



Volleyball Canada Board of Directors
Thursday, May23rd. 2024, 20:00 EST
TEAMS

Minutes:

In Attendance : Kevin Boyles; Marie Christine Rousseau; Parrish Offer; Sylvie Bigras; Joanne Mortimore; Cam Wheelan; **Regrets:** Boris Tyzuk; **Staff:** Mark Eckert

1. Conflict of Interest Declarations

- No conflicts declared based on agenda and distributed materials.

2. Review and Approval of previous minutes

Kevin

Motion: Marie-Christine Rousseau

Second: Parrish Offer

6-0

3. External Relations Update (minor updates from last report)

- NORCECA
 - Mark
 - North Central Zone Meeting May 10th Ponce Puerto Rico
 - Mark elected as Zonal President
 - NORCECA Congress July 6th and 7th in Punta Cana
 - Sport Canada
 - Future of Sport Commission announced
 - Abuse Free Sport – Moving from SDRCC to CCES
 - Sport Canada has walked back a significant amount of the governance code requirements, the majority of the requirements changed to best practice or recommended. The mandatory ones will be part of the funding agreement
- FIVB
 - Board Meeting held May 30th and 31st in Lausanne
 - Launch Of the FIVB Foundation May 31st in Lausanne
 - Funding for men's indoor team full time next gen coach approved by President (2 years)
 - Candidatures submitted for all FIVB positions
 - Mark nominated for Executive



- COC
 - Focus is on Paris right now
- PTA's
 - Trans gender policy
 - EDI next steps
 - NRC meeting

Mark

4. Governance

Board committee ToRs to approve:

- Governance Committee
Attached
- Finance and Audit Committee
Attached
- Nominations and Elections
Attached
- Ethics, Discipline and Complaints
Attached
- Strategic Planning
Attached
- Athletes Council
Attached

Motion: Joanne Mortimore

Second: Sylvie Bigras

6-0

5. June VC Convention- 5-7 June

- Detailed Agenda
Attached
- Speaker – Ann Pegoraro Bio
Attached
- AGM & SGM Agenda
Attached
- AGM Minutes (31 August 2023) for approval
Attached
- Nominations & Elections
Attached

6. Finances & Operations

- Audited Financial Statements
Attached

Approved: by Finance and Audit Committee



7. Ethics Committee

- PTA's are receiving a number of OSIC rulings and associated invoices
Boris
- Very few Nationals Complaints to date

8. Athlete Council

- Updates and activity
Cam

9. Operating Reports

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

Senior team

- Just finished 1st week of VNL. 3 wins-1 loss. Moved up to 10 in the world rankings. Ahead of the Netherlands. **Temporarily holding the last qualification spot for Paris**
- Next leg is in Arlington, Texas from May 27 to June 2

NextGen Team

- Started training on May 22. 21 athletes were selected. 1st competition will be the NORCECA Final 6 in Santo Domingo – June 24 to July 1

MEN'S PROGRAM

Staffing

- Dave Preston has been hired as the new NextGen coach. Official start date is July 2nd.

Senior Team

- 1st week of VNL in Antalya from May 21-26

NextGen Team

- Started training on May 15. 1st competition is the Pan Am Cup in Santo Domingo, from July 13-21

U21 team

- Currently training in Gatineau. Only competition will be the U21 NORCECA Championships from June 9-17 in Nogales, Mexico

Beach Update

- Alyssa Birbrager has been hired as the full-time Beach HP Therapist effective April 29, 2024.
- Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Update – Canada will have either one, two or three beach teams in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games (July 26 – August 11).
 - Brandie Wilkerson/Melissa Humana-Paredes are assured of qualification into the Paris 2024 Olympic Games via the FIVB Olympic Ranking (Top 18 teams with a limit of 2 teams per country).



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- Sarah Pavan/Molly McBain have a possibility to qualify for Paris 2024 through the Olympic Ranking (They are currently 18th ranked team) which will be finalized on June 10, 2024.
 - If Sarah Pavan/Molly McBain don't qualify for Paris 2024 through the Olympic Ranking then Sophie Bukovec/Heather Bansley will compete in the NORCECA Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Tournament in Tlaxcala, MEX June 21-23, 2024. If Sophie Bukovec/Heather Bansley win this NORCECA event in Tlaxcala then they will qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
 - Sam Schachter/Dan Dearing will also be competing in the NORCECA Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Tournament in Tlaxcala, MEX Jun 21-23, 2024 with a chance to qualify for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
 - Upcoming VC Beach Events:
 - June 8-9: 2024 U19 World Championship Trials & FISU World University Games Selections (Ashbridges Bay, Toronto)
 - June 29-30: NORCECA Open Trials (Ashbridges Bay, Toronto)
 - July 27-28: NORCECA U23 Open Trials (Ashbridges Bay, Toronto)
 - August 16-18: VC Beach Nationals (Ashbridges Bay, Toronto)
 - August 21-25: Halifax Futures Event
 - August 28-September 1: Montreal Elite 16 event
 - August 31-September 1: University/College Beach Nationals (Ashbridges Bay, Toronto)

