

PARAVOLLEY PAN AMERICA

NEWSLETTER



ParaVolley
PAN AMERICA

PVPA IN ACTION

Stay up to date with all PVPA activities

THE NEWSLETTER:

Online ParaVolley PanAmerica sport magazine that reports on current or recent ParaVolley NEWS and discusses general or specific topics related to all ParaVolley disciplines

APRIL 2025
ISSUE 11

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOE CAMPBELL - PVPA PRESIDENT

Greetings PVPA,

2025 will be an extremely busy year for Pan America. I hope that the first 3 months have been very productive as our member nations have been extremely busy preparing for the year 2025.

Here are the events that are scheduled to be held in the Pan America zone for 2025.

- May 24-28 (Zonal Championships) Denver, Colorado USA
- Aug 26-30 (America's Cup) Curitiba, Paraná BRAZIL
- Oct 12-18 (WPV World Cup) Fort Wayne, Indiana USA
- YOUTH PARAPAN AMERICA GAMES: Competition dates could change
 - Oct 31: Opening Ceremonies
 - Nov 6-9: Sitting Volleyball Competition dates
 - Nov 9: Closing Ceremonies

A group in Honolulu, Hawaii USA is very interested in hosting a PVPA Beach ParaVolley Championships there in June 2026. They are looking to obtain a substantial amount of money from private donors, as well as sponsorships to make this event affordable for all member nations to attend. I will keep you updated as the discussions progress in organizing this event. In the meantime, I would ask that "all" countries consider hosting a Beach ParaVolley event between now and then in order to grow the sport, as well as show the IPC that it is a truly viable sport. We need this in order to become an IPC Paralympic event in 2032.

World ParaVolley will have a face-to-face board of directors meeting in Győr, Hungary, July 23-25, 2025. This will be our first in-person meeting since December 2023 in Los Angeles, and the first with our newly elected board members.

Brazil reinstates its VISA policy. As of April 10, 2025, citizens of Australia, Canada, and the United States must obtain an e-Visa to visit the country of Brazil. If you currently have a VISA for Brazil, you are not required to obtain the e-Visa, until your regular VISA expires.

On April 7, 2025, the WPV board approved my nomination to be the Technical Delegate (TD) for the 2025 World Cup. The agreement is almost completed between the LOC and WPV, and by the time you read this article, you should have received an expression of interest for your nation to submit a confirmation of participation. I hope everyone can attend.

WPV Coaches' Commission has approved an introductory coach course for reaching out to new nations interested in beginning Sitting Volleyball. This course is strictly for PVPA countries, and on April 10, they held their first 2-hour session. Countries that have submitted names for attendance include ARG, BOL, COL, CHI, MEX, CRC, ESA, CUB, GTM, PER, PAN, and VEN. I wish much success to Lazaro Beltran (PVPA Coach Commissioner), and Genitunney Cañon Reyes (PVPA Development Director) for their time and efforts to organizing and teaching this course. Great job to both of you! I look forward to seeing you on the courts soon!

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 CHAMPIONSHIP
- AMERICA CUP
- WORLD CUP
- YOUTH PARA PANAMERICAN

A VERY BUSY YEAR FOR THE PAN AMERICAN ZONE

CELEBRATING OUR REGION

2025 is shaping up to be one of the most active and exciting years for ParaVolley in the Pan American Zone. With four events on the calendar, our athletes, officials, and member nations are gearing up for a season full of competition, growth, and connection.

The action kicks off in May, as Denver, USA, hosts the Zonal Championship. In August, the first-ever America Cup will take place in Curitiba, Brazil, offering new opportunities for teams across the continent.

The global spotlight will then turn to Indiana, USA, in October for the World Cup, a key moment on the international stage.

Finally, we close the year in November with the Youth Parapan American Games in Santiago, Chile — an important step for the development of the next generation of athletes.

It's a year of milestones, and the ParaVolley Pan America community is ready to make it unforgettable.





SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - DENVER, USA
 - 24-28 MAY, 2025
- AMERICA CUP - CURITIBA, BRA
 - 26-30 AUGUST, 2025
- WORLD CUP - INDIANA, USA
 - 12-18 OCTOBER, 2025
- YOUTH PARA PANAMERICAN GAMES - SANTIAGO, CHI
 - 1-7 NOVEMBER, 2025

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GREAT TO START, BUT YOU HAVE TO START TO BE GREAT."

— ZIG ZIGLAR



A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY FOR SITTING VOLLEYBALL AT USA VOLLEYBALL OPEN

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The 2025 Zonal Championship for Sitting Volleyball will take place alongside the **USA Volleyball Open National Championship** in Denver, creating an incredible opportunity for visibility and growth of ParaVolley in the Pan American Zone.

The USA Volleyball Open hosted over 400 teams, bringing together thousands of athletes, coaches, and spectators. With sitting volleyball being showcased at the same venue, this event will introduce the sport to a large and engaged audience, helping to increase awareness and inspire future generations of adaptive athletes.

By sharing the stage with one of the largest volleyball tournaments in the United States, sitting volleyball teams will have the chance to demonstrate their skill, intensity, and competitiveness in front of a diverse and influential crowd.

This exposure is crucial for the continued growth of the sport, as it provides opportunities to attract new fans, media attention, and potential sponsors. Many attendees, including players from standing volleyball, may experience sitting volleyball for the first time, breaking down barriers and further integrating adaptive sports into the mainstream volleyball community.

For the teams competing, this event is more than just a championship—it's a moment to gain visibility, earn recognition, and build valuable connections. The increased exposure can help create partnerships, secure sponsorships, and inspire more athletes to get involved. With such a significant platform, the Zonal Championship in Denver promises to be a landmark event for ParaVolley in the Americas, setting the stage for future growth and expanding the reach of sitting volleyball worldwide.



ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2025: THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



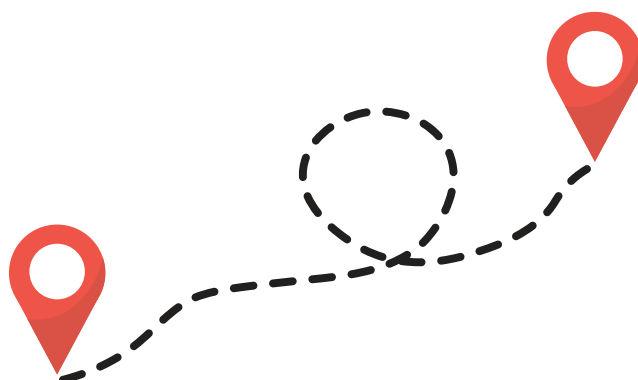
Denver, CO-USA
24-28 May 2025

From May 24 to 28, 2025, Denver will host the Zonal Championship for Sitting Volleyball, a decisive event for teams in the Pan American Zone. This competition will not only crown the top teams in the region but also determine which two teams in each category will qualify for the 2026 World Championships. With three women's teams (USA, Canada, and Brazil) and four men's teams (USA, Canada, Brazil, and Argentina) competing, the stakes could not be higher.

In the women's division, the competition promises to be intense. Team USA enters as the current Paralympic and Parapan American champion, holding dominance in the zone. However, Brazil is the reigning World Champion, having won the 2022 World Championships, proving their strength on the global stage. Canada, coming off a bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, has also solidified itself as a top contender and will be looking to challenge for a spot at the next Worlds. This three-team battle will be fierce, as each nation aims to secure one of the two coveted spots for 2026.

In the men's competition, Brazil is the clear favorite. As the defending Pan American champion and a powerhouse in the sport, they enter the tournament with high expectations. The USA, a historically strong team, will be looking to challenge Brazil and reclaim regional dominance. Canada, a consistent competitor, will seek to make a strong impact, while Argentina, participating in only its second Zonal Championship, continues its development and is eager to prove itself on the international stage.

