



#### **PVPA IN ACTION**

Online ParaVolley PanAmerica



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### JOE CAMPBELL - PVPA PRESIDENT

Hello and I trust that 2023 is being a very productive year for each nation. As we enter April, it is good to see so much activity happening in the Pan America Zone. This is our 7th edition of the PVPA Newsletter, and I want to say thank you to Vanessa Redes for the outstanding work that she does in producing our newsletter twice a year.

I have been able to watch the nations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and USA travel and have exhibition matches as they prepare for the PVPA Zonal Championships. I wish all the nations much success as they prepare for the Zonal Championships, and I look forward to seeing many new countries in attendance. As of today, we will have 6 men's and 5 women's teams that have applied to attend Edmonton... this is outstanding! As a reminder, the 2023 PVPA Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships will be held in Edmonton, Canada (May 9-13).



The Youth Parapan America Games are still a go, as they prepare to be held in Bogota, Colombia, June 2-12, 2023. Unfortunately, many nations have dropped from attending so now we have 5 male and 3 female teams scheduled to attend.

2023 was scheduled to host 3 International competitions, however, the Men's and Women's Super-Six competitions have been postponed until further notice. The WPV Sitting Volleyball World Cup will be held in Cairo, Egypt from November 11-18, 2023.

As you probably know by now, the IPC did not select Beach ParaVolley as a Paralympic sport for the LA2028 Paralympic Games. Now, we will strive to make the 2032 games that will be held in Brisbane, Australia. I highly encourage all of our nations to please push Beach ParaVolley in your country so that we can show the IPC that we are very active. I would also like to see more countries step up and host Beach ParaVolley events, as this provides our athletes the opportunity to compete in sub-zonal, zonal, and international competitions.

If you have not heard, we have a new program in World ParaVolley known as SAFEGUARDING. Everyone is required to know about safeguarding and how it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that violence, abuse, and harassment is not tolerated in any ParaVolley environment. Please, make time to click on the links below to learn more about Safeguarding.

https://www.worldparavolley.org/safeguarding-its-everyones-responsibility/https://www.worldparavolley.org/safeguarding-resources/

I look forward to seeing each of you on the courts!

Best regards,

Joe Campbell

PVPA, President

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou

#### ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- YOUTH PARA PAN-AMERICAN GAMES
- WORLD CUP WPV
- SUPER SIX
- BEACH EVENTS

# **ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**PVPA 2023** 

The excitement is palpable as nations from Pan America gear up for the upcoming 2023 PVPA Zonal Championship. In preparation for the prestigious event, teams are leaving no stone unturned, and one crucial aspect of their readiness is engaging in international friendly games. These matches hold immense importance as teams hone their skills, test out strategies, and analyze their opponents' strengths and weaknesses. Friendly games also provide a platform for teams to build team chemistry, gain international exposure, and receive valuable coach feedback. With the championship stakes high, these international friendly games are a crucial component of the preparation process, ensuring that teams are primed to compete at the highest level and make their nation proud on the volleyball court.

In short, the upcoming 2023 PVPA Zonal Championship has generated great excitement among teams vying for a chance to compete in the prestigious Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The opportunity to represent their nation has filled players with enthusiasm and determination. The tournament is viewed as a stepping stone towards achieving their Paralympic dreams, adding an extra layer of excitement. Teams are eagerly preparing to give their best performance and secure the championship title, which comes with a coveted Paralympic Games spot. The sense of national pride is evident as teams gear up to showcase their skills and leave their mark on the path to the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024. With the countdown to the tournament underway, teams are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to represent their country and make their mark in the world of Paralympic sports.





#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **PVPA EVENTS**

- Zonal Championships
   9-13 May 2023, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Youth Parapan American Games
   8-12 June 2023, Bogota, Colombia

#### **WORLD PARAVOLLEY EVENTS**

- WORLD CUP
   11-18 November 2023, Cairo, Egypt
- BEACH PARAVOLLEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (TBA)

"I THINK, TEAM FIRST. IT ALLOWS ME TO SUCCEED, IT ALLOWS MY TEAM TO SUCCEED."



# **SAVE THE DATE**

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### 2023

- Zonal Championships
   9-13 May 2023, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Youth Parapan American Games
   8-12 June 2023, Bogota, Colombia
- World Cup 11-18 November 2023, Cairo, Egypt
- Beach ParaVolley World Championship Series

#### 2024

- Paralympic Games Final Qualifiers
- World Cup
- 2024 Paris Paralympic Games 28-8 August to September, Paris, France
- World Super 6 (All Stars)
- Youth Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championship
- Beach ParaVolley World Championship Series

"ASK NOT WHAT YOUR TEAMMATES CAN DO FOR YOU. ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR TEAMMATES."

