



# PARAVOLLEY PAN AMERICA

NEWSLETTER



**ParaVolley**  
PAN AMERICA

## PVPA IN ACTION

Stay up to date with all PVPA activities

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## 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

OCTOBER 2022  
ISSUE 06

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**JOE CAMPBELL - PVPA PRESIDENT**

Greetings everyone, and I hope that 2022 has been a good year for each PVPA nation. It's hard to believe that this year is almost over as 2023 is just around the corner.

I am concerned about our membership as 5 nations have decided not to rejoin. Last year we had 13 nations and now we have 8. I would encourage our past members to consider rejoining so that you can participate in official World ParaVolley (WPV) and ParaVolley Pan America (PVPA) region, zonal and international competitions.



The World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Championships will be held in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, November 4-11. Brazil, Canada, and USA will have both men and women's teams participating in this competition. Congratulations to all 3 nations, and we wish them much success.

The 2023 PVPA Sitting Volleyball Zonal Championships will be held in Edmonton, Canada (May 9-15). All member nations are eligible to attend the zonal championships. As a reminder, your membership application and fees must be paid before you can participate in this event.

The Youth ParaPan America Games will be held in Bogota, Colombia, June 2-12, 2023. The IPC/LOC have agreed that the age requirement will be adjusted to allow athletes in ages 14-21 to participate. Registration ended on September 31, 2022.

In just 17 days, a Beach ParaVolley Recognized Development Events (RDE) will be held at Hickory Point, Tavares, Florida (USA) December 2-4, 2022. \$20,000USD prize money will be given out. Two WPV classifiers will attend this event to "officially" classify the athletes that attend (to be confirmed).

World ParaVolley will have a Board of Directors meeting October 28-30, 2022 in Sarajevo. The 2022 World ParaVolley General Assembly (GA) will again be virtual and will be held December 4, 2022. Time of the GA to be determined.

I look forward to seeing each of 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*

# EVENTS

- WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
- ZONAL PVPA CHAMPIONSHIPS
- YOUTH PARA PAN-AMERICAN GAMES
- SUPER SIX
- WORLD CUP
- BEACH EVENTS

PAGE 02

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

### WPV MOST IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT

Sarajevo is ready to welcome the 32 teams for World Championships.

“This is the biggest event in the world of sitting volleyball. It is twice as big as the Paralympic Games, and it is a very important international event for us. It is also significant that we are here (in BIH) because your team is one of the best in history. You (the BIH men) have won 10 European Championships, three World Championships, and two gold medals in the Paralympic Games. It’s an incredible record, and you should be very proud of your team. I think the conditions here are excellent, I have inspected the hotel and the hall and I am sure that everyone will enjoy it. This event will also have an impact on the city, and I believe we will generate a lot of interest. We believe that change starts with sports, and that is why it is important to provide an opportunity for people with disabilities to participate in sports. And sitting volleyball provides that opportunity,” said World ParaVolley President Barry Couzner OAM.





# SAVE THE DATE

PAGE 03

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PVPA EVENTS

- Zonal Championships  
9-15 May 2023, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Youth Parapan American Games  
2-12 June 2023, Bogota, Colombia

### WORLD PARAVOLLEY EVENTS

- WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
4-11 November 2022, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- WORLD CUP
- BEACH PARAVOLLEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (TBA)

“THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TELL YOU ‘YOU CAN’T WIN’ IS YOU AND YOU DON’T HAVE TO LISTEN.”

--JESSICA ENNIS-HILL



# SAVE THE DATE

PAGE 04

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2023

- Zonal Championships  
9-15 May 2023, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Youth Parapan American Games  
2-12 June 2023, Bogota, Colombia
- World Super 6 (All Stars)
- Beach ParaVolley World Championship Series

### 2024

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

“OVERPOWER. OVERTAKE. OVERCOME.”

--SERENA WILLIAMS



## Edmonton is ready to welcome the 2023 PVPA Zonal Championships

ParaVolley Pan America is delighted to announce that Canada will host the 2023 Zonal Championships in Edmonton, Alberta.

Sitting volleyball will not be part of the 2023 ParaPanAm games in Santiago. This means the zonal event in 2023 can be more significant with increased opportunities for all Pan American countries.

Edmonton is the capital city of the Canadian province of Alberta. Edmonton is situated on the North Saskatchewan River and is the center of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region, surrounded by Alberta's central region. The city anchors the north end of what Statistics Canada defines as the "Calgary-Edmonton Corridor".

Edmonton is a cultural, governmental, and educational center. It hosts a year-round slate of festivals, reflected in the nickname "Canada's Festival City". It is home to North America's second-largest mall, West Edmonton Mall (the world's largest mall from 1981 until 2004), and Fort Edmonton Park, Canada's largest living history museum.

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





# NEW BRAZILIAN PLAYER

PAGE 06

*The tallest man in Brazil started playing*

## BRAZIL MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Joelison Fernandes da Silva, known as Ninão, a 37 year old, is the tallest man in Brazil at 2m 37cm, and is starting his career in Sitting Volleyball. The PVPA Board team got in touch with this super athlete to get to know him and tell the world a little about who Ninão is.

