

## Association Communications week 21

28 May 2021

Kia ora koutou katoa,

One week until IPC, good luck with all your final preparations.

### Website information Update

Our interns have been working updating all our information on our Website so that when we have people looking to connect with you to engage in your Volleyball opportunities, they are able to connect with the right people.

Please can you send the following information to [vnz1@volleyballnz.org.nz](mailto:vnz1@volleyballnz.org.nz) by June 11<sup>th</sup> EoB.

- Chair Name
- Best contact person's name
- Phone number of this contact (including hours to call if applicable)
- Email contact
- Jpeg Logo of your Association

### National Partnership Manager Calendar.

Building understanding of our Regional Associations and their communities needs is a high priority for Katie. To support this, it is essential to make time with each Regional Association Board, Staff, and the community through both face-to-face connections and virtual meets. Over the coming months Katie would like to map out a timeline of visits. Board Chairs next week will receive a link to a calendar where you will be able to indicate visit opportunities. It will be a first in, first served.

### Tu Manawa Funding Open

Many RST's have Tu Manawa funding available again, ensure you check out your local RST websites to see their closing dates. If you require support for funding applications, please contact [np@volleyballnz.org.nz](mailto:np@volleyballnz.org.nz).

### Genius Sport

The VNZ Board has signed an agreement to partner with Genius Sports. Genius Sports is a sports information and software company that helps track tournament data and statistics that we can use to help showcase and market our sport, and they can use to sell to bookmakers for people to wager on (bet on) internationally. The Board spent an extensive period reviewing the opportunities, benefits and negatives that came from international wagering and determined that it was a beneficial relationship for volleyball in New Zealand. This means games at our signature events (see below) will be using the Genius Sports system:

- Club Champs
- NVL
- NZBT
- IPC (only U21 & senior grades)
- Any Volley Fern and Volley Black games in NZ
- Any other games agreed between VNZ and Genius

This means these games will continue to be livestreamed through VNZ and also through Genius to international markets.

Additionally, VNZ will be accessing electronic scoresheets and eventually Data Volley Media will be used to take stats (kill rate, serve %, pass % etc). This is an exciting progression for VNZ and our athletes and coaches.

Volleyball NZ has just this week completed the training to understand the Genius software this week, and we are confident we can start to implement it through IPC next week. What this means is, we will be using the Genius cameras and e-scoresheets at IPC next week, and NVL later in June/July. However, Genius are still building their market for our Volleyball products and finding partners that are interested in our games. So, the use of their software at these events will be a trial for us so we can familiarize ourselves with the software. In future though, this means there will be international wagering on IPC, as well as the events listed above.

All NZ athletes playing in games that are bet on internationally will be required to sign an athlete agreement form including an integrity clause, and we will work with all athletes through ours and Sport NZ's integrity frameworks. This athlete agreement and training through integrity frameworks is a well overdue component of Volleyball New Zealand's relationship with athletes (and coaches) participating in VNZ events.

The e-scoresheets are again a well overdue development for the sport in New Zealand and will require training (we have reached out for interested personnel) and perhaps patience from teams and coaches, but it is an essential part of moving the sport forward. For this year's IPC, we will have volunteers trained in using the e-scoresheets so players/referees won't have that responsibility. And we will still use the paper scoresheets as part of the duty process, so the use of the e-scoresheets won't inhibit or impact on the timeliness of games.

Again, we understand everyone has their own view on wagering, but we believe this is in the best interests for Volleyball New Zealand athletes and coaches.

If you do have any queries, require further information or have personnel interested in in being a part of the technical components of this contract, please do not hesitate in letting us know.

#### **RA Shared Resources**

As mentioned in last week's communication, VNZ is working on building a platform to host a range of resources that can benefit the capability build of each Regional Association. This month's theme is Health and Safety. Please send through any forms you are happy to share as examples that may support others to [np@volleyballnz.org.nz](mailto:np@volleyballnz.org.nz)

#### **Pasifika Advisory Group**

VNZ would like to welcome Enoka Taufua and Asenati Tavita on to the Pasifika Advisory Group. We are looking forward to bringing the group together for our first connect during IPC.