Sitting Update

TCWSV

- WPV Super 6 June 8 -16, 2024 in Nancy, FRA. Participating teams CAN, BRA, USA, CHN, ITA, FRA.
- limited information from WPV or LOC. There continues to be significant issues within WPV and their ability to execute sustainable events effectively.
- Paris 2024 Selection Camp completed April 25-28 in Edmonton
- 12 athletes selected for nomination to Paris 2024 roster. Appeal window has now closed without any appeals. - - - Athletes and staff will now be nominated to CPC for approval. Official team announcement later this summer.
- Paris preparation plans include: Red v White Exhibition @ Nationals May 24-26, WPV Super 6 (FRA), The Dutch Tournament (NED), Staging in Val de Reuil\
- Staffing update: Lauren Vickery (Calgary) – IST Lead, Stefan Waples (Edmonton) – Performance Dietician

TCMSV

- WPV Final Qualifier in Dali, CHN in April 1-10, 2024
- Men finished 4th. Strong showing. Ukraine finished 1st and received Paralympic berth.
- Debrief process and program review underway. Upcoming plans depend on 24-25 WPV calendar of events which has not been released.
- The men's program will face some financial limitations for remainder of the year, due to the high cost of Final Qualifier. Will need to be strategic in scheduling training camps and selecting appropriate competitions when available.



GENERAL

- Interviews ongoing for TCSV National Team Coordinator. Start date as soon as possible.

Athlete and Coach Pathways

- 2023-2024 Community Sport for All
 - U21 Norceca Legacy Speaker Series – 3 sessions with guest speakers and invited racialize youth female participants ‘You are a leader’
 - U21 Norceca Coach Training – target Afghan, Iranian and other new Canadians with Mr. Yousuf Sadeq
 - Smashball Commercial Filming and promotion on going
- Canada Cup
 - 53 teams participating
- Coach Development
 - CAC Partners Congress
 - Presenting Pilot Projects: Coach Pathway 2.0
 - Performance Coach Workshops Ongoing
 - Coach Eligibility Checks –
 - Management ongoing
 - Focus on Mandatory requirements
 - in progress – Pilot project with Bongo & Google Classroom– video submission tool used for coach evaluations
- Team Canada Pathway Programs
 - Program OnBoarding Ongoing
 - Coaches in place for all programs, athlete selection near complete

Referee

- Logistical planning for segregated National Referee Committee meeting to occur in June is underway.
 - Will occur Jun 7 - 9, 2024 @ Ottawa
 - Open invitation to PTA Executive Directors to either attend or send a dedicated staff member to participate
- 2024 National Championships are in progress
 - 350+ participating referees across 11 PTAs, USA Volleyball and Puerto Rico Volleyball
 - Feedback through the first event has been extremely positive with respect to the care and inclusion in the championships
- International Referees have all received at minimum one nomination for the 2024 calendar
 - Recent developmental successes
 - Simone Ouellet – promoted to FIVB Beach Volleyball Referee (Nov '23)
 - Nikolaus Fuess – Attended NORCECA Continental Referee Candidate Course (Jan '24)
 - Jason Dodd – to attend the FIVB Referee Candidate Course (Aug '24)
- Learning Management Systems à long term referee development
 - Program development and implementation will be heavily focused through the summer now that we have an established provider



National Competitions

- Nationals is currently underway – overall event has been going very well.
- We hope to announce 2025 dates in the coming weeks.

International Events

VNL 2024 (Jun 4-9, Ottawa)

- Planning going well, all on track
- Ticket sales a bit ahead of last year at same time
- School day program will have over 3500 kids attending; coaching symposium at 60 already

U21 Women's NORCECAs (Jun 25-30 Toronto)

- Teams and match schedule have been confirmed; no Cuba
- CC being confirmed and flights booked.

NORCECA Men's Final 6 (Aug 20-25 Gatineau)

- Competition format has been confirmed.