"I got to know sitting volleyball through my friend and now coach Fernando Guimarães (current coach of the Brazilian men's sitting volleyball team). At the time, I got sick and was about to have my leg amputated. He contacted me and made the offer. Even without having my leg amputated, he said I would have a spot at Clube Paulistano and the Brazilian sitting volleyball team. I am very grateful to him."

Ninão started to train volleyball sitting with the Brazilian team and has already participated in his first Paulista championship for the Paulistano club, "I have high expectations in the sport, but I still have a lot to learn, and I'm very focused on that to happen, and today my dream is to learn as much as possible to compete at the worlds in Bosnia and the Paris 2024 Paralympics, God willing."

He also believes that sitting volleyball can change his life a lot, and says that he started to change when he met many good people, who are giving him the most extraordinary strength so that he doesn't give up and persist in the modality, "I am very grateful to everyone, they are the ones who welcomed me with open arms".

The great athlete also left a message: "Never give up on your dreams and goals, obstacles exist but never give up because God is great and never abandons his children. I have a phrase 'that there is no evil that doesn't bring a Good'."

Instagram- @ninaooficiall





# NEWS ABOUT PVPA

PAGE 07

*During these months we have been working!*

## USA BEACH PARAVOLLEY RDE



**USA Beach ParaVolley RDE**  
December 2-4 | Tavares, FL USA

**USA Volleyball** **Florida Region** **Hickory Point Beach**  
USA ParaVolley RDE - Tavares, Florida

This event is a 3v3 format for adaptive beach athletes. USA Beach ParaVolley RDE will be held in conjunction with an AVP Pro Series event and will be the first time that AVP, WPV and a USAV region have collaborated to co-produce an event of this magnitude. It will provide a great opportunity to highlight BPV alongside the final AVP event of the season.

**Provided for attending delegations:**

- 2 hotel rooms per team for teams that complete all registration requirements by August 31, 2022
- Dedicated competition courts
- Certified officials
- Event administration
- Medical support
- Warm-up and game balls
- Shaded area & bleachers adjacent to courts
- Food and drinks
- Locker rooms and showers at venue
- Athlete hospitality room at venue
- Individual awards (1st-3rd)

**\$20,000 USD in prize money!**  
(\$10,000 USD per gender)  
Pays out to 8th place  
More information can be found [here](#).



In December the USA will be hosting the first International Beach ParaVolley in our zone. The USA Beach ParaVolley RDE will take place in Tavares, Florida.

The Hickory Point Beach is one of the official Training Beach Centers for WPV and will be hosting this event.

This event will have a prize in money of \$10,000 per gender, pays out to 8th place.

And the most exciting point is that this event will be held in conjunction with an AVP Pro Series event and will be the first time that AVP, WPV, and USAV regions have collaborated to co-produce an event of this magnitude. It will provide an opportunity to highlight BPV alongside the final AVP event of the season.

More information you can send an email to: [michelle.goodall@usav.org](mailto:michelle.goodall@usav.org)



# NEWS ABOUT PVPA

PAGE 08

*During these months we have been working!*

## PVPA in Dutch Tournament

In July, the famous Dutch Tournament took place in Holland. This year we had significant participation of teams from the PanAmerican Zone. In the women's draw, three of the seven teams that competed were from PVPA. They were: Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

The final results from the women's tournament had the USA in first place, Canada in third place, and Brazil in fourth place.

Among the men, with fewer teams in the tournament, only Brazil and the United States traveled to compete, and Brazil finished in third place with the USA finishing fourth.

We are happy to see our teams competing worldwide and consistently winning excellent competitions. We are aware and proud of the high level that our teams are on the world stage and how they are dedicating themselves to getting better and better in each successive tournament.





# NEWS ABOUT PVPA

PAGE 09

*During these months we have been working!*

## ARGENTINA WORKING WITH YOUTH ATHLETES

Every year in October, the largest national sports competition for young people from all over the country is held in the Under 18 category.

In 2019, the Sitting Volleyball competition was held for the first time within the adapted disciplines. At that time, there were eight teams.

This year, from October 24 to 28 in the city of Mar del Plata, we will once again present Sitting Volleyball with the novelty that, for the first time, it will be an “inclusive discipline.” Each team will be allowed to be composed of one male and one female player without a disability. By regulation, there can only be one on the court at a time. We believe this rule will favor the dissemination and visibility of the sport. Currently, 12 teams have been confirmed, and the registration is still open.

For Argentina, this is an excellent opportunity to develop the youth category and get ready for Youth Para PanAmerican Games that will take place in Bogota next year.



