



Volleyball Australia Newsletter No.3 2005

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General Manager's Introduction

With the International season in full swing it continues to be a busy time in Australian Volleyball with the National Women's team recently returning from China after failing to emulate the feats of the Men's team and qualify for the 2006 World Championships in Japan. However, given the circumstances that have surrounded the Women's program in the past twelve months there is certainly reason to be proud of the team's overall performance. The AVF has recently advertised for an Operations Manager who will be responsible for the management of the AVF's internal operations – this position should be filled in September and result in an increase in the services delivered through the National Office.

The Calendar for the Australian Volleyball League and Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour will be announced shortly as well as a review of the Australian Events Calendar to streamline the competitive activities for athletes, coaches and referees with the needs of the National Teams and the desire of all Volleyball enthusiasts to increase the profile of Volleyball in Australia. For the latest news continue to check the AVF website – www.avf.org.au

Andrew Scotford
General Manager
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Competitions & Events Program

Australian Junior Volleyball Championships

The 2005 Australian Junior Volleyball Championships took place in Adelaide, South Australia from July 10-16.

The battle for the President's Trophy was one of the closest ever, with four-time defending champion Victoria, Queensland and hosts South Australia all in the running going into the final day. As a result of their three age group titles it was South Australia that prevailed.

The winners of the respective age group divisions were:

Under 21 Men – Queensland

Under 21 Women – Victoria

Under 19 Men - South Australia

Under 19 Women - South Australia

Under 17 Men - Western Australia

Under 17 Women - South Australia

Congratulations to Edward Binnie (NSW) who was recognised as the most outstanding referee at the tournament and was the recipient of the Bob Foote Memorial Award.

For all of the results and related information, visit the event website:

<http://www.ajvc.avf.org.au/>

The Australian Volleyball Federation would like to thank Volleyball SA for their management of the event and in particular Mick Nelson and Renee Healey for their significant contributions.

Sport Development Program

Spikezone™ – Discover Mini-Volleyball

This national program continues to develop with a number of new locations set to be established across the country in the current school term that has just started. The end of the school term marks the completion of the second year of the program and as Member States prepare to submit applications for funding to deliver programs from the start of Term 4, it is appropriate to encourage associations to express their desire to host a Spikezone program to their appropriate Member State.

High School Participation Program

The new national participation program for high school students that is being developed in Queensland has experienced a positive start with 30 teams from the Brisbane area, predominantly from Years 8 & 9, entering the initial trial programs.

Congratulations to Trevor Hunter and the team at QVA for this outcome.

Referee Education

A new referee development process was trialled on the weekend prior to the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships in Adelaide earlier this month and received positive feedback. In contrast to past years where a full level 2 Volleyball Referee Training Program has been delivered, this year the focus was on preparing referees for the event by conducting practical refereeing opportunities to enable the referees to receive feedback from the referee delegates. With the Level 2 Training Program not delivered and not likely to be delivered at this event in the immediate future, the expectation is now that referees wanting to progress to a National accreditation level will need to attend the Level 2 Training Program Course in their own state, with all states encouraged to deliver a Level 2 each year ahead of their respective state league as preparation for all referees.

Congratulations to all referees and referee delegates involved at this year's event for the quality of your performances.

Club Development E-Newsletter

A reminder to all clubs and associations to complete the various tasks identified in the Club Development E-Newsletter circulated in June to be in the draw to win a share of \$1,000 worth of volleyball equipment. Anyone that would like to receive a copy of the e-newsletter or ensure that they are included on the distribution list for future editions should email Tim Shannahan (sdm@avf.org.au).

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Sport Development Manager
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High Performance Program

Volleyball Team Australia Men (VTAM)

World Championship Qualification Tournament **- Tehran, IRAN**

At the end of June the VTAM squad travelled to Tehran, Iran for the first stage of the World Championship qualification process. Although Australia defeated Uzbekistan and Qatar, the team was unable to account for the strong Iranian team, in front of a hostile and vocal crowd. The results of all matches were:

AUS lost to IRI : 0-3 (19/25, 21/25, 19/25)

AUS defeated QAT : 3-0 (26/24, 25/21, 25/13)

AUS defeated UZB : 3-0 (25/14, 25/15, 25/15)

World Championship Qualification Playoff **- Chennai , INDIA**

Following the loss to Iran, the team was required to attend the "final chance" Qualification Tournament in Chennai, India, in early July. There was no time for the team to return to Australia, so they travelled to Singapore and set up a training camp with the help of former national team player and ex-patriot Matthew Perry. After three days of training in Singapore the Team headed for India.

