



The Volleyball Association of Ireland's

Annual AGM Minutes

2015

The Volleyball Association of Ireland
First Floor, 141 Thomas Street
Dublin 8





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Volleyball Association of Ireland AGM 2015 - Minutes

Date: 9th May 2015
Venue: Maldron Hotel Portlaoise, Midway, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

Board members present: Des Currivan - President
Megan Burgdorf – Vice President
Grainne Culliton - Treasurer
Apologies received from: Anthi Gilligan
Minutes taken by: Martin O'Connor
Clubs represented at AGM: Please see Appendix 12

1. **Opening of the meeting** – Des Currivan opened the meeting at 14:00 by thanking all who attended.

2. **Minutes of the 2015 AGM –**

Matters arising:

None.

Adoption:

Minutes were then proposed by Gerry White, Aer Lingus and seconded by Miriam Gormally, UCD. The minutes were approved by members present

3. **Presidents address** – per appendix 1.

- Player Recruitment
- CEV Fair Play the Volleyball Way Campaign
- Capital Grant Scheme
- Long-Term Athlete Development Stages
- Volunteer of the Year Award - Davnet Dwyer
- Women's, Men's and Beach National Teams
- Strength of our commissions

4. **Treasurers report –.**

Overall profit €13,326

Revenue fell by €8,495 due to ongoing reduction in grants received by the Irish Sports Council

New sponsorship agreement with O'Driscoll-O'Neil €1,000

Cost-savings measures provided a savings of € 9,728 on accountancy, auditing, printing and travel activities



2015 short-term financial impact of increased hours of part-time staff for training purposes to replace three development officers who have left. This will negatively impact on the 2015 profit.

The floor queried why entry fees were down Grainne Culliton said they could have been inadequately allocated in previous years. John Clarke also said that there was a cap on school entry fees so even though entries increased this would not necessarily be reflected in the income from school entry fees.

Kate Von Tonder asked if there was a breakdown of the ISC Core Grant. John Clarke said the ISC no longer breakdown the funding.

Adoption:

Proposed by Jennifer Fitzgerald, TCD and seconded by Clodagh Doherty, DVC. The accounts were approved by the members presented

5. VAI presentation of reports

a. Referees Commission report – appendix 2

- Vinnie, President (DVC)
- Giulia (Dalkey Devils)
- Melissa (Dalkey Devils)
- Mikal (NUIG Alliance)

Board Contact Grainne Culliton

Assessors

- Alan Gormally
 - Gerry Reynolds
 - Eamon O'Brien
 - Kevin Donnelly
 - Kate van Tonder
 - Helen Cotter
 - Grainne Culliton
-
- Start of the season referees:
 - Grade 1: 15
 - Grade 2: 20
 - Grade 3: 40
 - Trained additional referees during the season:
 - National Grade: 28
 - School Grade: 89
 - Assessor revision course
 - Predicted shortage
 - FIVB rules changes



- Dynamic Referees Strategy

Referees moving forward:

We are changing the approach to the organisation of refereeing volleyball in Ireland. It will become a driven unit in its own right, with a tailored strategy to improve standards, the level of review and ongoing

- Dedicated staff member driving the strategy
- Referees Commission carrying out the usual duties, but eventually with a greater pool of referees.
- Pool of referees increased to include non-players by advertising for referees and then providing a fast-tracked training program.

This will take at least three years to achieve, but will be continuously worked on.

b. Competitions Commission report – appendix 4

- Jennifer Fitzgerald, President (TCD)
- Kevin Donnelly, Secretary (BMP)
- Denise Tallon, Member (Santry)
- Susan Tuck, Member (Naas)
- Orla McElroy Member (Naas)

Board Contact: Grainne Culliton

- 33 league teams, 11 men's (2 divisions) and 22 women's (3 divisions)
- Round robin format for men in Association Cup
- National spread of competition:
 - Association Cup Semi-Finals – NUIG, Galway
 - Association Shield Finals – St. Mary's College, Naas
 - Association Cup Finals – Artane, Dublin
 - Junior/Intermediate Championships – Gormanston, Meath
 - Increase level of formality in official club correspondence
- Improve understanding of VAI Competition Rules

Gerry White Aer Lingus said that we had a good discussion on competitions at the workshop

c. Beach Commission report – appendix 5

- Miriam Gormally, President (UCD)
- Janusz Stolarek, Vice President (UCD)
- Benny O'Regan, Secretary (UCD)



- Marie Claire Sabogal, Treasurer (UCD)
- Ernesta Gruzdaite, Event Coordinator (Santry)
- Ivett Simon-Byrne, Event Coordinator (DVC)
- Participation increased by at least 20% in 2014
- Tour format maximised participation, 2v2 & 4v4
- Collaboration continued with NIVA
- Facebook group, RTE Underdogs & Newspapers
- Increased sponsorship and CEV funding
- Prizes and awards presentation
- Participated in CEV Beach Volleyball Continental Cup

Clodagh Doherty DVC feels that because the beach is not a club event people get to know each other better which has a benefit for volleyball in general. Clodagh also feels that there should be a more formal prize giving at events

Declan Ryan Garda club said that because beach was becoming more visible it will benefit volleyball in general

Doireann Counihan asked if Graham Torrance was going to be replaced (who was going to bring equipment at set up the courts). Grainne Culliton said that everything was been review at the moment. Gerry White asked could the beach commission not set up a roster to set up the courts. Miriam Gormally said that this did not work out in the past. They looking at employing someone to setup courts but would need to increase entry fees to cover this

d. National Director of Development report – appendix 6

- Major change in staffing
- Over 2000 children between 10-12 played Spikeball in school and competed against other schools
- 20,000 children across Ireland are participating in Spikeball in school
- Teacher training provided in Dungarvan, Limerick & Cork
- Regional leagues:
 - a. Cork Mixed Volleyball League
 - b. South Regional Men's and Women's League
 - c. Dundalk Recreational League and U18 Competition



Development Project 2014-2015

- East Cork SpikeBall Schools Programme
 - Run in conjunction with Cork LSP and targeted schools in the East Cork region
 - Provides introduction to the sport, teacher training, equipment and resources
 - 7 primary schools, 13 teachers trained, 300 students
- Club Standards Award Scheme
 - DVC are on the way of becoming first club to graduate
- The Mini Spikers Programme
 - Targeted at 6-9 year olds, develop fundamental movement skills
 - Pilot in May and June, roll out this September

Sitting Volleyball

- Completed one sitting volleyball taster session at a Disability Inclusion Day for Cavan County Council
- 28 children participated
- Kildare's County Council Disability Inclusion Day in May, 25 registered to attend
- Aim is to set up a sitting volleyball club

e. **Coaching Commission report** – appendix 7

- Ciara Doherty, President & Tutor (Staff)
- Des Currivan, Tutor (Board)
- Ciaran Ryle, Tutor

Board Contact: Des Currivan

The Coaching Commission are looking for new members

- Run a number of Coaching Courses this season including:
 - 3 Introduction to Coaching Award Courses which were run in Dublin, Waterford and Kerry
 - Sport and Recreation Students from Colaiste Chathail Naofa Dungarvan involved in a Coach Education Programme



- A review and rewrite of the Introduction to Coaching Award syllabus has been completed in conjunction with Coaching Ireland, with the new syllabus implemented in September 2014.
- New volleyball programme aimed at 6-9 year to improve Fundamental skills
 - Mini Spikers Game
 - Simple adapted game taught in three stages,
 - Piloted over the summer, rolled out nationally in the new school year.

f. **National Children's Officer Report** – appendix 8

Our responsibility to ensure that children's early experiences in sporting and cultural activities are fun and positive, irrespective of their age, gender, ability or ethnic background

Reviewed policies and procedures within the VAI

Updated policies

Created new templates for clubs

Contact with all Children's Officers in National League Clubs

Re-validated all current Officers have required qualification and training

g. **Anti-doping** – appendix 9

Education is a core component of the Irish Anti-Doping Programme and is a critical activity of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) in striving to ensure that their sport is drug-free.

In accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code (article 18), the Irish Sports Council and NGBs should work together to educate athletes and athlete support personnel.

Support for Anti-doping

Substances and methods on the Prohibited List and how to check their medications against the List

Anti-doping rule violations

Consequences of doping, including sanctions, health and social consequences

Doping Control procedures

Athletes' and Athlete Support Personnel's rights and responsibilities

Managing the risks of nutritional supplements



Therapeutic use exemptions

Harm of doping to the spirit of sport

Real Winner Program

- Real Winner is an interactive e-learning education programme about anti-doping covering topics such as Doping Control Procedures, the WADA Prohibited List, whereabouts, therapeutic use exemption and the consequences of doping.
- Real Winner consists of nine interactive modules, ranging from five to ten minutes per module, plus an introduction module; the entire course can be completed in just over an hour.
- When you have completed all modules, you can print a Certificate of Completion.