## *Webinars Serie*

World ParaVolley has been working on a series of Webinars named "World ParaVolley Presents..." and their objectives are to:

1. serve as a platform to disseminate good practices for athletes, coaches, and administrators in ParaVolley
2. open up opportunities to learn and discuss pertinent issues relevant to ParaVolley between experts, athletes, coaches, administrators, and researchers
3. to connect with the community of athletes, coaches, and administrators and identify current drivers of change in society to meet with World ParaVolley's values and mission

Three webinars already happened in 2022 with different subjects and guests.

1. DOWN BUT NOT OUT – THE INSIDE EDGE ON MENTAL HEALTH - March 29th.
2. MENTAL PERFORMANCE ON AND AROUND THE COURT – FROM KNOWLEDGE TO PRACTICE - June 23rd.
3. SAFEGUARDING – IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY - September 20th.

Please visit the WPV and PVPA social media and websites to receive information for the next events that are already being planned for the series.



*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](mailto: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](mailto:crisfigueira12@gmail.com)

President: Joe Campbell – [panamerica@worldparavolley.org](mailto:panamerica@worldparavolley.org)



## PVPA COMMUNICATION OFFICIAL CHANNEL

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



*Let's make an amazing event!!*

## ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

All member nations in good standing can participate.

**Advantages of attending the Zonal Championship:**

**Compete against high level teams**



**Receive World Ranking points**



**Slots awarded to World Championships**



**Exchange experience with other coaches**



**ParaVolley**  
PAN AMERICA

**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 are applying for Sitting Volleyball and Beach ParaVolley.

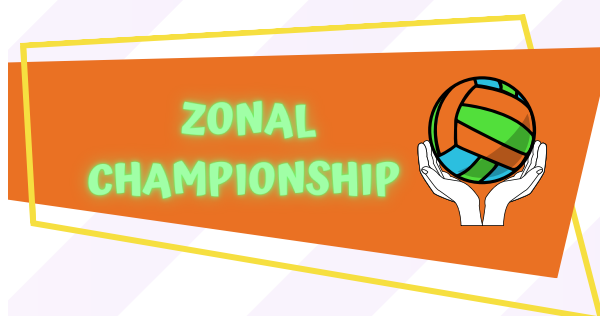
It's essential that each country try to develop the sport, and more than that, it is critical that tournaments are documented and submitted to PVPA.

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](http://www.paravolleypanam.com). If you have any doubts or questions in how to complete the documents, please contact Cristiana Figueira at [crisfigueira12@gmail.com](mailto:crisfigueira12@gmail.com).

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



# SPOTLIGHT

## Flavio Azevedo, the 'little big man' from Brazil

*Close your eyes and turn back the clock to 2006... that's when Flavio Azevedo, the 'little big man' from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, began his International Referee journey with World ParaVolley. Flavio was one of six ParaVolley PanAmerica candidates at the 2006 course in Rio; he successfully completed the course and became an International Referee Candidate.*

*A teacher by profession, his passion for learning and improvement lead to his nomination to the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in Edmond, OK, USA in 2010. Here, along with fellow PVPA referee Tim Harlow, Flavio received his International Referee certification. I can imagine the excitement and relief Flavio must have felt – successfully receiving International Referee certification is a big achievement, even though it is the start of another journey.*

*Flavio has attended a number of PVPA and WPV events over the years. He has been a staple at Zonal Championships (USA 2013, CAN 2017), and at the ParaPanAm Games (2011 MEX, 2015 CAN, 2019 PER). He was also at the inaugural Youth ParaPanAm Games (2017 BRA), and attended the WPV Men's Super 6 championship (IRI 2018). Since meeting him in 2013, I have always enjoyed watching Flavio referee a match; he is calm, consistent, and respectful.*

*You can see Flavio's teaching background shine through when he referees – he is always educating the players and coaches when necessary – but he also knows when to put his foot down. Just ask any coach or player who has stepped over the line... Flavio may be small in stature; judge him by his size to your own downfall.*

*He is a very personable and knowledgeable referee. And an even better friend.*

*WPV and PVPA will celebrate Flavio's retirement from active refereeing in Sarajevo, BIH – he has been nominated for the Sitting Volleyball World Championships in November 2022 and I think it will be a fitting event for his friends and colleagues from all over the world to say thank you for Flavio's many years of service. It's hard to believe that 16 years have come and gone! Tamu junto!*



**Text by Neal Konowalyk - PVPA Referee Commissioner**

# 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/>

# PVPA BOARD

PAGE 17

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

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

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-  
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crisfigueira12@gmail.com



Gigi Prieto - General Manager-  
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Saro Keresteciyan - Medical Commissioner-  
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Neal Konowalyk - Referee Commissioner-  
Referee subjects / Rules of the Game  
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Lazaro Beltran - Coaches Commissioner-  
Coaches and Athletes  
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Vanessa Redes - Communications Commissioner -  
Communications and Social Media  
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Nicky Nieves - Athletes Representative-  
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Carlomagno Sáenz López - Beach Commissioner-  
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# THIS IS PARAVOLLEY

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[www.paravolleypanam.com](http://www.paravolleypanam.com)



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PVPA website

