



ST. PATRICK'S CHALLENGE



v



12.3.22 Dublin

Sport Ireland Campus
National Indoor Arena

1030 u20 Men

1300 u19 Women

1530 Snr Women

1800 Snr Men



Event Programme

Welcome.

Welcome to Volleyball's St. Patrick's Day Challenge, hosted in our stunning Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena. Volleyball Ireland are thrilled to host this event today which marks our first opportunity since Covid to re-launch our sport to the public, show the country what Volleyball is all about and reconnect with fellow members of the Volleyball community to share in our love and passion for our sport. It's going to be spectacular to see the eight teams out on court battling for the glory of the St. Patrick's Challenge Cup!

Our National Teams have been busy preparing for what's going to be an incredibly busy summer with the upcoming Small Countries Association action next month when Volleyball Ireland host the u20's Men in this amazing volleyball venue. It really promises to be a brilliant three days of Volleyball with Andorra and Luxembourg joining today's competing teams in a round robin competition which we hope you'll all return to witness. Just before then our u19 girls depart for Luxembourg to build on their excellent performances in the u16 & u17 NEVZA championships from back in 2019. Our Senior Women are off to Iceland in mid-May to compete in another SCA competition and before finally the u22 Men depart for Rome to play Italy, Portugal and Israel in the European Championship qualifiers.

Who would ever have thought we'd be seeing our Irish Men's team playing against Italy in a European Championship! It's really a dream come true and reward for all the hard work that Andrei and the team have put in over the last few years. We all know it will be a challenge competing against this team who are the current World Champions for this age group, but we strongly believe that we need to provide these opportunities for our young players, because experiences and memories like that will last a lifetime and will keep them in the sport and bring more support for our beloved game.

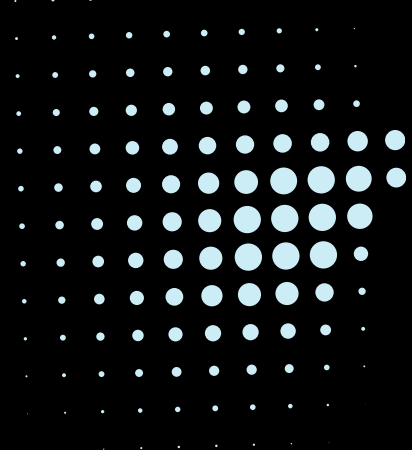
Tá suil agam go go mbeidh lá iontach agaich go leir anseo inniu, bain sult as sárthaispeántas an spóirt. Faoi dherieadh do na foirne a bheidh ag taisteal thar lear sna míonna amach romhainn guím gach rath oraibh. Caith do gheansaí le bród agu onóir.

As we say in Volleyball Ireland, aim to be one of these...
be the first, be the best or be different!



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clodagh".

Clodagh NicCanna | VLY. President



Schedule

1030 *u20 Men*

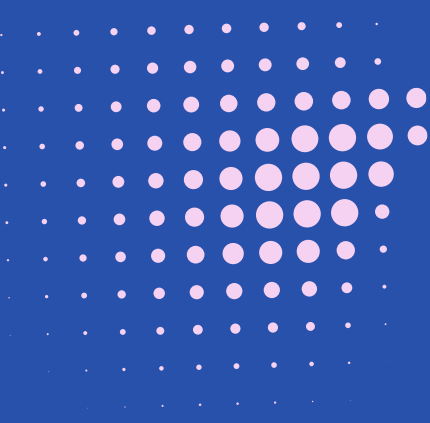
1300 *u19 Women*

1530 *Snr. Women*

1800 *Snr. Men*

Games will follow International Protocol. On Court warm up begins -32mins before start time.

Following each game there will be a presentation of the match MVP. The St. Patrick's trophy will be presented after the Senior Men's game to whichever Federation wins the most games on the day.



Shop & Collect

*Shop official VLY Merchandise & equipment
by scanning the QR Code or by visiting
<https://www.volleyballireland.com/shop/>*

*Online card payments only, cash payment
not accepted. Collection available at VLY
retail stand, just show your receipt!*



- **Supporter Tees**
- **Match Balls**
- **Youth Training Balls**
- **And more**

Team Line Up



IRELAND u20

- 2** Ciagan Davoren (C)
- 6** Sam Harman
- 8** Cian Humphreys
- 11** Sonny Yamada
- 12** Cathal Dwyer
- 13** Noah Leamy
- 14** Telmun Batbayer
- 15** Donnacha O'Dwyer
- 17** Joshua McMahon
- 18** Aiden Grace
- 19** Lachlan Donnelly
- 20** Patrick Smith

Coaching Team

Andrei Molnar

Ionut Tamure

Aidan McDonnell

Manager

Christina McKeogh





Team Line Up



Northern Ireland u20

Myles Reilly

Jack McMurray

Ethan Noble

James Mounstephen

Zak Kincaid

Nicholas Skansen

Scott Craig

Sam Edgar

Jake Searle

Paddy Dally

Isaac Finch

Alistair McGuinness

Mark Christie

Dylan Parks

Coaching Team

Callum Grieve

Chris Hamilton

Ben White



Captain's Q&A



Ciagan Davoren, u20 Men

Are you looking forward to today's game and what are you looking forward to most?

