



Volleyball Australia

SPECIAL OLYMPIC EDITION!!



A message to Australian Volleyball Community from the AVF President

With less than a week to go to the beginning of the Olympics the excitement grows in the Australian volleyball community for the performance of our 20 volleyball athletes, both Indoor and Beach, who will represent Australia in the volleyball competitions at the Athens Games.

As President of the Australian Volleyball Federation, and on behalf of all the Australian Volleyball community, we congratulate our 20 representatives on their great achievement in qualifying to participate in the Olympics.

We wish them all the very best success and have the highest hopes that Australian volleyball will once again achieve Olympic medals.

We also congratulate the officials and coaches who have been selected as part of the Olympic team. It is the commitment of our athletes, coaches and officials that have enabled so many athletes to achieve Olympic qualification.

We also congratulate a number of Australian volleyball people who have been employed or appointed to help run volleyball competitions in Athens.

It is a magnificent achievement for our sport that so many volleyball people will be in Athens, either as players, coaches, officials or as employees of the Athens Organising Committee.

The Australian Volleyball Federation also recognises that if it wasn't for the contribution of the Australian Sports Commission, Australian Institute of Sport and the various

State Sports Institutes and Academy of Sports we would not have had such success in having volleyball athletes qualifying for the Olympics. We trust that these government organisations can now see that there is a real dividend from their investment in developing volleyball in Australia.

We also thank and acknowledge the contribution that various commercial sponsors and promoters have made over the years to the success of our sport. After the Athens Olympic Games we look forward to working with them and the government sports organisations to further develop our sport.

All of this indicates that our sport is making steady progress to becoming more influential and successful in international volleyball. Who would've believed only a few years ago that Australia would have had more volleyball athletes competing in Athens than any other Asian country - more than the traditional powerhouse volleyball countries of China, Japan and Korea.

The success Australian volleyball is now achieving has been built upon many years, if not decades, of hard work and commitment by hundreds of volleyball enthusiasts around Australia. Any success we have in Athens can be as much attributed to the work of these selfless volunteers as it is to our players and officials.

This is a great time of pride for the Australian volleyball community and I hope all of you, like me, will enjoy the success of Athens.

The challenge for us all is to build on this success so that volleyball is recognised as a major sport in Australia and we are recognised by the international volleyball community as one of the great volleyball countries of the world.

Best wishes

CHRIS SCHACHT
President
Australian Volleyball Federation



On the evening of 13 August 2004, the world's eyes will be on the Olympic Stadium in Athens for the opening ceremony of the XXVIII Olympiad. Some four billion people will be watching the planet's premier sport event.

It will be a proud moment for the people of Greece, unique in that it will mark the return of the Games to the land that gave them birth and to the city where they were revived. It will be the beginning of a celebration lasting sixteen days, where the supreme things will be the Olympic spirit, sports performance, and the all the athletes' emotions as they try to surpass themselves in peaceful competition.

The Opening Ceremony will be televised **LIVE** on Channel 7 on Saturday 14th August at 3:30am AEST. The ceremony will also be replayed at 11:30am.

The Volleyball competition will take place at the Peace and Friendship Stadium at the Faliro Coastal Zone Olympic Complex, which has a total capacity of 14,000 seats. The competition programme will span over 16 days, from 14th to 29th August. 288 athletes from different countries will participate at the Athens Olympic Games (12 men's and 12 women's teams).

Beach Volleyball will be staged at the Olympic Beach Volleyball Centre, which is part of the Faliro Coastal Zone Olympic Complex. The Beach Volleyball Competition will take place over twelve days 14th to 25th August.

Volleyball Australia is proud to be sending Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) and teams representing Team Australia Beach Volleyball (TABV) (2 men & 2 women) to participate and represent Australian Volleyball in the Olympics.

For information on the Aussie's progress throughout the Olympics visit the AVF website and click on the appropriate links.



Draw of the Olympic Volleyball Tournament

Unfortunately the VTA women's team didn't qualify for the Olympics this year, however the women's draw starts on Saturday 14th August with Cuba and Germany playing the first match.

For full details of the women's draw and match schedule visit the below links:

<http://www.fivb.org/draw%20women.jpg>

<http://www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/Olympics/2004/Women/schedule/schedule.asp>

The men's draw starts on Sunday 15th August with Serbia & Montenegro and Poland playing the first match for the men.

