

Presidents Report – VNT Management Committee 2015 to 2016

Overall Summary

The Volleyball NT Board for 2015/2016 included: Stuart Smith (Chair), Luke Seib (Vice Chair), Anne Chadwick (Secretary), Min Ai Chu (Treasurer), Scott Petschel (Beach Volleyball Coordinator), Glenn Novelty (Darwin Volleyball Association), Cindy Haddow (Katherine Volleyball Club), Sally Caraher (Gove Volleyball Association), Brandi Larmon (Central Australia Volleyball Association), Bert Lukitsch (Coaching and Officiating), Anthony Farrow (Marketing). Anne Chadwick also worked part time as an administrator. Volleyball continued to be played across the Territory, and the work of VNT was focused on implementing the strategic plan developed in the previous period. The four pillars of the plan are Strong Foundations, Participation and Pathways, Quality Events and Contemporary Profile.

Key Achievements and Highlights of 2015/2016

At the strategic planning weekend, it was agreed that holding a NT Volleyball Championship for both indoor and beach was the top priority for the 2015-2016 period. These events turned out to be very successful, the indoor event held over the Queens Birthday long weekend in June, and the beach event on the 18th August. These events are important to give players a focus and to give an opportunity for volleyballers to meet in the Territory, a place that is constrained by huge and expensive distances between population centres.

VNT continued to work in remote centres in Arnhem Land, with Luke Seib travelling to deliver two and one week programs in Galiwinku and Maningrida respectively. This follows on from his work in Mililingimbi last year after the devastation of Cyclones Nathan and Lam. The Yolgnu people have shown quite a talent for volleyball, beating 30 other teams in an annual beach competition held at Middle Beach, Gove, in August.

Development of coaches and referees was encouraged through the year, a level 3 course conducted by Dan Higgins for the first time in the NT (Darwin), with Mike Fitzpatrick also conducting a referee course in Gove. The Volleyball Australia Rising Stars program also came to Darwin, with some of our athletes being invited to a junior camp “down South”.

Current Trends

The NT Government has changed, and they have committed to bringing back the Arafura Games, which will no doubt inspire our elite players. We have also been invited to visit East Timor’s National Competition to determine if this is something we might like to play in, and the NT has also been invited to participate in beach volleyball at the BIMP – EAGA Friendship Games in East Kalimantan in December, although our new Chief Minister is still deciding if the NT should participate.

NT Indoor Beach centres are performing strongly in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs. We are also receiving more appeals for assistance in running programs in remote communities.

Upcoming Projects

Ongoing implementation of Fortix; assisting clubs and affiliates in Governance and selecting representative teams for national junior competitions.