I am. I'm looking forward to show all of the stuff we have done in training and to show everyone what we can do on the day in front of everyone.

How did you get into Volleyball?

I played spike ball in primary school and my PE teacher moved me onto volleyball in secondary school, and it's gone from there. I love the sport.

Who is your Volleyball inspiration and why?

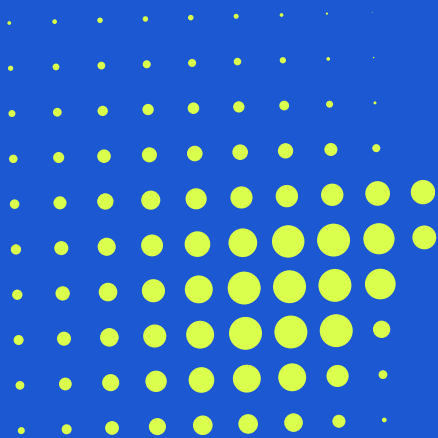
My inspiration is Jennia Grebenikov as he is a very unique libero in the way he plays and as well as that he is one of the best Libero in the world.

What are your Volleyball ambitions?

To win SCA and to accomplish more with the u22 squad after. For senior I want to show the world that Ireland isn't a country who are put in just to fill spaces and that we will fight for every ball and we will prove we have the right to be there as much as anyone.

Any message for the fans?

Constant noise seems to help us concentrate. So please louder the better. The lads have put in such an enormous amount of work and this is where we want to be able to show what they have worked for and what we can do. Thanks for your support!





€15

Official Volleyball Ireland Supporter Tees.

*Available now on the VLY Online Shop.
Click & Collect Now.*

*All proceeds to be split between the
Ireland National Team programme and
the humanitarian fundraising campaign
in aid of Ukraine.*





Team Line Up



IRELAND u19

- 4 Maria Jones (C)**
- 1 Grace Moloney**
- 14 Aising O'Connor**
- 11 Amy O'Sullivan**
- 12 Laura Connolly**
- 6 Rebecca Dobey**
- 19 Jessica Dowling**
- 2 Aine Dowling**
- 8 Emer Phelan**
- 3 Jillian Sweeney**
- 10 Aine Browne**
- 17 Yousra Kebalyi**
- 18 Skye Haughton**
- 21 Eimear Byrne**

Coaching Team

- Evrin Genc Oguz**
- Melissa Cheviron**
- Lucia Barbato**



Captain's Q&A



Maria Jones, u19 Women

Are you looking forward to today's game and what are you looking forward to most?

I'm really looking forward to our new squad playing together in our first match! I'm super excited for us to face the challenge together.

How did you get into Volleyball?

In first year my friends joined the volleyball team and I decided to go to see what it was all about, thank god for peer pressure!

Who is your Volleyball inspiration and why?

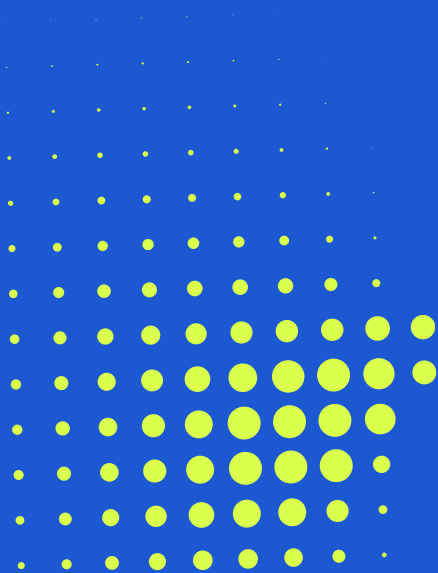
Erica Fatini, my coach and teammate at Munster Thunder. I aspire to have the skills and court vision that she has, and to be able to perform at her level.

What are your Volleyball ambitions?

To continue to play for Ireland and international and to play in university next year.

Any message for the fans?

Make some noooooiiiise! Thanks for coming and we hope you have a great day!!! And I encourage anyone who isn't already involved to get involved because volleyball is so fun!





