



**VOLLEYBALL BC**

2020

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# Table of

# Contents

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3	Message from CEO
4	Membership
5	General Membership
5	Youth Club Membership
6	Coaching Membership
6	Referee Membership
7	Indoor Volleyball - Youth & Adult
8	Youth Club Volleyball
9	Adult League
10	Outdoor Volleyball - Youth & Adult
11	Youth Beach
11	Adult Beach
12	Recognizing Excellence
13-14	Team BC
15	BC Athletes on the World Stage
15	BC Athlete Representation
16	BC Athletes Images
17	Member Relations & Community Building
18	Grassroots Volleyball
19	Creative Connections
20	Indigineous Volleyball
20	Sitting Volleyball
21-23	Hall of Fame
24	Ray Lepp Scholarship
25-26	Strategic Planning 2020-2024
27	Sponsors & Partners
27	Board of Directors & Staff



# Message From the CEO

*We acknowledge and provide thanks that we are able to play volleyball on the unceded territories of the first nations people of BC and that, specifically for the Volleyball BC head office, we work and play on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coastal Salish, Tsleil-Waututh, Sto:lo, and Squamish Nation people*

2020 was a year to remember.

It started like normal – in fact, better than normal with an increased number of club teams and registrations across all of our club events. In January, we hosted the NORCECA Men’s Olympic Qualifier at the PNE where the Canadian Men’s National Team took Gold and made us all proud. We were optimistically anticipating a year full of volleyball events, activities and programs throughout the province.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March and, like the rest of the world, we stopped. The rest of 2020 was extremely challenging for us: multiple event and program cancellations, reduced work hours and budget cuts, the closure of the Harry Jerome Sport Centre, and the many, many hours spent on planning and re-planning in light of changing public health directives. You will see the impact of this in the pages ahead. We had to operate against a backdrop of constantly shifting government guidelines which took an immense amount of work and effort to ensure that we played our role in keeping everyone safe.

But when we reflect back on 2020, there were also many positives. We always knew that the volleyball community was a special one and 2020 demonstrated our dedication, adaptability and willingness to sacrifice what we love playing for greater community safety. We had very, very few COVID-19 cases reported in volleyball and even fewer complaints about the changing safety requirements. We were also forced to get creative and develop new programs that could work within the restrictions. We had to look at new ways of engaging and communicating with our members so that we could continue to provide that sense of community that draws everyone together. We reached out and connected with new partners so that we could help other sports and diversify our services in order to survive. Although 2020 probably ranks high as one of our most challenging years to date, it also brought a lot of creativity, a lot of beneficial changes, and a lot of ways to remind us why sport is so important to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Board and staff whose commitment, dedication and tireless work meant that Volleyball BC navigated the pandemic as a team pulling together. And, finally, I would like to extend my immense gratitude for our amazing members, clubs, partners, and community who continually adapted to the many changing restrictions and ensured that volleyball was played safely during these challenging times. As we look ahead to 2021 and the turning corner in the pandemic, the future looks brighter for volleyball in BC!

Emma Gibbons  
Chief Executive Officer

# MEMBERSHIP

# General Membership

	Youth Players	Adult Players	Coaches	Officials	Total Membership
2018	4709	2635	721	403	8468
2019	4844	3609	755	395	9599
2020	5423	1428	1008	221	8080

# Youth Club Membership

Regions	2018	2019	2020
Kootenay	19	19	26
Thompson-Okanagan	861	947	1143
Fraser Valley	547	584	1628
Fraser River-Burnaby-Delta-Richmond	1051	1011	680
Vancouver-Squamish-Sunshine Coast	1123	1206	845
Vancouver Island-Central Coast	829	776	825
Northwest	72	72	57
Cariboo-Northeast*	205	226	219

*\*Both the Kootenay and Cariboo-Northeast regions have teams that play for Volleyball Alberta.*

# Coaching Membership

Volleyball BC had a record-high 1008 registered coaches in 2020. Of those members, 55% of them were male and 45% of them were female. This is a significant increase from 2019 when 632 coaches were registered with Volleyball BC.