Beyond the intense competition, the Zonal Championship 2025 represents a major milestone for the development of sitting volleyball in the region. Hosted alongside the USA Volleyball Open National Championship, the tournament will showcase the sport to thousands of spectators, offering unparalleled visibility and inspiration for future generations. With World Championship berths on the line, Denver is set to witness an unforgettable battle among the Americas' best sitting volleyball teams.





I AMERICAS CUP

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Making History: The First America Cup of Sitting Volleyball



Supported and encouraged by the Confederação Brasileira de Voleibol para Deficientes (CBVD) and ParaVolley Pan America (PVPA), the First America Cup of Sitting Volleyball is set to make history this year. Scheduled to take place from August 24 to 30, the tournament will be hosted in Brazil and will welcome national teams from six countries already confirmed: Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Venezuela.

This landmark event marks a significant step in the development of sitting volleyball in the Americas, creating new opportunities for competition, collaboration, and growth in the sport.

A Groundbreaking Initiative

The America Cup was envisioned to address a critical need for more regular and high-level competition within the Americas. With limited international tournaments in the region, this new event aims to give athletes a platform to perform, improve, and prepare for global competitions. Its creation also reflects the region's growing commitment to inclusive sports and the expansion of para-athletic opportunities.

"The America Cup is not just a tournament—it's a declaration that sitting volleyball in the Americas is ready to grow, inspire, and reach new heights," said a PVPA representative.

Regional Unity Through Sport

The confirmed participation of six countries underscores the increasing popularity and competitive spirit surrounding sitting volleyball across the continent. Each national team brings its own strengths, stories, and aspirations, contributing to a vibrant, diverse competition that reflects the unity and diversity of the Americas.

The tournament will also foster relationships among coaches, referees, and sports leaders, promoting knowledge exchange and the strengthening of national programs.

Legacy and Vision

As the host nation, Brazil—long known for its passion and prowess in volleyball—plays a key role in setting the stage for a successful and memorable first edition. With the support of CBVD, a leader in para-sports development, the America Cup is expected to leave a lasting legacy both on and off the court.

The PVPA hopes this event will become a recurring fixture, helping to prepare teams for larger stages like the Parapan American Games and the Paralympics, while also encouraging the establishment and expansion of sitting volleyball programs across the region.

Looking Ahead

The excitement is already building as the tournament approaches. Fans, athletes, and officials alike are counting down the days to what promises to be a milestone for sitting volleyball in the Americas.

The First America Cup of Sitting Volleyball is more than a competition—it's the beginning of a movement, a celebration of inclusion, excellence, and the unifying power of sport.





PVPA WORLD CUP

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Fort Wayne to Host 2025 Sitting Volleyball World Cup

World ParaVolley has officially announced that Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA will host the 2025 Sitting Volleyball World Cup for both men's and women's national teams. The competition is scheduled to take place from 12 to 18 October 2025, and is set to be one of the highlights of the international sitting volleyball calendar next year.

While the 2025 World Cup is not a direct qualifier for the 2026 World Championships, it does offer 1,000 WPV World Ranking Points. These points may play a crucial role in determining the final teams invited to the World Championships, as three or four slots will be awarded to the highest-ranked teams not yet qualified.

World ParaVolley strongly encourages all member nations to submit a firm Expression of Interest (EOI) as soon as possible, to support the planning efforts of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and to help ensure the successful delivery of this important event. The entry form and payment deadline is set for 1 July 2025.

Fort Wayne, a city with a proven track record of hosting successful international para sport events, offers excellent facilities and a welcoming community. This World Cup will once again provide athletes with a high-level competition environment and foster international camaraderie through the sport of sitting volleyball.

For questions or additional information about the 2025 World Cup, please contact:

✉ sportdirector@worldparavolley.org

✉ generalmanager@worldparavolley.org

Let's work together to make the 2025 World Cup a great success!

Brazil men's team has a new name to keep our eyes on.

Gustavo Henrique: 2.08 meters of talent and a giant heart on the sitting volleyball court.