Team Line Up



Northern Ireland u19

- 1 Zoe Hennessey- Captain**
- 3 Lucy McCartney**
- 5 Grace Allen**
- 7 Zara Thorpe**
- 8 Grace Megaw**
- 9 Jodie Elliott**
- 11 Hannah Stevens**
- 12 Emma Duke**
- 14 Grace Patterson**
- 15 Lia Webb**
- 16 Virag Sugar**
- 17 Iona Mairs**
- 2 Zeeba Hassan**
- 13 Hannah Topley**

Coaching Team
Karl Gale
Aimee Gale



Team Line Up



IRELAND Women

- 16 Mikal O'Boyle (C)**
- 10 Roisin Rowntree**
- 3 Ciara Lowe**
- 4 Regina Halpin**
- 5 Aoibhin Cassidy**
- 6 Simina Maria**
- 7 Carly Donaghy**
- 8 Emma Byrne**
- 9 Lauren Clark**
- 11 Sophie Quinliven-Nolan**
- 12 Alex Graves**
- 14 Catriona NiRiordain**
- 19 Jillian Sweeney**
- 21 Emily Frazell**

Coaching Team

Mark Delahunty
Edyta McMullan
Jana Langford



Team Line Up



Northern Ireland Women

- 1 Kerry Kirkpatrick**
- 3 Emma Patterson**
- 4 Olivia Lyness**
- 5 Aimee Oliver**
- 6 Sarah O'Reilly**
- 7 Rachel Montgomery**
- 8 Shannon McKee**
- 9 Jemma Calvin**
- 10 Sarah Scott**
- 11 Catherine Murphy**
- 12 Claire Dowey**
- 13 Megan McBurney**
- 14 Zara Bolton**
- 16 Amy Wethers**

Coaching Team

Stephen McKeown

Rhian McCarroll



Captain's Q&A



Mikal O'Boyle, Snr. Women

Are you looking forward to today's game and what are you looking forward to most?

I'm excited about putting all our hard work from trainings into use and getting the chance to compete with our team in a match situation. It's very exciting to play with these talented ladies!

How did you get into Volleyball?

Both my parents played- I remember watching my mom play when I was about 8 years old. They introduced me to club volleyball when I was 10 and I never looked back since.

Who is your Volleyball inspiration and why?

My mom- she will still walk in to a gym and work with me on anything I need, and she never fails to pinpoint the problem or push me to be smarter with my mental game. She's a wealth of knowledge and I aspire to read the game the way she can.

What are your Volleyball ambitions?

Apart from finishing first in an international competition with our team and coaches, I'd also love if, in the future, I end up playing alongside the girls I'm currently coaching in Mayo.

Any message for the fans?

We appreciate our supporters and the boost they give us! The support is felt on and off the court. My confidence in this team is soaring. It's very exciting to be apart of something that improves you while consequently improving the unit as a whole. We're at that stage- where each training ends with a stronger chemistry, which is a powerful thing.



Team Line Up



IRELAND Men

- 1 Aidan McDonnell (c)**
- 2 Ciagan Davoren**
- 3 Gareth Gilmartin**
- 4 Conor Power**
- 5 Alameen Disu**
- 6 Sam Harman**
- 7 Cillian O'Riordain**
- 8 Cian Humphreys**
- 9 Roman Uzun**
- 10 Peter McGlynn**
- 11 Sonny Yamada**
- 12 Cathal Dwyer**
- 13 Noah Leamy**
- 17 Arron Hughes**

Coaching Team
Andrei Molnar
Ionut Tamure

Manager
Christina McKeogh





Team Line Up



Northern Ireland Men

Peter Stewart ©

Ryan Upton

Jonathan Workman

Jason Martin

Sam Neill

Graeme Currie

Harvey Whiteside

Gavin McCaughern

Stephen Coulter

Matthew Jackson

Piers Browning

Jack Bayley

Adam Hall

Coaching Team

Chris Grant

Matthew Outhwaite

Bryan Tyre - Statistician



Captain's Q&A



Aidan McDonnell, Snr. Men

Are you looking forward to today's game and what are you looking forward to most?

Definitely, I can't wait! To represent my country wearing the green, white and gold and to get back on the court in front of a crowd means the world to me. So much work has been put in by everyone and I'm looking forward to show it.

How did you get into Volleyball?

The first introduction to Volleyball I had was in a Summer camp in Loughrea held by Mary Barrett. I had tried football and hurling in primary school but it just wasn't for me. At that point I didn't know that I would find such a love for volleyball. This came from when I started school in St. Raphael's College. Here is where my passion grew! If it wasn't for the hard work and dedication of Sr. Bosco and Jennifer Moret I don't think I would be where I am today.

What are your Volleyball ambitions?

To play and win an international competition as captain of my country's Senior team.

Any message for the fans?