For full details of the men's draw and match schedule visit the below links:

<http://www.fivb.org/draw%20men.jpg>

<http://www.fivb.org/EN/Volleyball/Competitions/Olympics/2004/Men/schedule/schedule.asp>

Volleyball Team Australia Men

In the lead up to the 2004 Athens Olympic Games the Australian men's team has been busy preparing for this major event. The team competed in 4 matches in the Argentina Tour from 16th – 22nd July, winning 1 out of the 4 matches, the results of the games are shown below:

Match 1: Argentina def VTAM
3 sets – 1: (22-25, 23-25, 26-24, 25-27)

Match 2: Argentina def VTAM
3 sets – 0: (23-25, 23-25, 23-25)

Match 3: Argentina def VTAM
3 sets – 1: (23-25, 25-20, 16-25, 21-25)

Match 4: VTAM def Argentina
3 sets – 2: (28-26, 23-25, 24-26, 36-34, 15-13)

The team then went on to compete in the Poland - Wagner Memorial Tour from 27th – 31st July, winning 2 out of the 5 matches, below are the match results:

Match 1: Poland def VTAM
3 sets – 1: (23-25, 25-22, 21-25, 21-25)

Match 2: Russia def VTAM
3 sets – 1: (20-25, 20-25, 25-20, 19-25)

Match 3: Poland def VTAM
3 sets – 2: (25-20, 25-20, 23-25, 21-25, 10-15)

Match 4: VTAM def Tunisia
3 sets – 0: (25-20, 25-12, 25-20)

Match 5: VTAM def Netherlands
3 sets – 1: (25-14, 19-25, 25-23, 25-16)

VTAM continued their Olympic preparation in Poland with a 3 test series against the hosts in the South of Poland. The results of this series are as follows:

Match 1: Poland def VTAM
3 sets - 2: (25-16, 25-21, 23-25, 18-25, 13-15)

Match 2: Poland def VTAM
3 sets – 0: (22-25, 19-25, 21-25)

Match 3: Poland def VTAM
3 sets – 0: (22-25, 24-26, 17-25)

The team then headed to Athens where they finalised their Olympic preparation with some practice matches.

Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM) will begin their 2004 Athens Olympic games with their first game on Sunday 15th August at 4:00pm (11:00pm AEST) against world No. 1 ranked team Brazil.

The athletes representing Australia at the Olympics in Volleyball are:

Brett Alderman (#18)	Setter
David Beard (#10)	Passer-hitter
Luke Campbell (#5)	Middle Blocker
Zane Christensen (#14)	Passer-hitter
Andrew Earl (#9)	Passer-hitter
David Ferguson (#13)	Middle Blocker
Benjamin Hardy (#4)	Passer-hitter
Daniel Howard (#1)	Middle Blocker
Travis Moran (#12)	Libero
Grant Sorensen (#3)	Passer-hitter
Hidde Van Beest (#15)	Opposite
Matthew Young (#7)	Setter

For the full match schedule and player profiles visit the below link:

<http://data.olympiccommunicators.com.au/handbook/volleyball.pdf>

Team Australia Beach Volleyball

The 2004 Olympic Games will provide another Beach Volleyball extravaganza with the best players from around the world putting on a superb display of athleticism in a beautiful stadium that holds 10,000 spectators. All matches will be played on centre court where teams will play three pool matches before 16 teams advance into a single elimination phase featuring Round of 16, quarterfinals, semi finals, the women's final on 24th August and the men's final on 25th August. The confirmed schedule takes into consideration the results of the Drawing of Lots ceremony on 31st July and will give each team a days rest between matches and includes night sessions.

The athlete's representing Australia at the Olympics in Beach Volleyball are:

Women:

Natalie Cook/Nicole Sanderson
Kerrie-Anne Pottharst/Summer Lochowicz

Men:

Julien Prosser/Mark Williams
Andrew Schacht/Josh Slack

For full player profiles and background information please visit the below link:

<http://www.olympics.com.au/athens/beachvolleyball/>

The Australian Beach Volleyball teams participated in a tournament in Klagenfurt, Austria two weeks ago. The results are as follows:

Josh Slack and Andrew Schacht - 17th

Won Kjemperud-Hoidalen NOR 2-1
Lost Dieckmann M.-Reckermann GER 0-2
Lost Arkaev-Barsouk RUS 1-2

Julien Prosser and Mark Williams - 5th

Won Berger-Gosch AUT 2-0
Won Tande-Franco BRA 2-1
Won Ricardo-Emanuel BRA 2-1
Lost Dieckmann Ch.-Scheuerpflug 2-1
Lost Tande-Franco BRA 0-2

Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson - 17th

Lost Clarke-Gerlic AUS 1-2
Won Lessard-Maxwell CAN 2-0
Lost Dumont-Martin CAN 0-2 (forfeit)

Kerri Pottharst and Summer Lochowicz - 25th

Lost Leenstra-Kadijk R. NED 0-2
Lost Montagnolli-Hansel AUT 1-2

The four Beach Volleyball teams have been preparing quite differently - Josh Slack and Andrew Schacht have been in Cologne for 5 days training with the Olympic no 4 seeds Markus Dieckmann and Jonas Reckermann of Germany.