Regions	2020
Kootenay	7
Thompson-Okanagan	208
Fraser Valley	171
Fraser River-Burnaby-Delta-Richmond	172
Vancouver-Squamish-Sunshine Coast	267
Vancouver Island-Central Coast	133
Northwest	4
Cariboo-Northeast	46

# Referee Membership

Volleyball BC had 221 registered officials in 2020. Of those members, approximately 60% of them were male and 40% of them were female. This was a decrease from 2019 when 352 officials were registered with Volleyball BC. The decline in registration numbers is because there were no matches and/or tournaments to be officiated after March 2020 due to COVID-19.

Regions	2020
Kootenay	2
Thompson-Okanagan	53
Fraser Valley	34
Fraser River-Burnaby-Delta-Richmond	27
Vancouver-Squamish-Sunshine Coast	53
Vancouver Island-Central Coast	43
Northwest	2
Cariboo-Northeast	5
Out of Province	2

INDOOR  
VOLLEYBALL  
YOUTH & ADULT

# Youth Club Volleyball

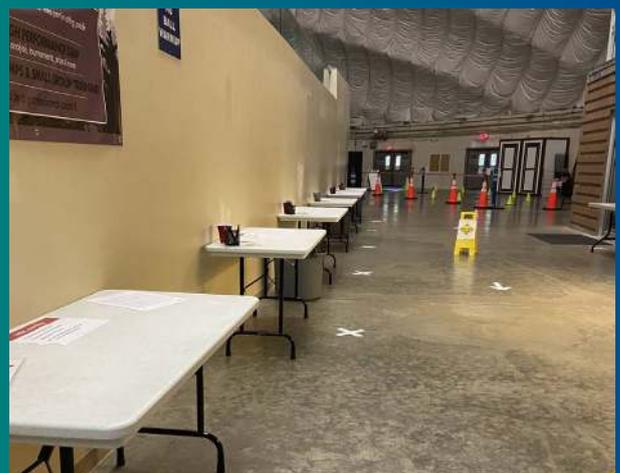
The club season at the start of 2020 had our highest numbers of participants to date with a record number of youth players and coaches. However, when COVID-19 hit in March, the club season came to an abrupt end and over 21 events were cancelled, including the Club Provincial Championships. This is reflected below in the low number of events that we held for each age group.

For the rest of 2020, youth volleyball carried on for the most part although much adapted to the public health restrictions set on sport. The focus of much of the activity was skills and drills with physical distance which meant that games were not possible. In addition, many of our clubs struggled to access facilities which limited their ability to operate for the rest of the year. We were able to provide access to the Harry Jerome Sports Centre which supported many of the local volleyball clubs.

Age Category	Number of Events	Total Registrations
12U Girls	2	29
13U Boys	2	17
13U Girls	3	43
14U Girls	4	80
14U Boys	2	31
15U Boys	2	37
15U Girls	2	32
16U Boys	2	36
16U Girls	4	73
17/18U Boys	1	17
17/18U Girls	4	105

# Adult Indoor Leagues

2020 started off well for our adult indoor leagues with our usual activity at the Harry Jerome Sport Centre and other locations in the Lower Mainland. When the pandemic started, we refunded the end of our Winter leagues and did not resume any adult indoor leagues until September 2020. With many external facilities restricting access to outside users, we were only able to run adult indoor leagues at our own facility which further impacted our number of participants for the year. We had a total 1,428 adults play in our leagues despite the shortened season.



OUTDOOR  
VOLLEYBALL  
YOUTH & ADULT

# Youth Beach Volleyball

Despite COVID-19 forcing the cancellation of most of the beach season, we were still able to host the 2020 Volleyball BC Summer Wrap-up Exhibition in August at Spanish Banks. The round-robin event featured 46 teams in the 13-18U categories. We also hosted the first ever Regional Provincial Challenge Skills Competition. We had 33 youth from 12-18U take part in this event in four different regions around the province