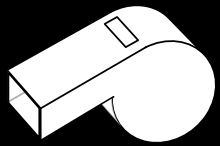
Everyone, from the management to the parents of each player has put so much work, personal time, money and heart into evening you are seeing today. So please, just sit back, enjoy and make sure to shout and cheer because every voice helps drive us players on more!

To all the parents out there, please encourage your kids into volleyball because it is a safe, friendly and positive environment where kids can thrive and be themselves.





Team Line Up



Officials

Giordano Dos Santos

Aurelien Gimenez

Grainne Culliton

Alan Gormally

Declan Ryan

Colette King

Isabel Pla Marta Diaz

**Do you want to get involved in
Refereeing? Drop us a mail
info@volleyballireland.com**

Thank You.

Thank you for playing a key role in today's St. Patrick's Challenge and creating a fantastic atmosphere for our players.

We want to position Volleyball as the indoor sport of choice for young people and to do that we need to create exciting and colourful events with an electric atmosphere. This will develop a buzz around Volleyball, which will attract new people but also help us retain the next generation that are here watching today. So please play your part and bring the noise!

To capitalise on this event we've brought in a professional streaming company HBV studios who will be broadcasting on the Volleyball Ireland YouTube channel. I urge you to watch back these games from the comfort of your arm chair at a later date. Without wanting to sound too corporate – all the eyeballs on our social media channels and the engagement that brings really helps us promote Volleyball and will go a long way in helping us attract sponsors and commercial partners to invest in our future.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Volleyball community, committee & commission members and our club volunteers for sticking with the sport over the last few years. Clubs have gone above and beyond to keep the sport on the road. It's been a difficult 24 months or so for indoor sport and Volleyball is no exception to that. However, the way the community has rallied and rolled up its sleeves puts us in a strong position to build on our growth prior to the pandemic, look ahead and take Volleyball up a level.

Today wouldn't be possible without the selfless contribution of our event volunteers who will be on hand to provide you with various information and support throughout the day. I can't say how appreciative we are for your time and help.

We also have seven of our best Referees and Officials donating their expertise – as we all know sport isn't possible without referees, so if you've been inspired by Vinnie, Declan, Grainne, Alan, Aurelien, Colette & Isabel on the stand please let us know – we'll be running more courses soon.

Events like this don't happen by magic overnight and I want to pay tribute to our brilliant and dedicated staff who are putting on a great show today. They bring energy, vision and passion to Volleyball on a daily basis and I'm incredibly proud to work with Simon, Conor, Sophie & Amanda.

Lastly, please let me know what you thought of the St. Patrick's Challenge – we are all about getting bigger and better and your feedback is vital.

Enjoy the show.



Gary Stewart | VLY. General Manager





**Beach
Tour**

- 3 Levels of Comp
- 4v4, Mixed & Social
- 2v2 & Competitive
- New Venues
- Expanded Tour
- Camps & Lessons

Tour Dates Announced Soon

'22

Team Ireland Intl. Calendar

March

12

**St. Patrick's
Challenge
v NIR**
Dublin

All Teams

April

8-10

**SCA U19 Girls
Championships**
Luxembourg

12-14

**SCA U20 Boys
Championships**
Dublin

May

13-15

**SCA Snr Women
Championships**
Iceland

20-22

**CEV U22 Men
European
Championships
Qualifiers**
Italy

Oct

2

All Star Game
Kilkenny

*Do you want to join
the journey? Player
& Team Sponsors
available.*

*Contact Gary:
gm@volleyball
ireland.com*



**Volleyball
Ireland**



**CEV Small Countries
Association Championships**

U20 MEN

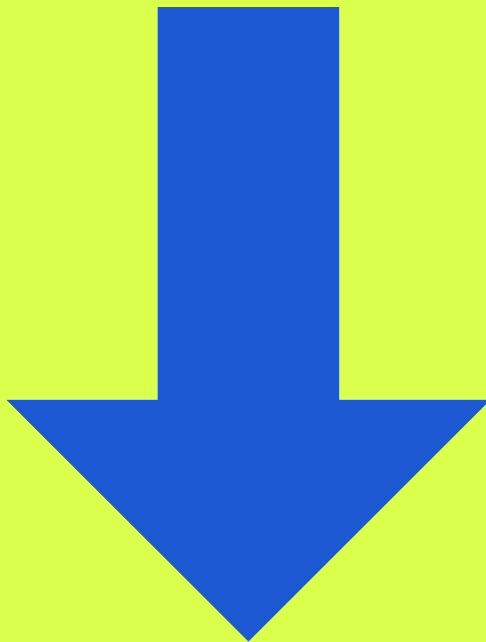
DUBLIN APRIL 12-14

Tickets on Sale March 24

IRELAND - ANDORRA - LUXEMBOURG - N. IRELAND

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expand our reach.**

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PROGRAMME
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SOON