All premier players will have to complete this program

Anti Doping Officer Support

- Role out education programme to all National Teams
- Promote the use of the ISC check app
- Distribute anti-doping wallets
- Provide outreach training for international teams
- Maintain VAI website
- Introduce in and out of competition testing at senior level

h. **CEO's report** – Appendix 10

John Clarke told those present that he had a list of all primary and post primary schools that played volleyball for clubs that were interested. He said that because of data protection rules the list did not contain contact details. However if a club wishes to make contact with one of the schools they should contact the VAI and they make an introduction for the club with the school.

Sports Capital Grant. The first tranche of equipment has been ordered and will soon be ready for delivery/installation

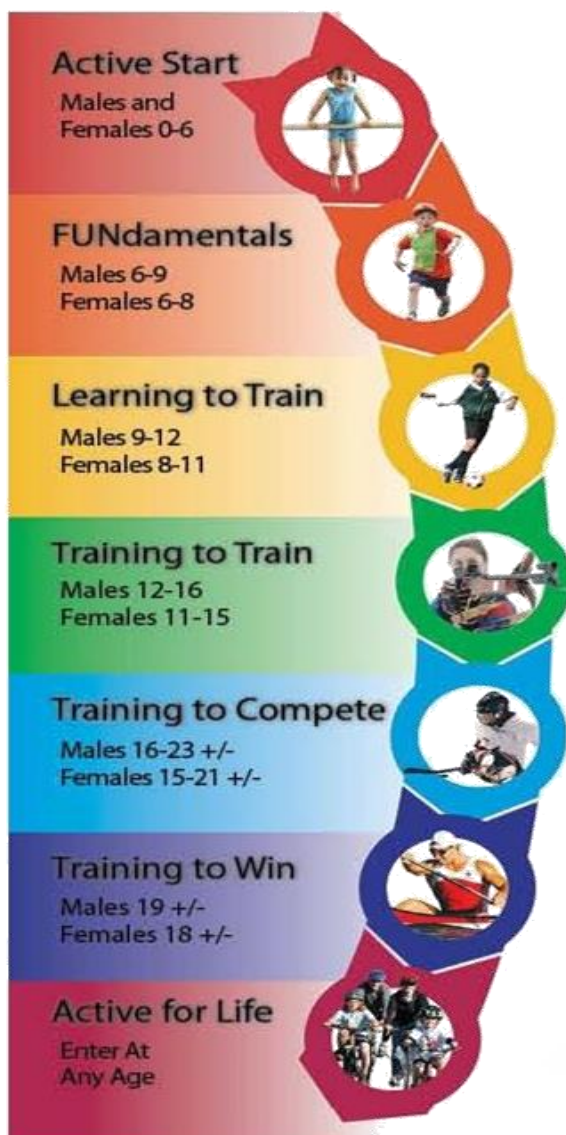


6. Strategy 2018 – 50th Anniversary

VAI New Developmental Initiatives

- The new Board is tasked with reviewing the 2018 Strategy to see what new initiatives are required to drive us toward the 2018 goals.
 - Developing Academy clubs
 - Targeting links with schools/colleges and clubs
 - Annual Masters Tournament

Long Term Athlete Development Pathway





The Long Term Athlete Development Model – Late Specialization Sports

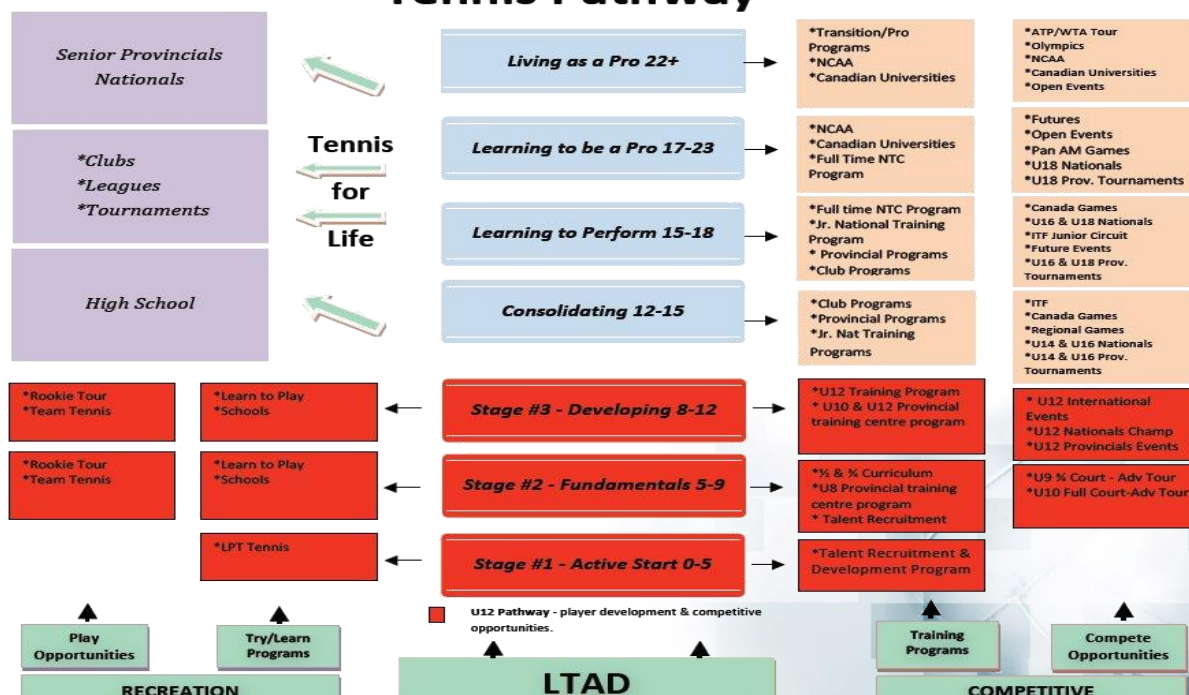
	WHERE	LEADERS	TRAINING	COMPETITION
Active Start Males and Females 0-6	Home; Day care; Sport programs; Pre-schools; Community recreation;	Parents; Pre-school & Kindergarten teachers; Day care providers;	None; focus on learning proper basic movement skills such as running, jumping, wheeling, twisting, kicking, throwing, and catching;	None
FUNDamentals Males 6-9 Females 6-8	Schools; Community recreation; Sport programs; Sport clubs; Home;	Parents; Teachers; Recreation leaders; Volunteer coaches (mainly);	Unstructured & structured play; short seasons; multiple activities; overall movement skills & development of athleticism;	Minimal; local area; modified formats; informal; all activity is FUN based;
Learning to Train Males 9-12 Females 8-11	Schools; Community recreation; Sport programs; Sport clubs; Home;	Parents; Teachers; Recreation leaders; Volunteer coaches (mainly);	Regular practice; seasonal activities; multiple sports; overall sport skills development;	Occasional; local area; modified format; informal and formal; 70% training to 30% competition;
Training to Train Males 12-16 Females 11-15	Schools; Community recreation; Sport programs; Sport clubs;	Teachers; Recreation leaders; Volunteer & professional coaches;	Regular structured practice; seasonal activities; more than one sport; sport-specific skill development;	Regular; local to provincial/regional; 60% training to 40% competition;
Training to Compete Males 16-23 +/- Females 15-21 +/-	Schools; Post-secondary institutions; Sport programs; Sport clubs;	Teachers; Volunteer & professional coaches; sport science, medicine, & nutrition consultants;	Regular structured practice; planned & periodized schedule; focused on one sport; sport & position specific physical, technical & tactical training;	Regular; provincial to national/international; 40% training to 60% actual competition and competition specific training;
Training to Win Males 19 +/- Females 18 +/-	Post-secondary institutions; Sport clubs; Training centres; Professional sport;	Professional coaches; Integrated support teams;	Regular structured practice; planned and periodized schedule; focused on one sport;	Selective; planned; national/international; 25% training to 75% actual competition and competition specific training;
Active for Life Enter At Any Age	Community recreation; Sport programs; Sport clubs;	N/A	N/A	N/A

Each sport must develop its unique training/competition structure.

Each individual will have their own unique progression (needs) within the broad structure above.

Early specialization sports include artistic and acrobatic sports such as gymnastics, diving, and figure skating. These differ from late specialization sports in that very complex skills are learned before physical maturation since they cannot be fully mastered if taught after maturation. Most other sports are late specialization sports.

Tennis Pathway





Men's National Squad – Junior's

New initiative 2015-2016

Grainne Culliton gave a brief overview of Boards new plan for Strategy 2018

Des Currivan gave an overview of the Long Term Athlete Development Model. Des also said the CEV had reorganised its competition age groups and that these reflect the LTAD model.

7. Motions

Just Sport Ireland amendment to Memorandum and articles.

Proposer: Gerry White (Aer Lingus)

Seconder: Kate Van Tonder (Tallaght Rockets)

Passed unanimously.