--MAGIC JOHNSON

# ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS PVPA 2023



# Edmonton is ready to welcome the 2023 PVPA Zonal Championships

With seven countries confirmed, Edmonton will host the biggest Zonal Championship in the history of PVPA.



In the women's side, with five teams and Brazil already qualified for Paralympic Games in Paris, the other fours teams will battle for the slot. On the men's side, all the teams will be in the battle, not only for the Zonal Gold Medal, but to obtain the slot to attend Paris 2024.

The tournament will take place inside Saville Community Sports Centre, so we will have all we need for the best tournament in PVPA history.

You can follow all the news about this historic championship on our website and social media.



https://paravolleypanam.com/zonal2023/



https://www.instagram.com/paravolleypanam/



https://www.facebook.com/worldparavolleypanam/







First participation in zonal championships

#### **ARGENTINA MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM**

The newly-formed ParaVolley team from Argentina has been diligently working towards advancing ParaVolley in the country, organizing numerous national sitting volleyball tournaments, beach ParaVolley tournaments, and youth tournaments. ParaVolley has gained recognition and popularity throughout the national territory through these efforts.

In May, the team will embark on its inaugural international tournament, competing for the first time in the 2023 PVPA Zonal Championship.

As part of their preparations for the upcoming championship, the Argentine team recently traveled to Brazil to engage in a week of rigorous training and exchange of experiences with the teams of SESI-SP, a renowned volleyball club in Brazil with high-performance teams for both men and women. Led by coaches Ronaldo and Celio, the club has achieved multiple Brazilian championships in sitting volleyball while also nurturing new talents.

During their stay in Brazil, the Argentine team played five games in three days against SESI-SP teams from March 20 to 24. In addition, on the 25th, they participated in the "Torneio Início" organized by the São Paulo Federation of Volleyball for the Handicapped in the city of São Roque.

By leveraging the knowledge and experience gained from the esteemed teams and professionals of SESI-SP, the Argentine team hopes to enhance their skills and gain further insights from some of Brazil's best sitting volleyball teams. This includes several athletes who have achieved medals while representing Brazil in international competitions, such as the 2023 World Championship held in Bosnia and other significant tournaments.





Big national tournament to get ready to Zonal2023

#### II NATIONAL SITTING VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



In February Venezuela hosted the II National Guárico Sitting Volleyball tournament with eight teams. All the teams and players were playing hard to be champions but more than that, to be ready for the first International tournament of the team, the Zonal Championship 2023 that will take place in Edmonton, Canada in May.



The II National Guárico Sitting Volleyball Championship, 2023, was held with total success, achieving the title: the Lara state in a very exciting final against the Aragua team.

It is essential to highlight that this event took place in the City of San Juan de los Morros. The teams competed in a Round Robin format, with the teams playing in two pools of 4, with a single elimination round to determine the Cold, Silver and Bronze winners.

First place: Lara

Second Place: Aragua
Third Place: Portuguese
Fourth Place: Guárico.



# THE NEW TEAMS

Argentina and Venezuela

#### EDMONTON WILL RECEIVE NEW TEAMS

South America is made up of twelve countries. Of these twelve today, three countries will participate in the PVPA Zonal Sitting Volleyball Championship. Among them, we have new teams: Argentina and Venezuela.

In addition to Brazil, Venezuela travels with both teams (men's and women's) to debut in the games and start the international journey of Sitting Volleyball.

In 2009 the discipline was born in Venezuela. Thanks to a master's thesis brought by Professor Gilberto Querales. Then in 2015, the first exhibition took place in the paranational games. This continued until 2017, when the National Paravolley League Venezuela was born, which gave it a pretty productive development, and they currently have more than 12 clubs nationwide. Eight states are already consolidated in the discipline, and five are in development. More than 150 athletes practice sitting volleyball in Venezuela. For Canada, 14 female athletes and 14 male athletes will attend.

Further south in Latin America, we have Argentina. The sitting volleyball male team started in the middle of 2018, and with time it had many changes as new players were discovered and they got into the national team process. The country has more than 100 athletes along the country, taking into account females, males, and youth. The staff has been working hard for Zonal Championships. They went to Brasil for a camp with Sesi São Paulo in the middle of March, then Edmonton in May, and the Youth in Colombia in June.

It will be their first actual contact with Sitting Volleyball. They will see Argentina now in court and have a fundamental parameter of how far or closed they imagined the competition and their training program.