Julien Prosser and Mark Williams have been in Berlin. They were training with the other German team of Christof Dieckmann (Marcus and Christof are twins) and Andi Schuerflug.

Natalie Cook and Nicole Sanderson left the village for just a day to spend some time with their extended team of support staff. Kerri Pottharst and Summer Lochowicz have been in Athens training.

All teams have now experienced both day and night training. Some games in the event are not scheduled to start until 11pm so this will be a change for the athletes who are used to playing during the day.

At this point in time, all athletes have decided that they will not be taking part in the opening ceremony. Both the women's teams and Prosser/Williams are playing on day one of competition (Saturday) so marching would significantly disrupt their preparation. Although Schacht/Slack are not playing until day 2, they have also decided that the optimal preparation is not to march.

Pottharst and Lochowicz are on a different side of the draw to Cook and Sanderson, to the relief of both teams. When asked if a clash between the two was more intense than other matches, Cook and Pottharst looked at each other and smiled.

Pottharst and Lochowicz, will play in the second match on the opening day at 10:00am (5:00pm AEST) Saturday 14th August against Tian Jia and Wang Fei No. 8 ranked team from China. With one of the new innovations for the 2004 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball competition being mixed gender sessions, Pottharst and Lochowicz's match will follow the opening match of the competition featuring a Scandinavian battle between Norway's Jorre André Kjemperud and Vegard Hoidalen and Sweden's Bjorn Berg and Simon Dahl.

Meanwhile, Pottharst's 2000 gold medal winning partner Natalie Cook will open her 2004 Olympic campaign with Nicole Sanderson at 4:30pm (11:30pm AEST) against the Yanchulova sisters of Bulgaria (Petia and Lina) who are currently ranked 23rd.

Defending men's champion Dain Blanton, who is playing with his new partner Jeff Nygaard, will play under lights in the final match of the opening day at 11:00pm (Sunday 15th - 6:00am AEST) against Australia's Julien Prosser and Mark Williams.

"The new schedule has taken into consideration the FIVB competition regulations and Beach Volleyball fans right around the world with teams playing in certain time zones to accommodate fans back home and maximise exposure," FIVB Beach Volleyball coordinator Angelo Squeo said.

Each day in pool play will consist of three sessions featuring four matches starting on the hour. The first session starts at 9:00am until 12:50pm, the second session runs from 2:30pm to 6:20pm before the final session starts at 8:00pm and finishes at 11:50pm.

For the full match schedule visit the below link:

<http://www.fivb.org/EN/BeachVolleyball/Competitions/Olympics/Olympic%20schedule.pdf>

FIVB

FIVB President Dr. Ruben Acosta in Athens predicted the best ever Volleyball and Beach Volleyball Olympic tournaments and congratulated the Athens Organising Committee for the excellent facilities and preparations. These will be the eleventh Olympic Volleyball and third Beach Volleyball tournaments.

"The FIVB has organised its sports worldwide so that Olympic qualification is secured through our own top international competitions such as the Volleyball World Cups, the Beach Volleyball World Championships and Swatch-FIVB World Tours, all of which offer significant prize money, as well as the Volleyball Olympic qualification tournaments.

"The men's and women's World Champions in both indoor Volleyball and Beach Volleyball will all be participating in the Olympic tournaments this year. In our professional sport we are proud that the Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are the ultimate prize for our top players," he added.

"This has also enabled us to continue to raise the standard between each Olympic Games, bring new players, supporters, commercial partners and media into the sport each year and offer increased prize money at the FIVB's top professional tournaments."

Dr Acosta added: "Volleyball and Beach Volleyball win new converts every Olympic Games, and it is appropriate that the Olympic organisers offer such excellent facilities for our best players to showcase our spectacular and exciting sports."

The FIVB is the world governing body for Volleyball and Beach Volleyball and now has 218 affiliated National Federations and 35 million registered players.

Important dates

VOLLEYBALL



Men's Volleyball – Rounds

Sunday 15th August 4:00pm (11:00pm AEST)
Brazil vs Australia

Tuesday 17th August 2:00pm (9:00pm AEST)
Australia vs Russia
This event will be televised on SBS as per the AEST indicated.

Thursday 19th August 9:00am (4:00pm AEST)
Italy vs Australia

Saturday 21st August 9:00am (4:00pm AEST)
Australia vs United States
This event will be televised on SBS as per the AEST indicated.

Monday 23rd August 2:00pm (9:00pm AEST)
Netherlands vs Australia

Men's Volleyball – Quarter-finals

Wednesday 25th August
Quarter-final 1 - 2:00pm (9:00pm AEST)
Quarter-final 2 - 4:00pm (11:00pm AEST)
Quarter-final 3 - 7:30pm (2:30am Thurs AEST)
Quarter-final 4 - 9:30pm (4:30am Thurs AEST)
Quarter-final 1 & 2 will be televised on SBS as per the AEST indicated.