8. A.O.B

1) Club Standards Program:

Clodagh Doherty felt that overall the program was a bit of a disappointment. The club did not make much progress with the program. John Clarke it was the first he had heard of the difficulty the club was having with the program. He agreed to arrange a meeting with the staff and the board. Doireann Counihan asked if a dedicated member of staff could be assigned to "Volunteers" so that all volunteers could be trained in general and then allocated out to clubs or within the office as they best fit. John Clarke agreed to look into that possibility.

2) Squad Presentation:

See appendix 11

Marie Sheridan (Naas) asked what the incentive for the clubs to support this. She feels that clubs would not support this as they would lose their best players. She also asked how many players attend the last squad session and was told only four or five.

Gerry White (Aer Lingus) felt that this proposal would devastate the clubs and that clubs may fold as a result of losing players to the National Squad Team. He feels that the clubs are more important than the national team

Doireann Counihan (UCD) asked if like all other new teams would they be starting in division 2.



Martin O'Connor (Newbridge) felt that clubs would be reluctant to develop players as when they reached a high standard they would lose them to the National Squad Team

Grainne Culliton (Board) proposed that to facilitate squad development that premier clubs would agree to play the National Squad mid week at their home venue

9. Election of Board members

President:

Grainne Culliton Proposed: Alison O'Neill (Ballymun Patriots)
Seconded: Helen Cotter (Santry)

Elected unopposed

Vice President:

Megan Burgdorf Proposed: Cristina Patane (Dalkey Devils)
Seconded: Janus Stolarek (UCD)

Martin O'Connor Proposed: Tom Lander (Newbridge)
Seconded: Myles Wickham (Newbridge)

A vote took place and Megan Burgdorf was elected by 16 votes to 8

Secretary:

Anthi Gilligan Proposed: Magda Barankiewicz (Dalkey Devils)
Seconded: Grainne Culliton (Ballymun Patriots)

Elected unopposed

Treasurer:

Anna Dukacz Proposed: Alison O'Neill (Ballymun Patriots)
Seconded: Grainne Culliton (Ballymun Patriots)

Elected unopposed

Board Member:

Denise Tallon Proposed: Alison O'Neill (Ballymun Patriots)
Seconded: Helen Cotter (Santry)

Martina Scully Proposed: Janus Stolarek (UCD)
Seconded: Cristina Patane (Dalkey Devils)

A vote took place and Denise Tallon was elected by 21 votes to 3



10. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 16:30



Appendix 1: Agenda for the Volleyball Association of Ireland AGM 2015

**Maldron Hotel Portlaoise,
Midway,
Abbeyleix Road,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois**

AGENDA

- **Opening of the Meeting**
- **2014 AGM Review of Minutes**
 - Matters arising from minutes
 - Adoption of the minutes
- **President's Address**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **2015 Reports**
 - Referees Commission
 - Competitions Commission
 - Schools Commission
 - Beach Commission
 - Coaching Commission
 - National Director of Development
 - National Children's Officer
 - Anti-Doping
 - Chief Executive Officer
- **Strategy 2018 – 50th Anniversary**
- **Variable Items**
 - Motions
- **Any Other Business**
- **Election of Board Members**
- **Close of the Meeting**



Appendix 2: President's Report 2015 AGM

I would like to welcome you all to this year's AGM in Portlaoise. I will begin by thanking the VAI Staff, all the commissions and other volunteers for the work that they have done in promoting and maintaining the VAI in the last year.

In 2014 we continued with the financial strategy started in Oct 2012, this has again resulted in a positive change in our accounts, as we now show a profit of €13,326 for 2014. Thanks are due to all our staff and volunteers for their response to the challenges faced to sustain us in profitability. A comprehensive review of our operating costs and procedures resulted in the streamlining of our accounting practices, reducing the number of bank accounts and a new accountancy agreement. Our staff has continued to generate further savings by improving procedures and implementing changes in all areas. The Board have reviewed our projections for 2015 and as a result we were in a position to restore a 5% pay increase to our staff.

In League competitions we have seen a reduction in competing teams. Our clubs appear to be recruiting experienced players from within other clubs and not trying to attract new talent. When clubs attract new players or beginners we must try to retain them in the sport. We must be very aware of our own behaviour and attitude towards each other. There has been an increase in the incidents of aggressiveness and hostility on and off Court. It has been directed at our Volunteer Officials, new players, at beginners or at those who simply make a mistake. The atmosphere generated is driving potential players and members away. It is up to you our club committees, all coaches and all players to lead the way in showing that this behaviour is unacceptable.

In 2013 the CEV introduced a **“Fair Play the Volleyball Way”** campaign, its core message – a focus on the positive image of Volleyball, a sport where fair play, mutual respect and team spirit are key to success. The CEV's 55 member Federations have all shown their commitment to use this campaign as a promotional and development tool to enhance the image and perception of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball as socially acceptable sports in today's increasingly complicated society. Showcasing the unique ability that volleyball has in bringing people together in a spirit of friendship, respect and fairness.

In 2014 The VAI were successful in co-ordinating club applications and applying for extra funding for club equipment through the Capital Grant scheme, CEO John Clarke will advise a possible timetable for implementation for the clubs who applied.

At the 2013 AGM the concept of using the 7 stages of the internationally accepted Long Term Athlete Development Plan (LTAD) was introduced as a guide to help co-ordinate our strategy and reporting going forward. In line with these guidelines further changes need to be identified, these changes must challenge

The way we perceive our competitions
The way we develop our clubs
The way we recruit, train, retain and develop players

An international comparison shows approximately 6% of registered players playing in National League, 3% in competitive Beach volleyball with the balance being in Recreational Volleyball and Beach volleyball across all Ages. An example would be in developing and setting up recreational and competitive opportunities at Regional or local level for our young players and our retired/former players at Masters level.



In 2014 the VAI introduced a Volunteer of the Year Award, to recognise the contribution of our Volunteers. Daniel Apanowicz was the First recipient of this award for his work on the Referees Commission. This year's winner is Davnet Dwyer from Ennis in County Clare. Davnet introduced volleyball and Spikeball into the schools and Community Games in Ennis in 2010 and has worked tirelessly in organising and coaching, being rewarded with success in Schools Cadettes competition in 2014-2015. The work of our volunteers is invaluable, we need more to continue develop and grow our game. The Volunteer role in our organisation is essential and its importance should not be underestimated.

In 2013 Wim Roosenburg was accepted as Coach of our Ladies National Squad. He has assembled a dedicated management and coaching team around him. The St Patrick Day International event in Trinity College in May 2014 and again in 2015 was a great success gaining essential media exposure and a number of small but essential sponsors. In June 2014 the Ladies Senior Squad competed in the Small Nations European qualifiers in Scotland. In Sept 2015 they were invited to play in open competition in the Netherlands. Wim had to return to the Netherlands late in 2014 but remains in communication with the squad and returns to Ireland for national squad training every month at his own expense. I would like to thank Wim for his dedication to our National Squad. He is losing a dedicated member of his team later this year as Team Manager Kate Von Tonder leaves for South Africa. Many thanks to Kate for her organising ability and tenacity in delivering the governance controls required.

At Commission level, we had a new Referees Commission I would like to thank them on your behalf for their dedication to their role. Further information on their activities is in the Referees Commission report.

Competitions Commission as ever ran a smooth operation again, reacting to problems of venue changes and team availability. Many Thanks to Jennifer and her team, for their continued commitment during this hectic season. Further information on their activities will be given in the Competitions Commission report.

Our Beach had a successful and eventful Year and saw the VAI in a position for the first time ever to enter Men's and Women's Beach Volleyball Teams into the Olympic qualifiers. Congratulations to Miriam Gormally for her ventures on the airwaves, heightening the profile of Beach and Indoor Volleyball in Ireland. Further information on their activities will be given in the Beach commission report.

As shown by Beach Volleyball and Ladies Squad, media presence brings support in many ways. The big challenge going forward is for Volleyball Ireland to be a recognised sport brand; Last Year I asked if there was anyone willing to assist in the Marketing, PR or sponsorship process. To date I have received no response. If you know anyone, they do not have to be members of VAI but should have an interest in Marketing and PR let the Board know. The VAI need a higher profile; The VAI needs to be a Brand that is attractive to new members and sponsors.

On the men's National Squad side we have had some interest and promising applications for the position of Head coach. This will be up to the incoming Board to address. To ensure all squads have an equal opportunity to compete in competition and to minimise the demands on coaching staff where possible the Board sought to establish a National Squads Commission. To further that aim I am willing to assist in the task of forming a National Squads



Commission. Anyone interested please contact me and we will put a proposal to the incoming Board.

In closing, this is an election year, all Board positions are up for re-election. I have had the honour of being a board member for the past 6 years, holding the post of President for the last two years. It has given me a great insight to the level of commitment of all involved in promoting and delivering our sport. There is still much to do. The VAI and its clubs must have a long term Youth Development Strategy; we must register all our members, including schools and recreational player so we can say definitively how many members we have. I believe by having these two specifics the VAI can identify active volleyball areas, attract sponsors to specific projects, attract and retain new players and can support club development.