### YOUTH PARA PAN AMERICAN

DACE OO

U-21 athletes are ready to start their careers

After many problems due to the Covid19 pandemic, in June 2023, we will have the second edition of the Pan American Youth Games. The games will take place between the 8th and the 13th of June in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, for athletes with a minimum age of 14 and a maximum of 20 years old in 2022.

It will be the second time in the youth Para Pan American Games history that this sport will be present; The first was in Sao Paulo in 2017, and in 2023, it will seek to excite those attending the second version with great matches.

Some rules differ from the Sitting Volleyball known to all, the court size for young people is 10x4, and the team is composed of only four athletes, three on the court and one reserve. For more details, the rule book is on the ParaVolley PanAmerica website.





# BRAZIL DOUBLE PODIUM IN BOSNIA

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# Brazil crowned champions in the women's and bronze in the men's

The Brazilian women's sitting volleyball team made history by winning the title of world champion at the World Sitting Volleyball Championship held in Bosnia in 2022. It was the first time that Brazil reached the top of the podium in a world tournament for women's sitting volleyball, highlighting the country's growing dominance in this sport.

With technical skill, teamwork, and determination, the Brazilian players impressed everyone throughout the championship, defeating strong and respected teams from around the world. The final was an exciting match between teams from the Pan American Zone (Brazil vs Canada), with the Brazilian players showing no mercy and clinching the title with a 3-1 victory.

In addition to the historic achievement in women's sitting volleyball, the Brazilian men's team also had a notable performance in the same tournament, winning the bronze medal.

These achievements are significant milestones for Brazilian Paralympic sports, showcasing the quality and potential of Brazilian athletes in sitting volleyball. Furthermore, they reinforce the importance of sports as a tool for social inclusion and promoting equality, inspiring other Paralympic athletes. Congratulations to the Brazilian women's and men's sitting volleyball teams for their remarkable achievements!











#### **SAFEGUARDING:**

#### IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Hey there! Did you know that safeguarding in sports is super important to ensure that athletes can have fun and compete in a safe environment? It involves taking measures to protect athletes from harm, such as preventing abuse, promoting positive behaviors, and providing support when needed.

Creating a safe environment is a big part of safeguarding in sports. This means making sure that coaches, officials, and volunteers who work with athletes are trained and qualified, and that there are rules and procedures in place to keep everyone safe. It also involves promoting a culture of respect and inclusion, and educating athletes on how to build healthy relationships and stay safe.

It's also really important to be on the lookout for signs of abuse or neglect, like bullying, harassment, or exploitation. If an athlete experiences any of these things, they should feel comfortable talking to a trusted adult or organization for help. Support like counseling, medical care, or legal assistance can also be really helpful for athletes who have experienced harm.

In short, safeguarding in sports is all about making sure that athletes can play and compete in a safe and enjoyable environment. By taking steps to prevent harm, promoting positive behaviors, and providing support when needed, we can help ensure that everyone can participate and have fun!



World ParaVolley prioritizes the safeguarding of all athletes, coaches, technical officials and volunteers involved in participating in its activities. The WPV Board established the Safeguarding Integrity Commission to oversee the implementation of an organisation-wide safeguarding policy and program system. At WPV international tournaments a Safeguarding Officer is identified to facilitate reporting, and help provide additional support and guidance.

At the Zonal competitions, the Asst. Technical Delegate (TD) will serve as the Safeguard Officer.



# WOMEN

# Empowered and Unstoppable: Celebrating the Power of Women

Did you know that having women in sports is super important for promoting equality and breaking down gender stereotypes? March is Women's History Month, and it's the perfect time to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of women in sports and to work on creating even more opportunities for women in the sporting world.

Having women in sports not only gives young girls and women great role models to look up to, but it also helps to challenge old-fashioned ideas and encourage diversity and inclusion. It's all about making sure that everyone has a fair chance to succeed, no matter who they are or where they come from.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let's take a moment to recognize all the progress that's been made in getting more women involved in sports, while also acknowledging that there's still work to be done. By supporting and cheering on women in sports, we can help create a future where everyone, regardless of gender, can participate and have a great time. So let's get out there and show our love for all the awesome women athletes making their mark on the sporting world!

PVPA is incredibly proud to have a diverse range of talented women involved with ParaVolley, setting a fantastic example for future generations of female athletes.



See how many women we have in PVPA:

- Vice President
- General Manager
- Sport Director
- Communication Commissioner
- Athletes Representative
- 5 National Teams
- Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and Physiotherapist
- International Referees
- International Classifiers
- WPV International Officials



#### **NEWS ABOUT PVPA**

During these months we have been working!