# Adult Beach Volleyball

Unfortunately, public health restrictions meant that we were not able to run Adult Beach volleyball for most of the summer. Volleyball was permitted as long as participants maintained social distance at all times and only practiced skills and drills – this is not a style of play that most of our adults prefer and it did not permit any league play. Our adult beach volleyball activity was, therefore, very small scale with the exception of the 2020 Volleyball BC Summer Wrap-Up Exhibition at the end of August at Spanish Banks when loosened restrictions meant that we could host a mini tournament with 17 teams playing in a 1-Star and 2-Star event. Unfortunately, public health restrictions meant that we were not able to run Adult Beach volleyball for most of the summer. Volleyball was permitted as long as participants maintained social distance at all times and only practiced skills and drills – this is not a style of play that most of our adults prefer and it did not permit any league play. Our adult beach volleyball activity was, therefore, very small scale with the exception of the 2020 Volleyball BC Summer Wrap-Up Exhibition at the end of August at Spanish Banks when loosened restrictions meant that we could host a mini competition with 17 teams playing in a 1-Star and 2-Star event.



# RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

# Team BC

Each year, Volleyball BC runs a variety of high performance programs for the best players in the province. The purpose of the Team BC High Performance Programs is to identify, select and train a group of young athletes (14U-20U) who have the potential to play in post-secondary and/or for the national programs. The programs are designed to build a broader and stronger pipeline of talented athletes and coaches for future Canadian Olympic Teams.

## Team BC 14U Virtual Program

The Team BC HP Development Camp 14U is athletes' first encounter with the Team BC High Performance Programs. The 2020 14U program shifted to a virtual format to adapt to the COVID-19 environment. The program was open to all BC Athletes age 14U - our main objective was to create an online community and program for athletes to continue whole athlete development during the pandemic. The virtual program consisted of 4 weeks of programming with 8 online sessions.

Program Coaches: Ashley Shannik, Katie Ball, Janelle Rozema

Athlete Participants: 41 Girls, 11 Boys

## Team BC Red & Blue Virtual Program

The Team BC Red & Blue introduces athletes to a high performance training environment and will be exposed to skills and concepts that are in line with the Volleyball Canada Athlete Development Framework. Athletes train to compete and perform at the Canada Cup

Due to the COVID-19 environment, the 2020 Team BC Red & Blue program was adapted and delivered through a virtual program. The program was open to all BC Athletes age 15-17U - our main objective was to create an online community and program for athletes to continue whole athlete development during the pandemic. The virtual program consisted of 8 weeks of programming with 14 online sessions.

Program Coaches: Female Program - Julie Young, Sarah Loedel

Male Program - Darrin Moreira, Kelvin Ma

Athlete Participants: 77 Girls, 19 Boys

# Team BC Select Virtual Program

The Team BC Select is the top program for athletes in the Team BC Indoor pathway. Athletes selected to the program will continue to build off previously established skills and concepts that are in line with the Volleyball Canada Athlete Development Framework. Athletes train to compete at the Canada Cup, and every four years at the Canada Summer Games.

The purpose of the Team BC Select program in 2020 will focus on identifying and developing athletes with high performance potential, and who aspire to represent British Columbia at the 2021 Canada Games.

Due to the COVID situation, the 2020 Team BC Select program was delivered online through a virtual program. The program's objective is to identify athletes and establish the program's foundation for success at the Canada Games in 2021. The program created an online community for athletes to continue whole athlete development during the modified COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Program Coaches

Female Program - Ryan Adams, Jodi Zbyszewski, Mischa Harris

Male Program - Charles Parkinson, Jason Warkentin, Nick Del Bianco

Athlete Participants: 44 Girls, 34 Boys

# Team BC Beach 20U

The Team BC Beach 20U program aims to identify and develop athletes who have the potential to compete and excel at the 2021 Canada Games. The 2020 program featured a 4 day training camp in Vancouver BC.