I would like to thank the Board and staff of the VAI for their invaluable assistance, experience and support during my time on the board.

Thank You

Des Currivan
VAI President





Appendix 3: Referees Commission Report 2015

As usual the season started off in a frenzy of trying to get referees through the registration process (online exam completed, forms submitted and fees paid). We struggled to have enough referees registered in time for the first league weekend which took place on weekend of September 28th. Luckily many teams went with the option of deferring their matches so we had an extra week to get organised. By the end of October we had:

- Grade 1: 15
- Grade 2: 20
- Grade 3: 40

During the season we ran 4 schools referee courses run and a national grade one also. The attendances were as following:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 19 September | Dungarvan, Waterford: 19 |
| • 13 October | St. Leo's Carlow: 18 |
| • 27 November | St. Raphael's Loughrea, Galway: 19 |
| • 10 December | St. Brigid's Loughrea, Galway: 23 |
| • 23 Aug, 20 Sept | National Grade: 28 |
| • 28 February | Cork, Cork: 10 |

We continue to look to improve and upgrade referees so following the Christmas break 5 upgrade assessments took place. 04 candidates were successfully upgraded.

Obviously the role of the assessor is an important one and we would like to ensure that all assessments follow the same process and are consistent. So in March we managed to arrange for Alan Gormally to host an assessor revision course. 06 were in attendance at this and we hope as we go into next season the assessment process can be expedited so we can increase our numbers of referees at higher grades.

Based on the numbers presented above it is clear we still don't have enough referees and in particular we don't have enough referees willing to referee outside of their own clubs – mainly due to commitments that have to play or coach within their own club which ties them up on the busy league weekends. We are seeing also a lack of interest in Grade 2 referees wanting to be assessed to go to Grade 1 where we continue to have a severe shortage.

Obviously we're staying in touch with the FIVB rule changes and during the summer we'll be hosting a seminar to go through the changes and all changes will be communicated out to clubs.

Finally, a new Dynamic Referees Strategy is being worked on by the referees commission which we hope to unveil to you all prior to the start of the new season, the strategy will include a new approach to be pushed which we believe will help to address some of the difficulties



we've been encountering and bring us to a better place with Referees in Ireland.

We are always looking for new members to help with the wide-ranging tasks involved in running the Referees Commission. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at for more information at referees@volleyballireland.com.

Yours in sport,

Giordano Vinicius dos Santos (Vinnie)
President of VAI Referees Commission





Appendix 4: Competitions Commission Report 2015

The Competitions Commission would like to thank and congratulate all the teams and clubs who participated in both league and cup tournaments throughout the year, and for their ongoing cooperation during the season.

Season Summary

The 2014/15 volleyball season followed the same trend that we have seen for a number of seasons now; with small playing squads providing challenging conditions for teams to compete in. However it has been compounded by declining participation in all national events that are overseen by the Competitions Commission. There were 33 teams in the league in total, made up of 11 men's teams (in 2 divisions) and 22 women's teams (in 3 divisions). This is a decrease of 4 teams on the previous season (1 women's team, 3 men's teams). The geographical spread of the 33 teams is still very much centered on Dublin; Kildare and Galway are the only other counties with participants in the national league. There is no longer any league representation in the Munster region.

The issues of small playing squads and declining participation is leading to uncertainty over the availability of teams for matches and are becoming major factors in running the national competitions, as the format varies year on year based on participants. Looking at the national leagues, the ability of teams varies greatly between divisions and even within divisions which can provide difficult as it can be frustrating for the more advanced teams. The Competitions Commission seeks to provide teams with the best level of competition whilst giving teams an adequate number of matches within a league format but it can be difficult to combine both aims to the satisfaction of all teams. Where possible the Commission may reach out to clubs affected in advance to try to ensure that an adequate balance is attained.

To this end, in order to increase the number of matches for men's teams with only 6 teams in Premier and 5 teams in Division 1, we introduced a round robin stage in this season's Association Cup competition for the 10 teams who entered (compared to 12 teams in 2013/14). We have not received any negative feedback on this initiative at this point and may consider it again for next season depending on discussions at the Workshop and any subsequent correspondence with clubs. On the women's side, we had 15 teams entering, which was an increase of 1 team from last season and we ran this on a knock-out basis, guaranteeing teams at least 2 matches in the Cup or Shield competitions.

The Association Cup semi-finals were held in the Kingfisher Complex in NUIG in Galway on 7 March, as a way of bringing a national volleyball event outside of Dublin. Initially this may not have been received well by the participants (3 Dublin teams, 1 Limerick team); but the amount of time and effort that the local club, NUIG Alliance, put into organising and publicising this event was evident for all to see and led to a very successful showcase of volleyball. For this, we would like to thank Florita Dolly and the rest of the NUIG Alliance organising committee for their contribution.



We continued the theme of non-Dublin events with the Association Shield finals, which were held outside of Dublin in St. Mary's College, Naas on 28 March and we would like to thank Naas Cobras VC for their cooperation and assistance in running this event. The Association Cup finals were held in the Recreation Centre in Artane on 25 April, and this event is run by the VAI staff.

There was a new venue for the 2014/15 Junior/Intermediate Championships which took place in Gormanston College, Co. Meath on 11 and 12 April where this 4 court venue allowed us to consider varying formats and numbers of matches compared to previous years where we were constrained by court and hall time. Unfortunately we were unable to fulfil the potential of this excellent venue as we only had 17 teams (8 men, 9 women) entering in this competition compared to 23 teams (11 men, 12 women) last season.

The Competitions Commission continues to vary the format of the Championships depending on entrants to try to maximise the amount of volleyball for teams, whilst still catering for the differing goals and levels of volleyball over the 2 day event. To do this unfortunately it is not always possible to run the Junior and Intermediate competitions as separate competitions; and this year with the mix of entrants we were unable to do so. Nevertheless we endeavour to ensure that the appropriate teams qualify for the appropriate competitions suited to their level and skills.

We had 2 late withdrawals from the men's competition a couple of days before the Championships due to lack of available players and along with the 2 withdrawals during the weekend (1 men's, 1 women's) this resulted in difficult conditions for the Competition Commission and teams alike, particularly on the men's side where we had to make a number of changes to the initial fixture list and format based on the reduction of teams to a total of 5 teams. The Commission continues to target non-league entries to the Championships, using this tournament as an introduction to formal VAI national competition for teams and possible future league participation. We had one non-league team in the men's competition which is a decrease from 6 teams in 2013/14. The VAI Championships weekend is one of the highlights of the volleyball calendar and each year it is played with great sportsmanship. However we may need to reassess whether the existing format is still appropriate and relevant considering the current environment and we will be guided by events at the Workshop as well as having discussions with the Board on this topic.

This level of uncertainty within volleyball has also led to increasing number of requests for match refixtures year on year. The Competitions Commission wants to see matches played and avoid match forfeits however the volume of fixture change requests is unsustainable as it leads to an unnecessary element of administration and also many of these requests are outside the scope of the Competition Rules. The level of formality in official club correspondence with Competitions is slowly being lost over time, particularly with email requests for fixture changes along with other matters, and we are looking at ways to bring some formality back. This formality may help clubs familiarise themselves with the rules as there is definitely a knowledge gap there for some clubs and club secretaries. We appreciate that the format of the VAI Competition Rules is not necessarily the easiest to follow; and we are looking at ways to address this before the start of the 2015/16 season.



In relation to the All-Stars matches, which were traditionally played the day after the Workshop and AGM, we have discussed this with the Irish Women's Senior Squads Management team and have agreed that this event will not take place in May. The purpose of the All-Stars matches is to showcase the skills of the All-Star winners and offer strong competition against the Irish Senior Squads as part of their build-up to international competition. The timing of this match does not work for the preparations of the Irish Senior Women's Squad and we will discuss further whether this should be moved to a pre-season event. We would like to maintain the integrity and standard of these type of matches going forward which was the main driver of our decision to postpone this event. We will review and revert to clubs in due course.

The Competitions Commission meets frequently to deal with matters that have arisen in relation to national competitions. With four members who play, coach and referee, from across the various divisions of the national league, this helps to maintain a balanced approach to decision-making. We remind you that the Commission is here to facilitate the smooth running of the various competitions during the year and is open to receiving any feedback that clubs have, once it is presented in a positive and proactive format. The annual Workshop is an important opportunity for us to gather feedback and ideas from clubs so we would ask club members to support it. It also allows us to review changes previously enforced and to consider improvements to current formats. Your opinions are important; these competitions are run for you as the player/coach/referee, so if you have any suggestions or ideas please forward them to us. If they are received too late for the forthcoming season, they will be considered for the next one.