At just 20 years old and standing at a towering 2.08 meters, the name Gustavo Henrique is already making waves in Brazilian sitting volleyball – and now he's ready to make his mark on the international stage too. But wait... how did it all begin?

"It was in 2023," he says casually. But the story sounds like it's straight out of a movie script: his childhood volleyball coach from the standing game runs into him years later, remembers the kid's talent and—bam!—connects him with Ronaldo, one of the coaches from the SESI team. The result? A chance to train with the national youth team, and just like that, Gustavo's journey began.

Now, on the verge of heading to his first international competition, Gustavo laughs and admits:

"To be honest, it still hasn't sunk in, lol. I think it'll only hit me when I'm actually there, living it!"

If he could go back in time and give some advice to that Gustavo from his first practice, he wouldn't hesitate:

"Never give up on your dreams, because in the future, your efforts will pay off."

Music, family, and two idols

If you ever see Gustavo before a match, there's one thing you can count on: he'll have his headphones in.

"I always listen to music before I play. It gives me that boost and helps me focus."

No wild superstitions here – just music, but it's already become a key part of his pre-game ritual.

What really sticks with those around him, though, is his humble attitude and the strong sense of family he brings to the team. **"In sitting volleyball, I learned I'm not alone. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed like family. That means everything."**

And on the court, he doesn't hide his admiration for two teammates who've become role models: Daniel Yoshisawa and Márcio Pistão.

"They inspire me so much. They're examples of commitment, grit, and heart."

A giant with dreams as big as the world

Gustavo's got a bright future ahead – and he's dreaming big (as he should!).

"I want to compete in the Paralympics, stand out, win a bunch of medals... lol. But more than anything, I want people to remember me as a reference, an inspiration."

And judging by the path he's already on, that dream is well within reach.

"I started from the bottom, just a kid full of doubts... and now here I am, playing for the Brazilian National Team, traveling abroad, competing at a high level... and this is just the beginning!"





INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN SITTING VOLLEYBALL

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– A Game Changer for Coaches

Imagine a course so dynamic and full of energy that it brings together 76 coaches from all over the Americas—all united by a passion for sitting volleyball. The World ParaVolley with help from ParaVolley Pan America's Development and Coaches Commission, is launching an introductory course that's as engaging as it is informative, aimed squarely at coaches and physical education teachers eager to expand their skills in this exciting Paralympic sport.

What's the Scoop?

This isn't your everyday lecture series. Over four sessions—each a neat two-hour block—the course delivers a perfect blend of theory and hands-on practice: 80% brain food and 20% getting out there and doing it.

The classes will be led by seasoned WPV instructors, including Lazaro Beltran from the USA and Geni Tunney Cañon Reyes from Colombia.

And to really spice things up, there will also be guest panelists sharing their own insider tips.

Mark Your Calendars!

The sessions go down on April 16, April 23, April 30, and May 7 at 6 pm Colombian time via the ZOOM platform, making it super accessible no matter where you are in the Americas. With coaches hailing from countries like Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, this course is a fantastic opportunity for cross-cultural learning and networking.

Why You Should Be Excited

This isn't just a course—it's a launchpad for anyone who wants to help grow sitting volleyball both locally and nationally. The event is designed to give you the skills, confidence, and innovative approaches needed to teach the sport, highlighting not just its basic rules but also its unique twists compared to traditional volleyball.

The Course Objectives

The general mission here is clear: boost the expertise of both head and assistant coaches when it comes to sitting volleyball. More specifically, the course aims to:

- Equip coaches with the essentials of coaching this exciting Paralympic sport.
- Outline the core differences in the rules that set sitting volleyball apart.
- Inspire coaches to keep pushing the boundaries through research and creative training methods.
-

A New Chapter for Sitting Volleyball

Whether you're a seasoned coach or just starting out in physical education, this course is your gateway to understanding and excelling in sitting volleyball. It's a chance to get ahead of the curve, connect with passionate professionals from across the continent, and ultimately help spread the spirit of this sport far and wide.