#### PVPA COMMUNICATION OFFICIAL CHANNEL

The PVPA would like to inform all members that an official communication channel has been created for the PVPA member nations. This group on WhatsApp aims to centralize the information we receive, and is intended to be disseminated on our social media. Remember that we will not be sharing any action not sent to this channel. To include members from your countries who have the right and knowledge to share information, please email your name and phone number to:



redesvanessa@gmail.com

#### **HOW TO HOST**

The image and reputation of the sport of ParaVolley is best characterized by the quality and organizational efficiency of PVPA's tournaments. In order to provide interested host nations with an opportunity to develop the sport, a bidding process has been introduced.



The procedures are in place to assist any potential organizer to prepare its BID and understand its obligations towards PVPA. In this way PVPA seeks to provide consistency in the way its tournaments are organized and presented, leading to a greater level of success for the organizers.

We would like to create a culture of having our zonal competitions confirmed one year in advance. We know that this would benefit all teams in creating a budget to enhance financial planning.

For further information and application forms to host and organize, please check out our website in "To be a Host" or contact:

Sport Director: Cristiana Figueira - crisfigueira12@gmail.com

President: Joe Campbell - panamerica@worldparavolley.org

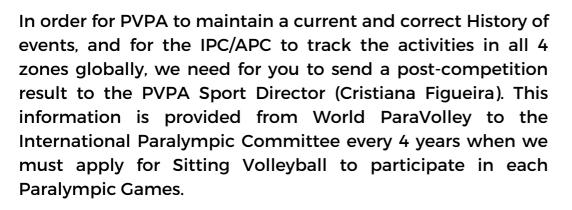




#### **PVPA INFORMATION REQUIRED**

**PVPA Nations.** 

I want to give to you some very important information that is crucial in hosting a Regional, National or International competition. This information should be submitted for both indoor sitting and beach standing volleyball.



Thank you for your cooperation in submitting your competition results. The following information should be included in your results.

- Name of competition
- Dates of competition
- Name of the location (city, state/province, country)
- · Name of each team competing
- Final results of all teams competing





# PVPA ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Why is it so important?

#### **ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

As you know, the IPC requires all sports to apply for participation in the Paralympic Games. That time has come for Los Angeles 2028, and we have approved only Sitting Volleyball.

It's essential that each country try to develop the sport, and more than that, it is critical that tournaments are documented and submitted to PVPA. With these reports, we can show that our Zone is working hard for the development and growth of our sport.

Hosting an international event is another critical point. I know that isn't easy, but we need to try for the sport's good. PVPA can go through the checklist and handbook together so we can adjust the demands. Don't be afraid to talk to us. We are on the same side, with the same goal.

You can find all the required documents at www.paravolleypanam.com. If you have any doubts or questions in how to complete the documents, please contact Cristiana Figueira at crisfiqueira12@gmail.com.

CLICK TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE WEBSITE ---->
HTTPS://PARAVOLLEYPANAM.COM/RESOURCES/







# **SPOTLIGHT**

# Mariano Montivero Argentina's Coach



The Argentine National Team in sitting volleyball first participated in the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996. After that, sitting volleyball in Argentina was not followed until about 4-5 years ago when the current president of the association and vice president of the Panamericana, Laura Cometto, proposed to the current coach to lead the team.

Mariano Montivero had to assemble a team from scratch, including players new to the sport or former volleyball players who had become disabled. It has been 4 years of preparation for an international competition, and they are going to the PVPA Zonal Championship this year.

Mariano has a long volleyball history in his life, and he told us a little but how it started and how he knew about Sitting Volleyball.

"I started playing volleyball at 15, became a professional player at 19, played for important teams in Argentina and Spain, and coached a first-division team in Tenerife. I then took a break from coaching to focus on family and work. I got into sitting volleyball by chance, accompanying my wife, Claudia, to a training session. She had played for the Argentine Olympic volleyball team but had a disability after a tibia transplant. I played in a tournament with para and Olympic players and loved it. I offered to train the players, and Laura, the association's president, asked me to coach the Oeste club and then the newly formed Argentine men's sitting volleyball team. It was an exciting challenge."

As for everyone, COVID-19 affected the beginning of the National team. During the pandemic, it was challenging to keep the players motivated, but it was not slackened. Although some players could not sustain training, most continued to train virtually every week through Zoom. Despite not being in a gym, many things were learned, and improvements were made. For example, exercises were done against the wall to train the short, long, and services to different areas, improving one-handed ball control, handling control, and directing the serve. When they returned to the gym, they acquired these skills during the pandemic. It can be affirmed that virtual training during the pandemic worked, and the experience was capitalized upon.