Finally we would like to thank all people who helped us out with the running of competitions or with general advice during the year. They are often the unsung heroes but without their input, our job would be made more difficult. In particular, we would like to thank Gráinne Culliton, our board contact, along with Alison O'Neill, Pamela O'Donnell, Alan Gormally, Gerry White, Anthony McCrossan, Clodagh Doherty and Kate Van Tonder from the volleyball community who have contributed to our efforts during the season. We would also like to thank the office for its administrative assistance and the VAI Board for their support.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank my fellow members of the Competitions Commission for their time and efforts during the year which is done on a voluntary basis. Our aim is always to encourage volleyball participation and we strive to run all national competitions in the fairest way possible, offering appropriate levels of competition to the participating teams.





Current members are:

Jennifer Fitzgerald, President

Denise Tallon, Secretary

Kevin Donnelly, Member

Orla McElroy, Member

TCD

Santry

Ballymun Patriots

Naas Cobras

We are always looking for new members to help with the wide-ranging tasks involved in running the Competitions Commission. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at for more information at competitions@volleyballireland.com.

Yours in sport,

Jennifer Fitzgerald

President of VAI Competitions Commission





Appendix 5: Beach Commission Report 2015

The 2014 Beach Team comprised the following members:

Non-Commission Members

Megan Burgdorf, Head of Beach Volleyball Ireland
Graham Torrence, VAI Development Officer and Beach Volleyball Administrator

Commission Members

Miriam Gormally, President,
Janusz Stolarek, Vice President,
Benny O'Regan, Secretary and Communications Officer,
Marie Claire Sabogal, Treasurer,
Ernesta Gruzdaite, Event Coordinator
Ivett Simon-Byrne, Event Coordinator

Our goals for 2014 were:

- Increase participation
- Make tour format more player friendly
- Create media awareness and improve branding of sport
- Consolidate relations between NIVA and BVI Tour
- Secure sponsorship
- Improve prizes
- Participate in international tournaments
- Prepare for challenges in the future

Increase Participation

Participation increased by at least 20% in 2014. This was in part helped by sunny weather conditions, but the BVI also capitalised on this fair-weather by hosting regular evening events that typically saw three to four nets with up to 20 participants. This then fed into the tournaments. We also encouraged anyone involved to friend us on Facebook, so that we could keep them updated regarding times we were going out. Our friends on Facebook were 630 at the start of the 2014 beach season and now stand at over 900.

In order to further increase participation this year, we are also going to target Irish indoor players who have never played beach before.

Make Tour Format More Convenient for Players



We continued with the format of four weekends to make the tour convenient for players with great success. We observed that our most successful tours were in Dublin and so this year we are planning on holding three tournaments in Dublin.

We continued collaborations with Amber Coast and NIVA with great success and there was great cross participation between the tours. We will continue to run two joint tournaments with NIVA, one in Portrush and one in Portmarnock.

Our fun 4v4 tournament was held at the start of the year to get as many people involved as possible. It was very successful in bringing in new players and so we have increased the number of friendly 4v4 tournaments to three.

We also scheduled our tour to allow elite play to play at home and abroad, in particular to accommodate the CEV competition.

Create Media Awareness and Improve Branding of Sport

We achieved this largely through our Facebook page. The format encourages photographs and this year we had a record number of submissions. To date almost every session has been photographed and seen by all our Facebook friends, creating a self-sustaining level of awareness.

We also had large amounts of media awareness and were covered by many of the Irish newspapers including the Irish Independent, the Irish Daily Star and the Herald.

Our CEV entry also gained a huge amount of coverage and we won the John Murray Underdogs competition on RTE 1 and so our entire competition was followed with great interest. We also got coverage on Ray D'Arcy.

Consolidate Relations between NIVA and BVI Tour

We organised our tour to make sure that there are no clashes with other competitions. In addition, we hosted one of our tournaments in Northern Ireland and they will host one of theirs down here, which will encourage more participants from both sides.

Secure Sponsorship, Raise Funds and Apply for Grants

We secured CEV grant money (€9000) to send team Ireland to Bournemouth and Edinburgh.

We secured sponsorship for Suyra Brasil including prizes and Media exposure.

We also received free space at the Pure Magic's The Battle of the Bay festival in Dollymount.

We generated extra income by renting out our nets to organisations such as Facebook.



Present and Improve Prizes

Our permanent cups were once again presented at the Championship Dinner, enhancing our profile within the volleyball community. We also put more money into competition prizes, something we hope to continue this year.

Participate in International Tournaments

Megan Burgdorf and Janusz Stolarek coached two men's and two women's teams to represent Ireland in Bournemouth England and Edinburgh Scotland as part of the first round of the CEV Beach Volleyball Coordinators workshop.

We brought over two Irish American players from America to boost our international profile and their match against Scotland was shown on Sky Sports which was a first for Ireland.

Additional reports for a full breakdown of what happened.

Challenges for the Future

Beach Volleyball Ireland has made some really good progress; our challenge now is to continue and to keep our hard-working team enthusiastic and motivated. We have lost our events coordinator, Graham Torrence, so for the coming year we need to look at making the work of the commission more professional or hiring in people to help with the running and set up of events. At a basic level, we need help with transport in bringing nets to and from the beach. But we plan to itemise all the jobs needed and then advertise them amongst our Beach community or possibly even outside that. We hope that this will make Beach volleyball a viable business model as well as a social and community asset and that it will allow us to approach others in looking for collaboration to further develop the sport by having inland and all-year-round courts.

Tour Report 2014

The BVI tour 2014 was a huge success with increased numbers, goodwill and morale. All competitions were hotly contested, including the King/Queen of the Beach competition, and it was good to see some new people winning the competitions.

Men

1 Aziz Lensik 960
= Ivo Teixeira 960
3 Janusz Stolarek 860

Women

1 Ewelina Gadek 950





2 Dasa Kusnirakova 890

Mixed

1 Megan Burgdorf / Janusz Stolarek 900

2 Ernesta Gruzdaite / Ivo Teixeira 890

KING OF THE BEACH

1. Janusz Stolarek

QUEEN OF THE BEACH

1. Alex Graves

Acknowledgements

The Beach Team worked very hard over the last year and I would like to thank them all for their contributions. Huge progress was made, but great opportunities demand we raise our game – I feel confident that the team we have in place is in prime position to deliver on those challenges. We are always looking for volunteers and ideas to increase participation and promote beach volleyball. Contact us at beach@volleyballireland.com.

May the sun keep shining on Ireland!

Miriam Gormally

President of VAI Beach Commission





Appendix 6: National Director of Development Report 2014

Director of Development Report 2015

Staffing

During the season we were unfortunate to lose 3 members of staff all within a couple of months. As early as the beginning of December 2014 our Club Development officer, Philip, had to leave as his wife Niamh was very ill. We are delighted to report that Niamh is now well on the way to recovery and wish them both well for the future. The great work that Philip had done both with schools competitions and with the development of new clubs has been impacted greatly by his absence and this is reflected in the stats. We are now delighted to have Conor Flood on board to take over this work and we would like to welcome him to the VAI. We are confident that the great growth shown over the last few years across the range of different clubs will soon be back on track.

Early in 2015 Graham for the WIS team and Aidan from the development team in the east of the country also left for pastures new. We wish them both well and thank them for their valuable contributions.

Jessica Carmody is a new and very welcome addition to the WIS team and she will also look after Sitting Volleyball and our new Mini Spikers programme catering for the 6-9 year old age group.

The new Development Officer for the Eastern Region has yet to be appointed and the post will be re-advertised in the summer.

We are also delighted to welcome Dwyne Hill to the staff. His main role will be with the WIS team but he will also become the new National Children's Officer and the VAI Anti-Doping Officer-putting these two roles on a professional basis for the first time.

There has been huge pressure during this period of upheaval on all the existing staff and I would like to thank personally, Mary in WIS, Eoin in the office and Ciara in Cork for all the extra work they did to minimise the effect on day to day workings of the VAI.

Schools Affiliations and Competitions

The number of schools affiliated this year kept pace with last year and despite another year of teacher unrest a total of 294 schools affiliated with us.

The biggest and most satisfying news was a huge increase in the Primary School SpikeBall competition. Last year it was already at a staggering 244 teams and this year it jumped to 334!



That means a minimum of 2000 children between the ages of 10 and 12 years of age not only played SpikeBall in their school but actually played competitively against other schools. We can speculate from these figures that at least 20,000 children in that age group alone are participating in SpikeBall activity in school. County Finals were held in 17 counties, with some counties further split into two due to high volumes of teams entered. Regions were increased to four for Regional Finals. Following these 24 teams qualified for National Finals (8 boys, 8 girls, 8 mixed) which were held in Mary Immaculate College Limerick, with 9 counties represented at the finals stage. Post Primary schools involved in the TY SpikeBall Leader Programme are linked in with the running of this competition at all stages, with TY Leaders providing support in officiating at all these events that are run across the country.