So, if you're ready to elevate your coaching game and be part of a pioneering movement in sitting volleyball, this course is calling your name. Get ready to dive in, share your passion, and transform not just your career, but the entire landscape of sitting volleyball in the Americas!



ARGENTINE HIGH PERFORMANCE GAMES (JADAR)

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For the first time in Argentina, this September, the Argentine High Performance Games (JADAR) will be held. This is the most important multi-sport event in the country, featuring athletes representing the country's different provinces. It will be held as a result of the joint work of the Argentine Olympic Committee (COA) and the Argentine Paralympic Committee (COPAR), both with the common goal of achieving common goals and enhancing collective achievements, with the determination to serve as a test event for the next ODESUR South American Games in 2026.

For six days, the city of Rosario, the Birthplace of the Flag, will host 3,500 athletes from Argentina's 24 provinces who will compete in both Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. It will also welcome 600 judges and 700 coaches.

Among the Paralympic team sports, Sitting Volleyball will be presented, where the four strongest provinces in the nation will compete: Chaco, Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Santa Fé. In a Quadrangular Tournament format, the teams will compete as provincial selections, giving a significant boost to adapted sports in their regions.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the sport at an event of such magnitude, not only for the Rosario community, which has had a representative team for many years. The competition is open to the senior category (minimum age 16) and men, with the exception that teams must have one female player on the court and one substitute.





<https://www.worldparavolley.org/safeguarding-resources/>

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 bidding process is a key first step in determining if an organizer has the capacity and resources to stage an event, thereby helping to eliminate any unnecessary costs. Moreover, the procedure ensures a level of fairness by guaranteeing all interested parties have access to the same level of information – including the rules, regulations and expected standards of the international federation – at the time of bidding.

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!

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.

In order for PVPA to maintain a current and correct History of events, and for the IPC/APC to track the activities in all 4 zones globally, we need for you to send a post-competition result to the PVPA Sport Director (Cristiana Figueira). This information is provided from World ParaVolley to the International Paralympic Committee every 4 years when we must apply for Sitting Volleyball to participate in each Paralympic Games.

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



Why is it so important ?

ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

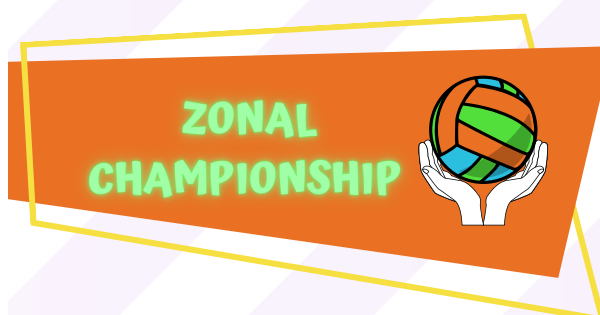
As you know, the IPC requires all sports to apply for participation in the Paralympic Games. That time has come for Los Angeles 2028, and the IPC has approved Sitting Volleyball as the only approved volleyball discipline for these Paralympic Games.

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 crisfigueira12@gmail.com.

CLICK TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE WEBSITE ----->
[HTTPS://PARAVOLLEYPANAM.COM/RESOURCES/](https://paravolleypanam.com/resources/)



MEMBERSHIP

Check all our Member Nations How to become a Member of World ParaVolley /Pan America



Today we have nine 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/>

PVPA BOARD

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

*We work with a common purpose, to
develop ParaVolley always!!!*

Joe Campbell - President -
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Laura Cometto- Vice President -
General subjects
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Cristiana Figueira - Sport Director/ Technical Officer-
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Gigi Prieto - General Manager-
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Neal Konowalyk - Referee Commissioner-
Referee subjects / Rules of the Game
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Lazaro Beltran - Coaches Commissioner-
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Genitunney Reyes - Development Director -
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Vanessa Redes - Communications Commissioner -
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Nicky Nieves - Athletes Representative-
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Vacant Position - Athletes Representative
Men Position -

Vacant Position - Beach Commissioner -



THIS IS PARAVOLLEY

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PVPA website