Beach Pro Tour (Aug 29- Sep 1, Montreal)

- Event is looking somewhat tenuous now; govt funding.
- Previous promoter is out; new promoter being sought
- Considering the option of moving the event to Quebec City

VNL 2025-2027

- Have indicated that VC is prepared to host VNL 2025-2027, for 2 events (each gender) per year
- Ottawa has confirmed, currently soliciting second host city
- In discussions with various funding sources for potential multi-year commitment
- No confirmation back from VW yet

VRS:

LMS RFP

- We are in the final stages of the procurement process and hope to have an announcement in the coming weeks.

IST

Men's Update:

- Currently 2.5 weeks into training camp. Completed our full athlete intake process with U21 and Senior athletes with Next Gen coming up May 13-14. Athletes are given a thorough diagnostic of sport medicine testing, performance-based testing, biomechanical based testing, and attend workshops for specific nutrition/mental performance and mental health.
- Brendan Dinsdale, who has been a mental performance consultant with our NEP and U21 programs for 2.5 years is also now our Mental Health Liaison for athletes, coaches, and staff. In this new role he oversees working on our mental health emergency action plan, conducting regular check-ins with athletes, staff, and coaches, and is the direct link to the various resources for mental health in sport.
- Mikael Kanaan, who is a PhD student at University of Ottawa, will be a part time, assistant strength, and conditioning coach with our Next Gen squad for this summer. This is the first time the program has had a 3rd S&C coach.



WNT:

- Currently in Round one of VNL Rio
- We've continued to implement our new nutritional strategies around supplements and meal timings while travelling
- We're collecting our first in game data with our new catapult system for analysis to determine the detailed physical demands of our sport
- Continuing the onboarding and upskilling process with our new AMS

Safe Sport/Gender Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

- As of May 20, 2024, VC has five (5) individuals on the Abuse-Free Sport Registry with Sanctions and another eight (8) with Provisional Measures applied pending the completion of their cases.
- Abuse-Free Sport will be housed under CCES (instead of SDRCC) as of April 1, 2025. Both organizations are using the time between now and then to prepare for the full transfer.
- All members will now be required to sign the UCCMS consent form directly through Abuse-Free Sport rather than through signing a waiver through VC/PTA. VC will adopt this requirement at the National level by June 30th but has requested a transition for this requirement for the PTA membership in the new registration season. This has been approved by SDRCC and we are working with PTAs on the implementation plan. Board members can expect to receive the email to sign the member consent form through Abuse Free Sport in the next week for so. This process includes the required training video and takes approximately 10-15 minutes.
- The Safe Sport for Youth Education Videos will be ready for launch in English and French in early June.
- VC received Sport Canada funding for gender equity initiatives in Refereeing and High-Performance Coaching with initiatives being implemented at National Championships and Canada Cup.

Communications

- Planning meetings for international events (VNL and NORCECA) well underway in comms/marketing.
- Nationals Comms play currently being executed, 14U completed, festival event in Edmonton underway. Streams on YouTube/CBC.
- Continue to develop and add freelance content providers (video, photographers, other content creators) to help get through major events.
- Planning for HoF content (videos) in final stages.
- Ongoing: Working with sport partners COC and CPC on upcoming team announcements for Paris; and coverage of major National Team activities. Jackie to attend Olympics (COC mission staff); Courtney to attend Paralympics (CPC mission staff).
- Auction complete



Partnerships / Merchandise

- SportChek partnership successfully on-boarded & activated at Nationals in Edmonton
- Current partners (Volleyball Stuff, Jumplete, Mizuno, Six Pack) also activated at Nationals along with event specific partners/vendors including Knix and Volleyball Showcase
- Working with apparel sponsors; Left on Friday(women's beach), Jumplete (men's beach) and Mizuno (indoor) to finalize Olympic & Paralympic uniforms for FIVB and Olympic Committee approval.
- Mizuno to sell replica team tracksuits and team Canada gear leading up to Paris
- Discussions ongoing with a few new prospective sponsors

Human Resources

- Completed salary adjustments to align with the implementation of new HR grid document at the beginning of new fiscal year
- Open position: Para National Team Coordinator (currently finishing up interviews), Beach Summer Coach (no applications and have reposted twice)
- Employee Handbook is reviewed/updated.
- FIVB 3-month exchange program: Recommended 3 candidates to take part, looking to finalize with FIVB.

10. Next Meetings

June 6th

11. In Camera

12. Adjournment