Primary Schools		2014-2015
SpikeBall Championships		334 teams
Post Primary Schools		2014-15
SpikeBall Championships		247 teams
Senior Competition		55 teams
Cadette Competition		76 teams
Junior Competition		90 teams
Total School Affiliations		294

Across all school levels, both SpikeBall and Volleyball, a phenomenal 802 teams took part in competition this season.

Thanks also to all the teachers that helped to run the schools competitions this year in particular: Mary Barrett, Vivienne Kelly, Peter Bergin, Justin McGree, Jennifer Moret, Ollie Hally, Jola Radon, Aoife Hennessy and Marion Maloney.

In addition to competitions several fun blitzes were run over the year targeting Primary Schools to encourage their participation in the sport.

Courses for Teachers

We continue to provide support to schools in the teaching of Volleyball through running practical workshops on a National basis during the academic year. We have continued to foster good links with various agencies in promoting opportunities for schools to get involved in Volleyball and in the provision of continuous professional development for teachers in the sport including:

- PEAI (Physical Education Association of Ireland)



- IPPEA (Irish Primary Physical Education Association)
- KES (Kerry Education Service)
- Active Schools Flag
- Local Sports Partnership Network

Teacher Training Colleges and Sport and Recreation Courses

Once again Teacher Training Colleges were a big target for our courses. We continue to provide courses to many Universities and Colleges involved in educating students in Teacher Training and Sport and Recreation. This is a great opportunity to work with the students who will be the future Teachers and Sports Leaders in the Community. Courses were run in the following Institutions this year:

- Colaiste Chathail Naofa Dungarvan
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College Limerick
- University of Limerick
- UCC

Regional Leagues

Cork Mixed Volleyball League:

The 2014/15 Cork Mixed Volleyball League was run at an earlier time this year beginning in November and concluding in February. This league continues to be a very successful and popular competition and has had a very positive impact in the development of Volleyball in this region. 16 teams took part in this year's league, with a total of 185 players registered for the league. The league concluded with a Cup and Plate Competition, in what was certainly the most competitive league to date, results in appendix. Thanks to CIT Volleyball Club for again hosting the tournament and for their assistance in setting up each competition day.

South Regional Men's and Women's League:

This season also saw the inaugural running of the South Regional Men's and Women's League. This is a really exciting development for Volleyball in the South of the country and provides teams further opportunities to participate in competitive Volleyball on a more local basis. 6 men's teams and 6 women's teams are currently competing in this league which is due to conclude at the end of May. Following this positive start in terms of team numbers it is hoped this league can be built on in seasons to come and more divisions introduced.



Dundalk Recreational League and U18 Competition:

Unfortunately both of these were affected by staff shortages but they did go ahead thanks to the late intervention of new Club Development officer Conor. Winners and further details can be found in the stats section at the back of this document.

Development funding projects

A small portion of funding was made available during the year for specific development programmes including the following:

East Cork SpikeBall Schools Programme:

This programme was run in conjunction with Cork LSP and targeted schools in the East Cork region. This schools programme has previously been run very successfully in four other regions in Cork. It provides schools that have not previously been involved an introduction to the sport, support and many of these schools have progressed onto playing in the Primary School National Competition. The programme provides training workshops for teachers, equipment and resources to get the game up and running in their school and FUN blitz days for all pupils involved. 7 Primary Schools were involved in this most recent programme, with 13 teachers completing two training days and over 300 pupils participated in their first fun blitz days.

Club Standards Award Scheme

Again the lack of staff slowed down the expected progress this year but DVC are well on the way to becoming the first Irish club to graduate from this scheme.

We would encourage clubs to come forward and be part of this fantastic opportunity to secure the future of your club and attract more members at all ages and abilities. Contact the office for more details.

The Mini Spikers Programme

The Mini Spikers Programme is an introductory Volleyball Programme targeting 6 to 9 year old children. The overall aim of the programme is to develop children's Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) through a variety of FUN activities and provide an age appropriate FUN introduction to the game of Volleyball. The Mini Spikers game is a simple adapted game that is presented and taught through three stages preparing players to progress onto playing SpikeBall and Volleyball.



The Mini Spikers Programme encourages:

- Movement, Movement and **MORE** Movement!
- Active involvement with activities offering children a learning opportunity while having fun with friends.
- More children to start playing Volleyball at an earlier age and continue playing Volleyball.

This programme is in its final stage of development. Mini Spikers resource packs for Primary School Teachers are being finalised. We aim to pilot the programme in 6-8 Primary Schools during the months of May and June. In September we are planning on distributing the Mini Spikers Programme to multiple schools throughout Ireland.

Sitting Volleyball

To date we have completed one sitting volleyball taster session at a Disability Inclusion Day for Cavan County Council. A total of twenty eight children took part in the session and it was enjoyed immensely by all. We will be running another taster session at Kildare's County Council Disability Inclusion Day on Saturday May 9th. At which over twenty five children are planning to attend. We would like to say a big thank you to Joanne Cardiff and Dwyne Hill for all their help with Sitting Volleyball this season. Next season we are hoping to continue delivering taster sessions throughout Ireland and to get some sitting volleyball clubs up and running.

National Children's Officer

The welfare and protection of children is paramount to everything that we do. It is our responsibility to ensure that children's early experiences in sporting and cultural activities are fun and positive, irrespective of their age, gender, ability or ethnic background.

The Volleyball Association of Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to the welfare and protection of all children, by ensuring that all policies and procedures are in line with current best practice and with current legislation. All policies and procedures have been developed in accordance with the Irish Sports Council and Code of Ethics, and legislation from the Department of Justice and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The National Children's officer has completed the following:

- Review of policies and procedure's within the VAI
- Updated Policies
- Created new templates for clubs to use
- Contacted Children's Officers in all National league clubs
- Made sure all Children's Officers have the required qualification/training



Over the next year the National Children's officer will support clubs, by visiting the relevant committee members to make sure that their policies are up to date and meet required legislation and best practice. If any clubs need further assistance or advice they can contact the National Children's Officer via the VAI office.

Anti Doping

The Volleyball Association of Ireland's policy is that doping is contrary to the spirit of sport and every member has a duty to ensure that the sport is free of doping. The Volleyball Association of Ireland fully subscribes to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) procedures. According to these, under the strict liability rule, athletes are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies.

The anti doping officer over the next 12 months will:

- Role out an education programme to all national teams, this will include online training for players and support staff.
- Promote the use of the use of the Irish sports council Medicine check app for smart phones.
- Sent to all Clubs, Irish Sports Council Anti doping Wallets.
- Provide outreach training for our International team.
- Update VAI website including links to the Irish sports councils Anti Doping Unit.
- Introduce programme of In competition and Out of competition testing at a senior level.

If any club or individual needs an assistance or advice they can contact the Anti Doping Officer via the VAI office. Any reports of misuse by an athlete or support staff can be made in confidence to the VAI anti doping officer.





Women in Sport

TY Girls SpikeBall Leaders Award Programme 2015

The budget constraints are continuing to have an ongoing effect on the ability of schools to provide supervision of students to attend courses on a regional basis. However, we are delighted that the TY Course has been a resounding success yet again this year. The feedback from both Primary and Secondary schools is very encouraging with continued new and returning requests to be included in the programme again next year.

Class teachers are excited about teaching SpikeBall and delighted with the work done by TY students and all concerned with the programme. The fact that SpikeBall is deliberately inclusive of all students is a big plus for the promotion and development of our sport.

The TY students appreciate the joys and challenges of working with younger pupils and are enjoying the opportunity to impart their knowledge and display their leadership skills. These young Leaders are a great source of future coaches, leaders and administrators for our sport.

It is great to not only see TY students who came through the programme in Primary School now becoming the Ty Leaders. We have also had some of the former TY Leaders contacting us and letting us know they are now teaching and continuing to teach SpikeBall and loving it!

We would hope to have the opportunities to further develop the TY Programme and continue to tap into this enormous potential for our Association.

TY Programme Targets:

- A total of 25 post primary schools took part in the Leaders Award Course.
- 12 SpikeBall Leaders Award Courses to 12 schools nationwide have been delivered.
- To date 8 Tutor Courses have been delivered to 9 schools
- 5 New Tutors have been qualified.
- To date 304 TY Students have participated in the course with 301 TY students achieving certification.
- To date 2234 Primary students have taken part in the programme.
- To date 18 Blitzes have been held nationwide. A further 10 Blitzes will be held before the summer break.
- To date 377 teams have taken part in blitzes. A further 110 teams will participate in blitzes.
- Approximately 94 teams will have participated in a SpikeBall Blitz for the first time.