# **SPOTLIGHT**

# Mariano Montivero Argentina's Coach



The coach's expectations for Canada are very specific, as he aims to add experience to his team. Being the newest team in the region, and possibly in the world, the coach recognizes that there are countries with 30 years of experience ahead of them, making his challenge more than interesting. The team's main goal is to gain experience from their matches. Additionally, the coach wants to establish ties with other teams to exchange knowledge and learn from more experienced colleagues. Knowing their level of play compared to other teams is also important. The team's focus will be to add to their skills and experience during their first official matches with the National Team.

Coach Mariano talked about the recent Camp in Brazil with Sesi-SP Team, "The trip we did to Brazil was really amazing!!! First, I want to thank Sesi and all his people who treated us so, so well that they made it a memorable trip. Ronaldo is from another planet!!

The trainers Nei, of the women, and Celio, of the men, two spectacular people! With Celio, I was able to talk about how to train some specific things, about tactical things, about everything I needed to talk about; he answered me and advised me with absolute openness, he did not keep any secrets, and he proved to be a great person as well as being a great coach ", we play during the week, four days, with the women and the men, on Wednesday we play four hours straight!!! pure beauty!!! We are all very grateful for how they treated us and the experience we added. Imagine arriving in Canada without ever having played... and as a golden closing of the tour. On Saturday, we were invited to play the date of the Paulista tournament, a dream!!! I get excited to remember the coming as I write it."

In addition, Mariano added these important words, "I thank Laura Cometto for inserting this beautiful sport in Argentina. I appreciate that she invited me to take part. I also thank the Sesi team and all the people who treated us in Brazil, especially Ronaldo. I also want to thank Fernando Guimarães, who was my mentor from a distance as a coach, we reconciled via WhatsApp, and he taught me many things as a coach. There were days when he filmed specific exercises for my team during training, to show me how he trained, some specific technical gesture that I needed to improve with my players, another incredible person, thank you... EVERYONE!!!"



The best thing that has happened to me so far in my career as an athlete is being the coach of the Argentina national team, with these players, I stand up and applaud this entire squad for the absolute dedication they have in each of the training sessions and in each one of the games we played



# **MEMBERSHIP**

Check all our Member Nations

How to become a Member of World ParaVolley

/Pan America

















Today we have eight Member Nations, and we would like to expand to reach the entire Americas. Our mission is to take all disciplines of ParaVolley to all corners of our continent, because besides being a sport, it is a form of inclusion.

World ParaVolley Membership is open to a nation's:

- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- NPC-approved National Volleyball Federation
- NPC-approved National Sports Federation for Disabled

All Members must accept the World ParaVolley Constitution and Rules and Regulations, and must pay the membership fee. By paying the fee and signing the Membership Form the Member accepts the World ParaVolley Constitution, the Rules and Regulations of World ParaVolley, the World ParaVolley Classification Code, Medical Code and Anti-Doping Code, and all other member obligations, financial and otherwise. There can be only one recognised body per nation.

Membership fees are calculated every two years, and paid each year. The membership year is the calendar year (January 1 - December 31).

If you want to become a member please visit our website and you can find a link to "Become a Member" - http://paravolleypanam.com/

# We work with a common purpose, develop ParaVolley always!!

## PVPA BOARD

# Meet our Board of Directors. Who is responsible for What?

Joe Campbell - President -General and Technical subjects panamerica@worldparavolley.org



Laura Cometto- Vice President -General subjects panamericazonevicepresident@gmail.com



Cristiana Figueira - Sport Director/Technical Officer-Competitions and Technical crisfigueira12@gmail.com



Gigi Prieto - General Manager-General subjects pvpageneralmanager@gmail.com



Saro Keresteciyan - Medical Commissioner-Classification and Medical skereste@yahoo.com



Neal Konowalyk - Referee Commissioner-Referee subjects / Rules of the Game nkonowalyk@hotmail.com



Lazaro Beltran - Coaches Commissioner-Coaches and Athletes lazaro.beltran@gmail.com



Genitunney Reyes - Development Director -Development of the sport genitunney@gmail.com



Vanessa Redes - Communications Commissioner -Communications and Social Media redesvanessa@gmail.com



Nicky Nieves - Athletes Representative-Athletes n.nieves1989@gmail.com



Carlomagno Sáenz López - Beach Commissioner-Beach ParaVolley carlo1566@yahoo.com





# THIS IS PARAVOLLEY

PARAVOLLEY PAN AMERICA www.paravolleypanam.com











PVPA website













