sports Commission. Due to the greater confidence in financial management of Volleyball Australia the ASC advanced six months of funding compared to the historical quarterly funding. This enables more efficient and effective cashflow management by better matching the outflows during this period. The Annual Financial Report is in the final stages of completion that will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. The audit was successful with the management result being unchanged following the audit.



Improvement in internal processes continues to be the focus of Corporate and Finance to make workflows more efficient and internal controls stronger.

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

Sponsorship/ Marketing:

Volleyball Australia has undertaken an extensive review of its commercial department over the past few months. Rod Harys was appointed to the role of Chief Commercial Officer at the end of August 2015.

With Rio 2016 fast approaching our sport has fantastic opportunity to capitalise on the Olympic momentum and Road to Rio journey, connecting with corporate Australia. Volleyball Australia are building and offering attractive corporate partnership packages to the market, increasing our brand profile in the media and taking our events to a higher level across Australia. A current audit is underway on all supply arrangements across Volleyball Australia, in particular the big spend items such as Airline travel and Accommodation, we are seeking to negotiate more attractive commercial deals, involve the states with group buying opportunities, benefits and seek ways to assist Volleyball Australia our State associations in saving costs and reducing outgoings. Details on the outcomes of this audit will be advised through the monthly commercial report.

Over the past 4 weeks, the commercial department has been very active is meeting with various business and potential partners for our sport, this not only includes Volleyball Australia, but also our States, thinking and being creative to include our State bodies for greater reach for potential partners and ways we can offer benefits back to the States through a mutually rewarding WIN/WIN partnership.

Volleyball Australia is pleased to announce over the past month we have secured the following new partners on board to join us on our Road to Rio campaign;

Schwartz Family Company, Dr Schwartz is Australia's largest private owner of Hotels in Australia.

Australia Family Company Three Threes Condiments, utilising their **Mightymite** brand throughout our Schools Cup and national junior events.

Sails Restaurant in Lavender Bay, engaging with the local Sydney community and Manly Beach tour Partner.

Western Imaging MRI Specialists, Australia's 1st upright MRI provider, partnering for the Manly Beach Tour event.

Hope Estate Wines, official wine partner of Volleyball Australia.

Event Cinemas, national exposure across all Volleyball Australia events also engaging with the volunteers and grassroots participants of our sport.

These new partners join our existing loyal partners that include; Hancock Prospecting, Bendon, AIS, Sunland, Mikasa, Project clothing, Gerflor and Grand Sport.

We are very confident that further announcements will be made in the coming months.

Volleyball Australia will look at holding various events across Australia, that will include networking functions, luncheons, media functions and meet and greets in the lead up to RIO 2016, we will engage all states to be part of these fantastic events.

Sports Pass reward program have been introduced to all states for inclusion into the 2016 memberships, this will give all members some great cost saving benefits and show that Volleyball Australia are actively seeking



ways to assist our members with discounts and benefits. We are still currently working on finalising this program, but anticipate it to be completed very soon.

Volleyball Australia has developed **new commercial marketing collateral** and corporate partner packages for Corporate Australia and a new website look and feel is currently underway to enhance our brand in the market and ensure we are a leading innovative national sport.

Media and PR opportunities are actively being explored across Australia to keep Volleyball Australia in the forefront and enhance our media profile and presence. Volleyball Australia has been successful in securing the following;

Live radio interview from Japan covering The World League on ABC grandstand.

- Taliqua Clancy and Louise Bawden on Channel 9 Wide World of Sports national program on Sunday October 18th.
- Channel 7 – News report on Bondi beach with Kerri Pottharst and beach teams.
- Taliqua Clancy profile in Inside Sport Magazine – Feb 2016

Volleyball Australia is looking at ways to increase its merchandise offering to our sporting fans across Australia with retail partners and online shops selling Volleyroos merchandise. The AIS in Canberra will be the first retail shop to take a selection of Volleyroos merchandise that will be on sale to the public very soon.

It's a very exciting time for our sport and we look forward to working with the Volleyball community to deliver our goals and offer guidance and assistance where we can.

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

Events:

AJVC:

The AJVC has been conducted and thanks to ACT for their hosting and congratulations to Queensland on winning the Presidents Trophy. A review of the event regulations is in place and it is hoped that this document will be distributed for comment within the next week. The outcome will be to have this document finalized within the month.

World League 2016:

The men's World League event will be hosted from 17 – 19 June in a venue TBC. As this is an Olympic year the World League has been refined to just one hosting per country with a total of 6 matches per round.

Women's Grand Prix 2016:

At this stage we cannot publish a venue as there are a number of sport stadiums wanting to host this event. We are anticipating that a decision will be made by the end of the month.

AVL:

The first rounds of the 2015 AVL season commenced last weekend with the inclusion of the Oceania Orcas hosting their round against Queensland in New Zealand.



VA Beach Tour:

A draft calendar has been published, but just as a late update we will be hosting the Asian Beach Championships in Manly from the 25 – 28 March. For the Australia Beach Tour the host regulations and player handbooks will be available by the end of the month. Finally on the beach scene Australia will be hosting the Continental Cup Final, at this stage we have not finalized a venue or host city due to the intensive negotiations that are underway. It is expected a final decision on the host will be made in the near future.

AVSC:

Online nominations are being received steadily for the 2015 AVSC to be hosted in Melbourne. At this stage we have received over 390 team registrations which is up on this time last year. We are hopeful of running a simplified electronic score system, one that school children can manage, on tablets that are linked to the scoring database. This technology will allow the live streaming of scores for parents, schools and their local communities.

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

I hope you have found this information to be useful. Please feel free to forward any feedback.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mathieu Meriaux", written over a horizontal line.

Mathieu Meriaux

Chief Executive Officer

Volleyball Australia

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