Further Education Courses Targets:

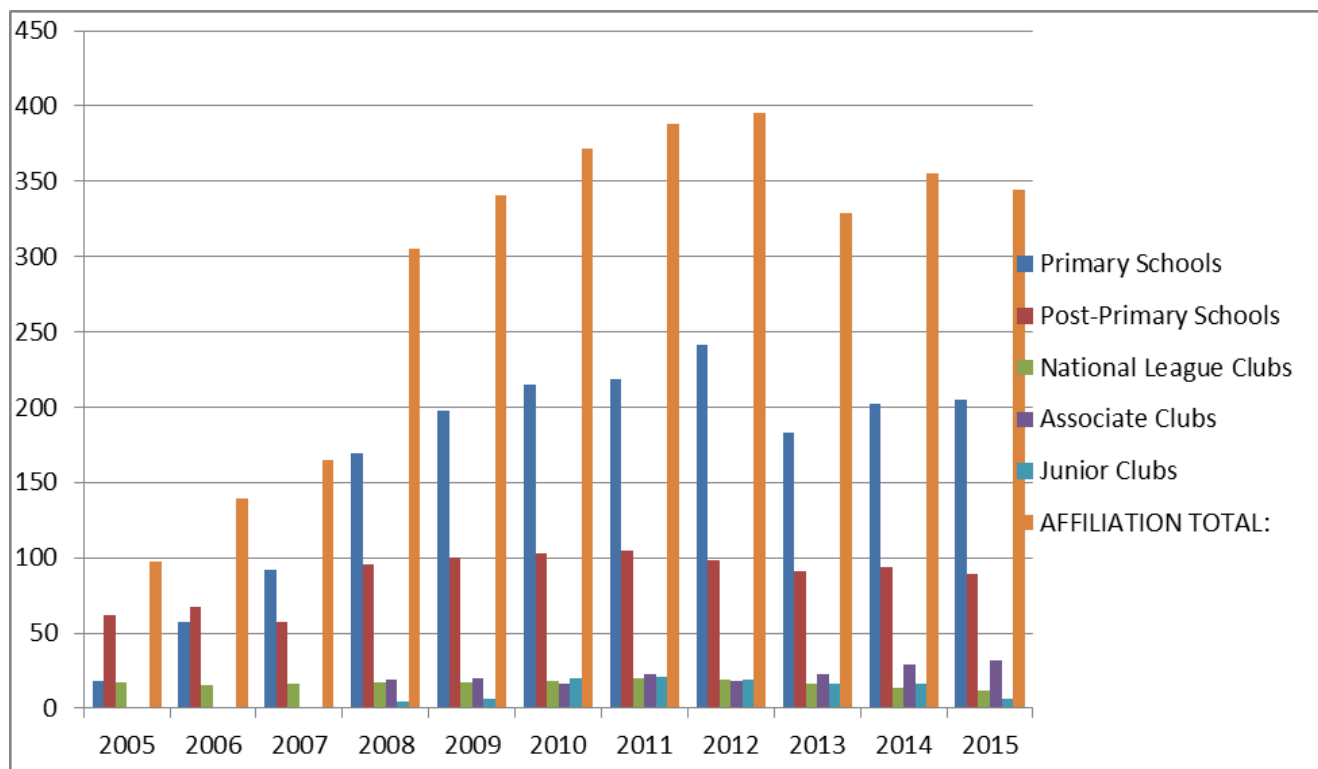
- 20 Coaches to gain qualification by end of September.



- 21 SpikeBall Referees to gain qualification by September.
- 8 students to attend Photography & Journalism workshop by September.

STATS/FIGURES

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Primary Schools	18	57	92	169	198	215	219	241	183	202	205
Post-Primary Schools	62	67	57	96	100	103	105	98	91	94	89
National League Clubs	17	15	16	17	17	18	20	19	16	14	12
Associate Clubs	0	0	0	19	20	16	23	18	23	29	32
Junior Clubs	0	0	0	4	6	20	21	19	16	16	6
AFFILIATION TOTAL:	97	139	165	305	341	372	388	395	329	355	344



RESULTS 2014-15

Senior Schools		
Senior Girls A	Winners: Runners-up:	St Mary's College, Naas Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
Senior Girls B	Winners: Runners-up:	Presentation Secondary School Kilkenny Portlaoise College
Senior Girls C	Winners: Runners-up:	Carlow Vocational School Mercy College, Coolock



Senior Boys A	Winners: Runners-up:	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea Drumshanbo VS, Leitrim
Senior Boys B	Winners: Runners-up:	Mountrath CS, Laois Colaiste de hIde, Tallaght

Senior Cup		
Girls	Winners: Runners-up:	St Mary's College, Naas Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
Boys	Winners: Runners-up:	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea St Raphael's College, Loughrea

Cadettes		
Cadette Girls A	Winners: Runners-up:	St Mary's College, Naas Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
Cadette Girls B	Winners: Runners-up:	Presentation School, Fethard St Mary's College, Naas
Cadette Girls C	Winners: Runners-up:	Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis Sutton Park, Dublin
Cadette Boys Cup	Winners: Runners-up:	St Raphael's College, Loughrea St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea
Cadette Boys Shield	Winners: Runners-up:	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea Presentation School, Fethard



Juniors

Finals to be played May 2015

Post Primary SpikeBall

1st Year Girls	Winners: Runners-up:	St Raphael's College, Loughrea Convent of Mercy, Roscommon
2nd Year Girls	Winners: Runners-up:	Rockford Manor, Foxrock, Dublin Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Roscommon
1st Year Boys	Winners: Runners-up:	St Raphael's College, Loughrea St Raphael's College, Loughrea
2nd Year Boys	Winners: Runners-up:	Kildare Town Community School St Paul's Community School, Waterford
1st Year Mixed	Winners: Runners-up:	St Tiernan's, Crossmolina, Mayo Mountrath Community School, Laois
2nd Year Mixed	Winners: Runners-up:	Colaiste an Eachreidh, Athenry Portlaoise College

Primary Schools SpikeBall

Girls	Winners: Runners-up:	St Ita's, Loughrea, Galway Holy Cross Primary School, Killarney, Kerry
Boys	Winners: Runners-up:	Gaelscoil Riabhach, Loughrea, Galway Church Hill N S, Kilkenny
	Winners:	Glenbeigh N S, Kerry



Mixed	Runners-up:	Claregalway Educate Together, Galway
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Cork Mixed League		
Cup	Winners: Runners-up:	Impact A Munster Thunder
Shield	Winners: Runners-up:	Impact B Bishopstown A

Student Sport Ireland		
Men's	Winners: Runners-up:	Waterford Institute of Technology Trinity College Dublin
Women's	Winners: Runners-up:	Dublin City University University College Cork

U18 Competition		
Girls	Winners: Runners-up:	St Raphael's College, Loughrea Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny

Dundalk Recreational League		
Mixed	Winners: Runners-up:	Dundalk Institute of Technology Lobinstown



Appendix 7: Coaching Commission Report 2015

The Coaching Commission has organised and run a number of Coaching Courses this season including:

- 3 Introduction to Coaching Award Courses which were run in Dublin, Waterford and Kerry.
- A Level 1 course which was due to run in Dublin in February unfortunately had to be cancelled as there were not enough applicants to run the course.
- Sport and Recreation Students from Colaiste Chathail Naofa Dungarvan involved in a Coach Education Programme completed training and monitored practical coaching in local Primary Schools to develop their coaching skills and introduce the sport in their local community.

I would like to thank the many tutors that have been involved during the year in the delivery of these courses. We continue to liaise with Coaching Ireland in the design, delivery, approval and Certification process of all our Coaching Courses.

Other Developments

- A review and rewrite of the Introduction to Coaching Award syllabus has been completed in conjunction with Coaching Ireland, with the new syllabus implemented in September 2014.
- Research and the development of a new Volleyball programme aimed at 6-9 year olds is in the final stages of completion. A comprehensive manual has been produced including a wide range of practical activities designed to improve FUNdamental movement skills and introduce Volleyball specific skills in an age appropriate manner to this age group. The programme includes a Mini Spikers Game, a simple adapted game taught in three stages, which aims to provide a fun introduction to the sport, encouraging an early development of interest in the sport and a progression onto playing SpikeBall and Volleyball. The programme will be piloted over the next couple of months before being rolled out nationally in the new school year.

Coaching Commission

New members are being sought for the Coaching Commission, if you are interested in getting involved in any way please contact the VAI office info@volleyballireland.com we would be delighted to have you on board.

Finally I would like to thank the office staff for their support in the Coaching administration during the year.

Yours in sport,

Ciara Doherty

VAI National Coaching Officer





Appendix 8: National Children's Officers Report 2014

The welfare and protection of children is paramount to everything that we do. It is our responsibility to ensure that children's early experiences in sporting and cultural activities are fun and positive, irrespective of their age, gender, ability or ethnic background.