In front of huge crowds, the Team lost to Korea, but defeated India in straight sets. The scores and a brief note about the final match appear below:

AUS lost to KOR : 1-3 (22/25, 29/27, 16/25, 25/27)

AUS defeated IND: 3-0 (25/18, 25/17, 25/17)

"Australia qualified for the 2006 World Championships, when they defeated India, in front of 12,000 people, in Chennai, this evening. The match was close in the early stages of the first set, with both teams siding out efficiently. Blocks and transition kills enabled Australia to take the first set and they never looked back. The Team continued to block well and efficient serving provided four aces, with only six errors. While the huge crowd were clearly looking to support their hometown heroes, Australia was giving very little away, as they sprinted to an eleven-point lead in the final set, setting-up a strong victory for the 2004 Asian Olympic representatives. Volleyball Team Australia Men will now compete in the 2006 World Championships in Japan."

AIS / VTAM v Korean Airlines

AIS / Volleyball Team Australia will contest a series with the strong Korean Company team KAL during August. The series will involve a number of matches in Canberra between 15th and 18th August and two public matches in Sydney, probably at Sydney Olympic Park, on the 19th and 20th August.

AIS / VTAM v Zhe Jiang Province

AIS / Volleyball Team Australia will contest a series with the strong Chinese club team Zhe Jiang Province, also during August. The series will be held in Canberra during the period 22nd – 28th August. More details will be available soon.

AIS / VTAM Squad

While the senior members of the AIS / VTAM squad were qualifying for the World Championships, the younger members remained in Canberra during June to train in preparation for Australian Junior

Volleyball Championships, which were held in Adelaide from 11th – 16th July. Following their participation at the Championships, the athletes returned to the AIS and are training with the senior squad members ahead of the upcoming internationals to be hosted in Australia.

Volleyball Team Australia Women (VTAW)

VTAW v Zhe Jiang Province

Volleyball Team Australia Women played a series in Brisbane against top Chinese club team Zhe Jiang Province (ZJP) in preparation for their World Championship Qualification Tournament. The new team worked together well, and by the end of the tour provided all concerned with confidence for the up-coming Tournament in China, in August.

The results from the Brisbane series were:

Match 1: VTAW v ZJP: 0-3 (11-25, 22 - 25, 17 -25)

Match 2: VTAW v ZJP: 0-3 (19 -25, 17 - 25, 8 – 25)

Match 3: VTAW v ZJP: 0-3 (13 -25, 18 - 25, 14 -25)

Match 4: VTAW v ZJP: 0-3 (13 -25, 29 - 31, 10 -25)

Match 5: VTAW v ZJP: 1-3 (8-25, 18-25, 30-28, 22-25)

Full match reports can be found at our website www.avf.org.au.

World Championship Qualification Tournament - Ningbo, China

Volleyball Team Australia Women competed in their World Championship Qualification Tournament in Ningbo, China last week. The team that represented Australia was:

Megan AVERY	Tamsin BARNETT
Louise BAWDEN	Lauren BERTOLACCI
Tolotear LEALAMANUA	Anna MAYCOCK
Justine MOWEN	Rowena MORGAN
Jessica PEACOCK	Eileen ROMANOWSKI
Rachel ROURKE	Rebecca WALTER

Head of Delegation:	Adam Sachs
Head Coach:	Ying Jiang
Assistant Coaches:	Boris Georgieff
	Ross Sullivan

Manager:	Sally Bacon
Physiotherapist:	Ruth Lindsay

Referee:	Cameron Olson
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The team's results were:

AUS defeated UZB: 3-0 (25-10, 25-15, 25-14)

AUS defeated JOR: 3-0 (25-8, 25-5, 25-8)

AUS lost to CHN: 0-3 (15-25, 11-25, 28-30)

AUS lost to TPE: 1-3 (15-25, 26-24, 25-18, 26-24)

The team finished in third place, behind China and Chinese Taipei, and with only the first two nations

to qualify for next year's World Championships, Australia was unsuccessful in its bid for a place in Japan. However, given the limited preparations of the team since it became a camps-based program at the start of the year, the overall performance was a credit to the players and coaching staff as they challenged Chinese Taipei for second place and went close to taking a set off Olympic champions China.

Match reports can be found on the AVF website – www.avf.org.au.

Team Australia Beach Volleyball (TABV)

2005 FIVB World Tour

Australian Teams are finding the 2005 World Tour hard work due to the delayed return to the day to day training preparation of all the senior team members due to injuries, and the struggles and mental & emotional battles of a tough process of competing in qualification tournaments for the developing athletes and new team combinations.