Program Coaches: Male Program - Dave Dooley

Female Program - Maverick Hatch

Athlete Participants: 18 Females, 18 Males



# BC Athletes On The World Stage

In 2020, Team BC athletes continued to showcase strong performances as part of Canada's national team programs. Led by the men's national team, featuring four athletes from BC, including captain Gord Perrin, Canada won the NORCECA Men's Continental Championship in Vancouver to qualify for the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The Canadian women's team, led by captain Kyla Richey, finished third at the NORCECA Women's Tokyo Qualification event in the Dominican Republic. On the beach side, Delta's Megan and Nicole McNamara returned to competition in the fall and competed in Switzerland and the Netherlands including a semi-final appearance.

## BC Athlete Representation

### Sr. Team Athletes – Men's Indoor

- Gord Perrin
- Steven Marshall
- Lucas van Berkel
- Daniel Jansen VanDoorn
- Ryan Sclater
- Blair Bann
- Pearce Eschenko
- Eric Loeppky
- Blake Sheerhorn
- Derek Epp

### Sr. Team Athletes – Women's Indoor

- Brie King
- Kristen Monks
- Alicia Perrin
- Kyla Richey
- Danielle Smith
- Sarah Chase
- Emily Magio
- Kiera Van Ryk

### Sitting Volleyball Athletes

- Danielle Ellis
- Felicia Voss-Shafiq

### Jr. Team Athletes – Men's Indoor

- Brodie Hofer
- Byron Katurakis
- Coltyn Liu
- Fynnian McCarthy
- Cole Brandsma
- Liam Remple
- Jackson Corneil
- Mathew Neaves

### Jr. Team Athletes – Women's Indoor

- Katarina Pantovic
- Katie Devaney
- Kennedy Snape
- Emoni Bush
- Chole Ladd
- Lucy Borowski
- Mackenzie Pool
- Olivia Boulding

### Beach Athletes

- Ben Saxton
- Grant O'Gorman
- Alex Russell
- Mike Plantinga
- Devon May
- Megan McNamara
- Nicole McNamara
- Shanice Marcelle

# BC Athletes on the World Stage



# MEMBER RELATIONS & COMMUNITY BUILDING

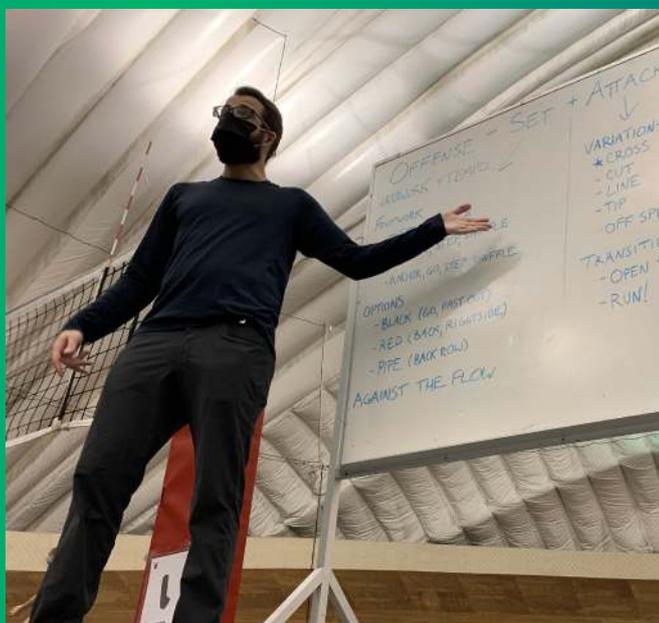
A big theme throughout 2020 was connections and community. Although COVID-19 meant we could not be together physically, much of our work at Volleyball BC focused on creating connection and serving our members and community through other means.

## Grassroots Volleyball

Despite challenges from COVID-19, we remained committed to introducing participants to volleyball in a way that focuses on fun, skills development and Long-Term Athletic Development.

**SMASHBALL** is an exciting new program that lets kids compete and play while focusing on the most fun part of the game – smashing the ball! Taking part in Smashball programs lets young players progress through a number of levels that incorporate other volleyball skills as the game becomes faster and more competitive. Along with organizing several successful Smashball camps at Harry Jerome Sports Centre, we hosted a Smashball Clinic during the Men's Olympic Qualifier in Vancouver which saw 40 kids from the East Vancouver neighbourhood take part before attending the Qualifier Event.