The Volleyball Association of Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to the welfare and protection of all children, by ensuring that all policies and procedures are in line with current best practice and with current legislation. All policies and procedures have been developed in accordance with the Irish Sports Council and Code of Ethics, and legislation from the Department of Justice and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The Nationals Children's officer has completed the following:

1. Review of policies and procedure's within the VAI
2. Updated Policies
3. Created new templates for clubs to use
4. Contacted Children's Officers in all National league clubs
5. Made sure all Children's Officers have the required qualification/training
6. Over the next year the National Children's officer will support clubs, by visiting the relevant committee members to make sure that their policies are up to date and meet required legislation and best practice. If any clubs need further assistance or advice they can contact the National Children's Officer via the VAI office



Appendix 9: Anti-Doping Officers Report 2014

The Volleyball Association of Ireland's policy is that doping is contrary to the spirit of sport and every member has a duty to ensure that the sport is free of doping. The Volleyball Association of Ireland fully subscribes to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) procedures. According to these, under the strict liability rule, athletes are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies.

The anti doping officer over the next 12 months will:

- Role out an education programme to all national teams, this will include online training for players and support staff.
- Promote the use of the use of the Irish sports council Medicine check app for smart phones.
- Sent to all Clubs, Irish Sports Council Anti doping Wallets.
- Provide outreach training for our International team.
- Update VAI website including links to the Irish sports councils Anti Doping Unit.
- Introduce programme of In competition and Out of competition testing at a senior level.

If any club or individual needs an assistance or advice they can contact the Anti Doping Officer via the VAI office. Any reports of misuse by an athlete or support staff can be made in confidence to the VAI anti doping officer



Appendix 10: CEO's Report 2015

I have decided to keep my report reasonably brief, hopefully to the point and attempt to start a conversation on the future of our Association.

As the Volleyball Association moves towards its 50th anniversary, it's a good time to take stock and look at where we have come from and start to brainstorm on how we might change a few things to be more effective and efficient in the future.

Take our AGM for example:

The very first AGM, held in November 1968, attracted 84 people or persons as they were described in the minutes.

That must have been a very passionate time for Irish Volleyball.

The Competitions Handbook in 1992/93 listed 5 Ladies and 5 Men's leagues with 34 ladies teams and 36 Men's teams.

I wonder what all those players are doing today?

Change is inevitable in sport: whether it's new rules, adapted games, or new sports: there is constant change.

Even the Government department responsible for Sport have finally ushered in change: to announce that they will replace the Irish Sports Council and the National Sports Campus Development Authority with Sport Ireland.

An interim CEO will be appointed to oversee the transition.

So where will this change come from and who will lead it?

As one teacher said at Thursday's Schools AGM when asked "why do some Schools seem reluctant to change from 4 a side SpikeBall to 6 a side Volleyball".

She replied "I think we should all "reach out" to their teachers and offer them the help they need to make the transition".

Well they might be rivals on the court but it seems there is certainly fellowship off it.

That passion for volleyball that I mentioned earlier, may well have played a big part in bringing people together at that first AGM.

AGMs invoke passion, dialogue and speeches and just like politicians before an election... it's said with conviction and belief.

The challenge is to carry that passion, conviction and belief with us after the AGM.

It is important and necessary for everyone in our sport to work together for the future of Volleyball. A few volunteers on the board, commissions and our staff cannot work alone.

So spread the word and help however and wherever you and your club can.

If we start now, we can all pull together and look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in style. Thank you.



Appendix 11: National Women's Squad Presentation

The Irish Emerald's Proposed plans for the future



IRELAND

EMERALDS

WOMENS VOLLEYBALL

Challenges to date

- Internationally Ireland has struggled for years
 - To maintain commitment for long enough to improve the player standard sufficiently to compete internationally.
 - To retain talented Irish players.
 - To retain talented coaches who can commit for long enough.
 - To facilitate sufficient training time as a team.





Challenges to date

- Internationally Ireland has struggled for years
 - To find adequate competition to allow the team to develop and to compete at an increasingly improved standard internationally.
 - To acquire sufficient sponsorship and funding.
 - To improve our current CEV European Ranking position of 42.



Time for change

- We have strong and committed coaches and squad staff.
- We have the foundations of a great team for Ireland's future.
- The current squad are looking for change and are willing to make it.



Both staff and players want to be successful in CEV 2018!





Our proposal to you

Participation in Premier League

- The squad values the standard and competition of the Premier League and feel to compete in it as another team would be a significant stepping stone in improving our own standard.
- In an attempt to become more competitive, the squad needs more time training and competing together.
- Participating in the league would allow us to play together more frequently and set achievable attainable goals before progressing further.



Our set-up

- A panel of 12 will be selected to play as a team, the Irish Emeralds, in the Premier League.
- All other squad members (a further 4-8) will continue to play with their own club.
- The team would train 1 night per week with a local premier club team with a coach (likely to be their current team).



Our set-up

- Train 1 night per week with the Irish Emeralds (in the west, east and a neutral home venue).
- Continue to use the allocated squads weekends for training and international matches with the full squad of 16-20 members.
- Commitment Agreements will be signed by all players and coaches.





Benefits

- As mentioned before, increase frequency of training sessions and competition will hopefully improve our standard.
- Players will be fully committed to just the squad, and will be playing in their position consistently.
- Chance to rejuvenate the Irish squad format, which may encourage interest from new players, staffing and potential investors.

Current Difficulties

- Club support needed of the squad proposal and players making the tough decision.
- Club's to not disown players and to welcome them back when they finish with the squads.
- Club coaches to be able to incorporate squad players in their team trainings.



Current Difficulties

- Geography! Hope to find a venue to suit all for our second session.
- This will be costly and transport will be needed.
- Club administration duties and team responsibilities such as fixtures, scorekeeping etc. Not clear how that will work.

Questions we have for the board:

- Players need a club for player licence and personal injury cover. How can we address this?
- Will we be a separate, new VAI affiliated club or could we be hosted by a current club (but not play in that club's name)?
- This is a new venture for many of us, branching away from our homesteads of volleyball. If the VAI approves this, what kind of support and advice can you give us to make this a valuable new direction for Irish volleyball?



Summary




- Irish volleyball internationally needs to change.
- Support Irish volleyball development by supporting this idea today.
- We don't know if it will work but let's try.
- Start with a piloting this concept with the Irish Senior Women's squad.
- If it works, it can be extended for use with the Junior Women and our Men's squad, which we hope to have someday again.

Q & A





Appendix 12: Sign-In Sheets for the 2014 VAI AGM



volleyball association of ireland
 Affiliated to: FIVB, CEV, Olympic Council of Ireland

Volleyball Association of Ireland AGM – 9th May 2015

Maldron Hotel, Abbeylax Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

FULLY AFFILIATED CLUBS

(If you are a club delegate please sign Club Delegate attendance sheet)

NAME	CLUB/ORGANISATION	SIGNATURE
MARTIN O'CONNOR	NEWSBIDU	Martin O'Connor
MEGAN BURGDORF	UCD / BOARD	M. Burgdorf
CODRACH DOHERTY	DVC	Codrach Doherty
Nolihan Lumanog	Santry VC	Nolihan Lumanog
Dovile Janusauskaite	Santry VC	Dovile Janusauskaite
THERESA GOMEZ	DVC	THERESA GOMEZ
FERNANDO GARCIA	TALLAGHT ROCKETS	Fernando Garcia
Genny White	AEN LINCOLN	Genny White
JENNIFER FITZGERALD	TCD	J. Fitzgerald
Keelin Shaughnessy	TCD	Keelin Shaughnessy
Marie Sheridan	Naas Cobras	Marie Sheridan
ANDREI MOLVAN	TCD	Andrei Molvan
Ken Donnelly	BMP	Ken Donnelly
LOVICKI ADRIANE	DUKE DEVILS.	LOVICKI ADRIANE
MCRISTINA PATANE	DALKEY DEVILS	MCRISTINA PATANE
MELISSA LUSTANI	DALKEY DEVILS	MELISSA LUSTANI
DECLAN RYAN	GARDA	DECLAN RYAN
K. Van Tonder	TALLAGHT ROCKETS	K. Van Tonder
Fenna v. Hirschfeld	TCD	Fenna v. Hirschfeld
Jenny Muret	NUIG	Jenny Muret

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volleyball association of ireland

Affiliated to: FIVB, CEV, Olympic Council of Ireland

Volleyball Association of Ireland AGM – 9th May 2015

Maldron Hotel, Abbeyleigh Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois

CLUB DELEGATES

CLUB	1 st DELEGATE	2 ND DELEGATE
NEWBRIDGE	MARTIN O'CONNOR	
SANTRY VC	Donal Janssenshaite	Colin Sheehan
DUC	CLOAGH O'NEILL	THERESA GOMEZ
Braymont Patriots	ANDREW DUNN	Ken Dunlop
Tonight Rockets	FERNANDO LACANA	RADE JON BONDAR
TCD	Jennifer Kefford	ANDREI MOLNAR
Naas Cobras	Mae Sheehan	
B.		
DALKEY DEVILS	MCSTINA PATON	ARIANE LAMOU
ICD	Tenna v Hirschberg	
THORNTON ROCKETS	TK	
ASH LINGERS	GERALD WHITE	
UCD	Duncan Cullen	GD
Joseph Gannon	L. Dearden	Joe Gannon
BARAA	A. Ryan	
WULF.	Jennifer Horst	