The following report covers the middle phase of the European based FIVB World Tour events.

For several Australian senior team members, this phase was planned as a break phase due to a limit of exposure to international competition due to evaluating the athletes' injury conditions and incorporating a scheduled break for the new "fathers" so they can spend some quality time with their respective families.

With an expanded competitive calendar for the developing teams & athletes, the FIVB Satellite & Challenger Events provide some much needed targeted competitive opportunities. The Australian developing teams / athletes have planned a greater participation in these events as a priority over Open & Grand Slams, which involves significantly more travel than the higher level Open and Grand Slam Events.

During this phase, several new combinations will be trialed in order to provide development opportunities for Tamsin Barnett and Stacey Kloeden. Significant achievements were the qualification for the Main Draw by Stacey & Tamsin in Russia and Portugal World Tour Events through the tough qualification tournaments.

Current Situation

Australian Teams' World Rankings as at 1/8/05	
Women	
Clarke / Gerlic	25
Cook / Lochowicz	36
Barnett / Kloeden	62
Busch / Mokotupu	67

Cook / Sanderson	56
Gerlic / Kloeden	47
Kloeden / Lochowicz	104
Rohkamper / Frostick	130

Men	
Schacht / Slack	21
Prosser / Richardson	40
Byron / Suan	72
Lyne / Bourne	95
Smith / Wyer	112
McCombe / Hill	133
Coles / Croxford	167

Recent Results (Opens & Grand Slams)

Norway

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Clarke / Gerlic	18	9 th
Cook / Lochowicz	24	9 th
Barnett / Kloeden	20 QT	33 rd
Busch / Mokotupu	23 QT	41 st

Schacht / Slack	16	17 th
Prosser / Richardson	27	25 th

(QT means Qualifying Tournament and therefore the seeding is the team's ranking at the qualification stage of the event.)

Russia

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Clarke / Gerlic	10	17 th
Barnett / Kloeden	12 QT / 27 MD	25 th
Busch / Mokotupu	16 QT	33 rd DNQ

Prosser / Richardson	18	17 th
Byron Suan	25 QT	41 st DNQ
Lyne / Bourne	26 QT	57 th DNQ
Smith / Wyer	41 QT	57 th DNQ

(MD means Main Draw and therefore having made it through the Qualifying Tournament represents the team's seeding in the main draw of the event.)

Portugal

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Clarke / Gerlic	16	17 th
Barnett / Kloeden	20 QT / 30 MD	25 th
Busch / Mokotupu	27 QT	41 st DNQ

Prosser / Richardson	26	25 th
Byron / Suan	22 QT	41 st DNQ
Smith / Wyer	35 QT	41 st DNQ
Lyne / Bourne	23 QT	57 th DNQ
Coles / Croxford	CQP	DNQ

(CQP means Country Quota Playoff and therefore given the number of Australian teams entered exceeding the allowable quota the team had to play another Australian team for the right to play in the Qualifying Tournament.)

Poland (men only)

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Schacht / Slack	17	7 th
Byron / Suan	30 QT	41 st DNQ
Coles / Croxford	60 QT	41 st DNQ
Lyne / Bourne	39 QT	57 th DNQ
Smith / Wyer	CQP	DNQ

France

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Cook / Sanderson	24	13 th
Clarke / Gerlic	20	25 th
Lochowicz / Kloeden	15 QT	41 st DNQ

Schacht / Slack	3 QT / 20 MD	13 th
Prosser / Richardson	11 QT	41 st DNQ

Austria

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Clarke / Gerlic	26	25 th
Lochowicz / Kloeden	14 QT	33 rd DNQ
Cook / Sanderson	11 QT	41 st DNQ

Schacht / Slack	1 QT / 17 MD	13 th
Prosser / Richardson	13 QT	33 rd DNQ

Recent Results (Satellites & Challengers)

Cagliari, Italy

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Byron / Suan	14	9 th
Lyne / Bourne	11	13 th
McCombe / Hill	13 QT / 22 MD	17 th
Smith / Wyer	17 QT	33 rd

Rimini, Italy

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Smith / Wyer	17 QT	25 th
McCombe / Hill	13 QT	33 rd DNQ

Alba Adriatica, Italy

Team	Seeding	Final Place
McCombe / Hill	11	9 th
Smith / Wyer	9	13 th

Kiev, Ukraine

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Byron / Suan	5	13 th
Lyne / Bourne	17	25 th
McCombe / Hill	6 QT / 25 MD	25 th