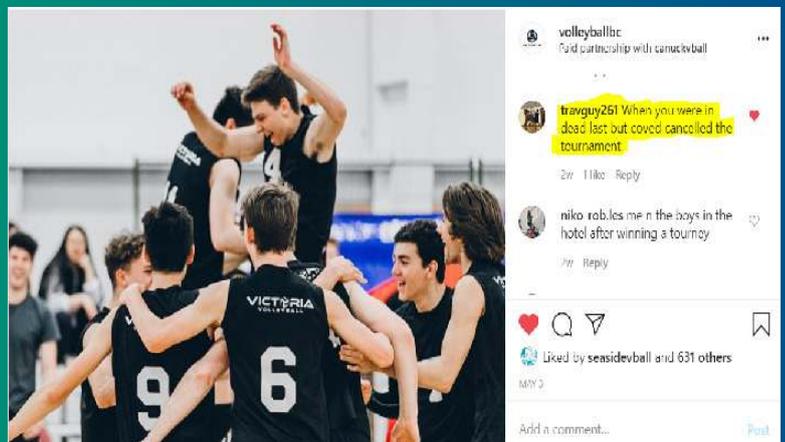
**ATOMIC** Volleyball is an age-appropriate version of the sport for 9-12 year olds that takes place on a smaller court with 4-on-4 play. This style of volleyball emphasizes participation, introduction to fundamental skills, and fun for all involved. Players are encouraged to work on having three contacts before sending the ball over net as a way of introducing players to the team aspect of volleyball. In 2020, Volleyball BC had 15 different Atomic programs that serviced 193 participants throughout the province.



# Creative Connections

We also sought creative ways to engage and boost the volleyball community while we could not play the game we love. Our 'Virtual Pepper Challenge' ran for multiple weeks on Instagram and Facebook with 60 teams/groups including many of our clubs keeping it going, and we also ran a popular "Quarantine-Live" segment on Instagram where we interviewed several Team Canada athletes who have a strong BC connection such as Kyla Richey, Megan & Nicole McNamara, Daniel Jansen Van Doorn and Kiera Van Ryk to name a few. We also ran a 'Skyball 'Challenge' awarding prizes for the best skyball videos submitted on our social media along with other exciting digital contests. All of these efforts paid off with a huge increase in all our social media platforms including reaching 10,000 Instagram followers.

Finally, we hosted a large number of townhalls, webinars, education and training in an online format. Like many others, Zoom became our newest tool – which then brought the silver lining of allowing many more people to access our services and activities from across the province. This is a COVID legacy that we hope to integrate into how we deliver our services moving forward.



# Indigenous Volleyball

Volleyball BC serves on the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council's (I-SPARC) Provincial Volleyball Committee to help promote, develop and coach volleyball within the province's communities. We were unable to jointly host any activities this past year because of public health restrictions, however, we were engaged at a management level with both organisations supporting and participating in consultation for each other's strategic plans. We are looking forward to working together again in 2021

BC's Emoni Bush of the Wei Wai Kum First Nation, was awarded the Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport – Provincial Recipient. She was also named to the National Excellence Program training at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

# Sitting Volleyball

Sitting Volleyball is perhaps the most widely known form of ParaVolley thanks to its inclusion in the Paralympic Games since Arnhem in 1980. Currently, the men's and women's national sitting volleyball teams are based in Edmonton. In 2020, Canada women's sitting volleyball team qualified for the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games by capturing the Women's Paralympic Qualifier in February. They went 6-0 including defeating Ukraine in the finals at the Canada Games Centre in Halifax. BC is represented by two athletes on the national team, Felicia Voss-Shafiq and captain Danielle Ellis. Both these two athletes train periodically from our Harry Jerome Sport Centre.





**HALL<sup>OF</sup> FAME**  
**VOLLEYBALLBC**

# 2020 Volleyball BC Hall of Fame

The 2020 Volleyball BC Hall of Fame and Excellence Awards banquet honours athletes, teams, coaches, officials and builders who have had a significant impact on the sport in British Columbia. Our sixth annual ceremony was held in February 2020 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown and included five new Hall of Fame inductees featuring two teams.