Men's Volleyball – Semi-final

Friday 27th August
Semi-final 1 – 7:30pm (2:30am Sat AEST)
Semi-final 2 – 9:30pm (4:30am Sat AEST)

Men's Volleyball – Final

Sunday 29th August
Bronze Medal Match – 12:30pm (7:30pm AEST)
Gold Medal Match – 2:30pm (9:30pm AEST)
This event will be televised on Channel 7 as per the AEST indicated.
Medal Ceremony – 4:20pm (11:20pm AEST)
This event will be televised on Channel 7 as per the AEST indicated.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Beach Volleyball – Rounds

Saturday 14th August

Lochowicz/Pottharst vs Tian Jian/Wang Fei (CHN)
10:00am (5:00pm AEST)

Cook/Sanderson vs Yanchulova/ Yanchulova (BUL)
4:30pm (11:30pm AEST)

Prosser/Williams vs Blanton/Nygaard (USA)
11:00pm (6:00am Sun AEST)

Sunday 15th August

Schacht/Slack vs Holdren/Metzger (USA)
4:30pm (11:30pm AEST)

Monday 16th August

Prosser/Williams vs Heuscher/Kobel (SUI)
9:00am (4:00pm AEST)

Cook/Sanderson vs Wang/You (CHN)
12:00pm (7:00pm AEST)

This event will be televised on SBS as per the AEST indicated.

Lochowicz/Pottharst vs Sfyri/Karadassiou (GRE)
10:00pm (5:00am Tue AEST)

Tuesday 17th August

Schacht/Slack vs Ricardo/Emanuel (BRA)
10:00pm (5:00am Wed AEST)

Wednesday 18th August

Lochowicz/Pottharst vs Gaxiola/Garcia (MEX)
10:00am (5:00pm AEST)

Prosser/Williams vs Child/Heese (CAN)
2:30pm (9:30pm AEST)

Cook/Sanderson vs Pohl/Rau (GER)
11:00pm (6:00am Thurs AEST)

Wednesday 19th August

Schacht/Slack vs Horrem/Maaseide (NOR)
9:00am (4:00pm AEST)

The round of 16 will be played over Friday 20th and Saturday 21st August for both Men and women. The Quarter-finals will then be played on Sunday 22nd August and the Semi-finals on Monday 23rd August. Both the Quarter-finals and Semi-finals will be televised on SBS over these four days.

The women's bronze medal match will be played on Tuesday 24th August at 7:30pm (2:30am Wed AEST) and the gold medal match will be played on Tuesday 24th at 9:00pm (4:00am Wed AEST).

The men's bronze medal match will be played on Wednesday 25th August at 7:30pm (2:30am Thurs AEST) and the gold medal match will be played on Wednesday 24th at 9:00pm (4:00am Thurs AEST). The bronze medal match and the gold medal matches for both the men and the women will be televised on SBS and Channel 7 as per the AEST indicated.

The commentators that will be following Volleyball/Beach Volleyball throughout the Olympics are:

Volleyball – Graham Dawson, David Waite, Peter Donegan and Annette Huygens Tholan.
Beach Volleyball – Peter Colquhoun, Chris Dittmar, Annette Huygens Tholen and Greg Barton.

Volleyball Australia will be liaising with contacts at the Athens Olympics regularly to keep you updated on the athlete's performances and results.

For information on the Aussie's progress during the Olympics, news articles, photo's, video's, medal tally's & records, daily schedule's and general Olympic info visit the Australian Volleyball Federation website: www.avf.org.au. The AVF website will be updated after every match throughout the Olympics to provide you with up to date results and match reports.

The AVF website will also provide links to television websites which will provide you with a full list of the times that the events will be televised. Channel 7 and SBS will be televising certain Olympic events daily and Channel 7 will be telecasting highlights of events between 3pm and 11pm daily.

Upcoming Events

Aug 13 th – 29 th	Athens Olympics
Sep 25 th – 26 th	AVL Commences
Oct 23 rd	AVF AGM
Nov 19 th – 21 st	Vodafone Beach Tour – 1 st event
Dec 4 th – 5 th	AVL Finals
Dec 5 th – 10 th	Australian Volleyball Schools Cup
Dec 10 th – 12 th	Vodafone Beach Tour – 2 nd event
Dec 29 th – 31 st	Vodafone Junior Beach Champs
Jan 1 st – 3 rd	Vodafone Beach Tour – 3 rd event
Jan 14 th – 16	Vodafone Beach Tour – 4 th event
Jan 19 th – 23 rd	Australian Youth Olympic Festival
Feb 4 th – 6 th	Vodafone Beach Champs

Volleyball Australia is proudly supported by:



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

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