Palinuro, Italy

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Frostick / Rohkamper	13	9 th
Busch / Mitchard	4	13 th

Smith / Wyer	6	9 th
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Vasto, Italy

Team	Seeding	Final Place
Busch / Mitchard	4	9 th
Byron / Suan	5	9 th
Lyne / Bourne	7	13 th
McCombe / Wyer	13	13 th

Coming Events (August)

World Tour

- Canada

Satellites & Challengers

- Lausanne, Switzerland
- Vaduz, Liechtenstein
- Le Lavandou, France
- Vaals, Netherlands

Under 19 World Championships

The 2005 Under 19 World Championships took place in St. Quay Portrieux, France from August 3rd – 7th. Australia was represented by:

Women – Alice Rohkamper & Becchara Palmer

Men – Sam Boehm & Greg Sukochev

Head Coach : Colleen Cambell
Coach : Richard Casutt

The FIVB changed World Championships age groups from U18 to U19 after the November 2004 FIVB World Council Meetings.

As part of their preparations for the event the Australian U19 Team Delegation assembled in Paris, France to acclimatise and watch their first ever World Tour Event internationally and cheered vocally and intensely for the senior Australian Teams in the Main Draw of the Paris Grand Slam event. The team took the opportunity to train in the early morning on the competition courts along with the Australian Senior Teams who did not make the main draw competition for some extra competitive practice.

At the World Championships both teams performed well finishing in 9th place in their respective competitions. Alice and Becchara were seeded 18th in the women's event and qualified for the playoffs after finishing second in pool play with two wins and a loss. However, in the first round of the elimination stage of the event they came up against the German team that went on to win the bronze medal. Their results were:

AUS lost to NED: 1-2 (14-21, 21-18, 14-16)

AUS defeated FRA: 2-1 (23-21, 19-21, 15-9)

AUS defeated AUT: 2-0 (21-13, 21-15)

AUS lost to GER: 0-2 (14-21, 17-21)

Sam and Greg achieved very similar results to the women, coming second in their pool to earn a place in the elimination stage, only to lose in the first round. In their case this loss was to the eventual silver medalists from the USA. Their results were:

AUS defeated SUI: 2-1 (15-21, 21-11, 15-9)

AUS defeated CAN: 2-1 (19-21, 21-19, 15-10)

AUS lost to POL: 2-0 (10-21, 18-21)

AUS lost to USA: 1-2 (21-11, 13-21, 7-15)

For Alice and Sam this was their 3rd appearance in a row at this level. For the coaches, Colleen was attending her 3rd World Championships and for Richard, this was his first International Beach Volleyball competition as a coach instead of his previous role as international referee.

Under 21 World Championships

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is the location for the Under 21 World Championships from September 6th – 11th. The Australian teams competing are:

Women – Jill McLeod & Kayleh Nielsen

Men – Travis Moran & Phil Austin

Head Coach : Matt Grinlaubs
Coach : Indra Reinpuu

Our U21 Team members are busy ramping up the training and competitive opportunities during the winter months back in their respective home states in the final weeks of preparation for the 2005 U21 World Championships.

Under the direction of Head Coach Matt Grinlaubs and Coach Indra Reinpuu, the team members will be put through an exciting and challenging time with the final preparation including a week training camp with several international countries on the famous Brazilian beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema.

It will be the first time visit to Rio de Janeiro for every delegation member.

For Jill McLeod, this opportunity will be her 3rd year in a row she represents Australia at this level of competition.

This will be the first time Matt Grinlaubs performs a coaching role at an international event, since making the transition from player to full time administrator and recently to full time coach.

AIS Beach Programme

The Australian Volleyball Federation (AVF) and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) recently announced that Adelaide will be the home to the AIS/Australian Beach Volleyball program.

Following is an extract from the Media Release:

This program is unique on the world stage and will further establish Australia at the leading edge for beach volleyball development and high performance excellence. The 3-way partnership (including the South Australian Sports Institute) will see all parties invest resources in the \$1million annual program.

Chris Schacht, AVF President, was delighted with the interest shown in the tender process for this best-practice high performance environment. The quality of the tenders highlighted that both State Associations (an application was also received from Queensland) had the skill to promote and further develop Beach Volleyball in their State and he acknowledged how they had worked with their State Government and Sports Institute in preparing their submission with both State Governments proposing extra funds and resources to develop Beach Volleyball.

“Both States, South Australia and Queensland, should be congratulated on the quality of their tenders and although Queensland were not successful in a close-run race the AVF looks forward to continuing to work with Queensland Volleyball and the Queensland Academy of Sport on furthering their commitment to Beach Volleyball in Australia” Schacht said.

“Australia now has a world-class facility for up to 12 male and female residential athletes and a further eight to attend training camps and that will provide the environment and culture for Australia to dominate, in Beach Volleyball, on the world stage”, he said.

Volleyball Australia General Manager Andrew Scotford said the establishment of the program in Adelaide heralded a new and exciting era for the sport in Australia.

“The fact that the AIS has now included it as one of its programs brings to the sport world’s best expertise in sports science and sports medicine from the AIS and SASI and that can only help the sport move to a new level,” Scotford said.

In recent weeks the positions of Head Coach, two Assistant Coaches and Program Administrator within this new program have been advertised and the applications received are now under consideration.

National Junior Program

Both National Youth Teams competed in the annual Invitation Youth Tournament in Taipei during April, as their main preparation for the Asian Youth Championships. This is a high level tournament with national level teams representing all countries that take part.

87 Boys – Taipei Tournament

The 87 Boys played very well and gained entry to the Grand Final on percentage. Considering that it is only a few years ago that our teams won their first set in this tournament, it is an excellent measure of the Program’s development.

MATCH 1 v JAPAN : 2 – 1 (25 -19, 22 – 25, 25 - 16)
MATCH 2 v TAIWAN : 1 – 2 (19 -25, 25 – 16, 21 - 25)
MATCH 3 v KOREA : 0 – 2 (24 -26, 26 – 28)
MATCH 4 v THAILAND : 2 – 1 (25 -18, 15 – 25, 25 - 16)
GRAND FINAL v TAIWAN : 0 – 3 (18 -25, 21 – 25, 21 - 25)

88 Girls – Taipei Tournament

The 88 Girls had a tough time, but the experience that they gained was crucial for their preparation for Asian Youth Championships.

Match 1 v Japan :0 –2 (12 – 25 & 12 – 25)
Match 2 v Taiwan :0 –2 (10 – 25 & 8 – 25)
Match 3 v Korea :0 –2 (10 – 25 & 8 – 25)
Match 4 v Thailand :0 –2 (27 – 29 & 20 – 25)

87 Boys - Asian Championships, Iran

The Asian Youth Boys’ Championship was held in Tehran, Iran from 13th – 19th May. In a strong field the boys finished 8th. The results were as follows:

MATCH 1: AUS v CHN : 2-3 (22-25, 25-21, 25-21, 23-25, 8-15)
MATCH 2: AUS v IND : 1-3 (22-25, 25-23, 17-25, 21-25)
MATCH 3: AUS v KOR : 0-3 (21-25, 17-25, 21-25)
MATCH 4: AUS v IRI : 1-3 (24-26, 25-23, 14-25, 18-25)
MATCH 5: AUS v JPN : 0-3 (23-25, 15-25, 15-25)
MATCH 6: AUS v THA : 0-3 (23-25, 22-25, 23-25)

88 Girls - Asian Championships, Philippines

The Asian Youth Girls’ Championship was held in Cebu, Philippines from 24th – 31st May. The girls played really well throughout the tournament to equal the highest ever finish in this event for an Australian team, finishing in sixth position. Apart from two excellent wins, the team created history taking a set off Japan for the first time at Youth level. The teams’ results were:

Match 1: v PHI: 3 - 0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-14)
Match 2: v TPE: 0 - 3 (13-25, 16-25, 22-25)
Match 3: v JAP: 1 - 3 (25-22, 19-25, 18-25, 10-25)
Match 4: v KOR: 0 - 3 (7-25, 24-25, 15-25)
Match 5: v VIE: 3 - 1 (19-25, 25-22, 25-19, 25-21)
Match 6: v THA 0 - 3 (14-25, 23-25, 18-25)

89 and 90 Youth Squads

Both squads attended camps in Adelaide, after the Australian Junior Volleyball Championships from 17th – 22nd July. Head coaches Darren Wilson (89 Youth Boys) and Jenny Becker (90 Youth Girls) were pleased with the efforts of attending athletes. The next camps will be held after the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in December in Bendigo.

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Sustagen Sport Competition

Sustagen Sport is offering clubs and association an opportunity to win \$10,000. For further information, view the related article in the 'Latest News' section of the AVF website.

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Important dates/events

September 17th
Australian Volleyball League (AVL) commences

October 15th – Melbourne
AVF Annual General Meeting

November 25th - 27th
Vodafone Beach Volleyball Tour commences

December 4th - 5th – Melbourne
AVL Finals

December 6th - 10th – Melbourne
Australian Volleyball Schools Cup (AVSC)

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