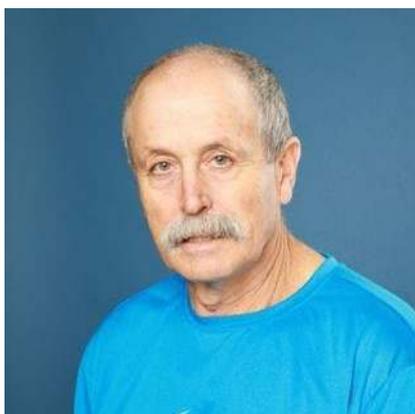


# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



## Ken Witzke – Athlete

Ken was on the first ever UBC team to win a Western Canadian University Championship in 1963 and BC Open Championship in 1965, with both teams going undefeated. Ken played for Team BC, who went on a historic undefeated run to win the first ever Canada Winter Games Gold Medal Championship in Quebec City. During his volleyball career, Ken won 3 silver medals at National Club Championships and played at Two World Student Games, in 1967 for UBC and in 1970 for the University of Montreal. Ken was also a member of the 1971 Canadian Pan Am Team and the 1972 Canadian Senior National Team.



## Joe Moreira – Builder

Joe's involvement in the sport of volleyball began through coaching volleyball in 1977 at Mt. Sentinel in South Slokan, BC where he was a teacher. Joe was very involved in volleyball development camps, provincial tryout camps and regional camps in the Okanagan and the Kootenays. Joe has been instrumental in the development and operation of the Kootenay Volleyball club and served as a Volleyball BC regional representative for the Kootenay's region. Joe has officiated at the local, regional and provincial level and acted as the Zone Official Chair for the Kootenay's for over 30 years. For over 15 years Joe served as head coach for the Williams Lake volleyball camp, impacting over 300 athletes each summer.



## Ray Lepp – Builder

In his early years Ray played volleyball in Estonia in a very strong school and club system and on the Estonian National Men's Volleyball Team. When Ray immigrated to Canada he recognized that the profile of volleyball in Canada was lower and he worked tirelessly to increase the interest in the sport. He was known as a dedicated athlete, official, coach and administrator of volleyball and was the founding member of Volleyball BC in 1965 and continued as a Board Member until 1978. With Ray's passing, the Ray Lepp Scholarship Award was created as Ray chose to donate funds through his will to provide a permanent endowment that would support in perpetuity a scholarship that encourages and recognizes volleyball and personal excellence in British Columbia for athletes entering post-secondary education.



## 1975 Canada Winter Games, Men & Women – Team

At the 1975 Canada Winter Games both the men's and women's Team BC volleyball teams won gold medals in dominating performances. Specifically, the men's team defeated Team Manitoba 15-1, 15-9 and the women's team defeated Team Manitoba 15-5, 15-2. Some impressive stats of this Games include that both teams went undefeated for the entire tournament, with the women's team only losing a single set and that the women's team only took 25 minutes to defeat their opponent in Gold Medal match. The closest any team came was Team Alberta and Team Quebec, both managing 10 points in a match against Team BC.



# Ray Lepp Scholarship Award

Volleyball BC has had the pleasure of working with thousands of amazing individuals over the years and British Columbia is filled with some of the most passionate volleyball enthusiasts in the nation. Volleyball BC holds an annual award nomination process and ceremony to call attention to and publicly honour these individuals for the time and effort they put in to the sport. Additionally, Volleyball BC has been given the honour of presenting the Ray Lepp Scholarship to two student athletes annually who have the potential to join the National team.

Congratulation to our 2020 recipients of the annual Ray Lepp Scholarship, Kirsten Kampman and Cole Brandsma. The \$2,000 scholarships are awarded each year to a post-secondary male and female athlete who meet the scholarship criteria and show promise of competing for Canada at the national team level.

Selected from a group of very strong applicants, these athletes have shown a tremendous amount of dedication and commitment to the sport of volleyball and have received numerous accolades for their accomplishments.

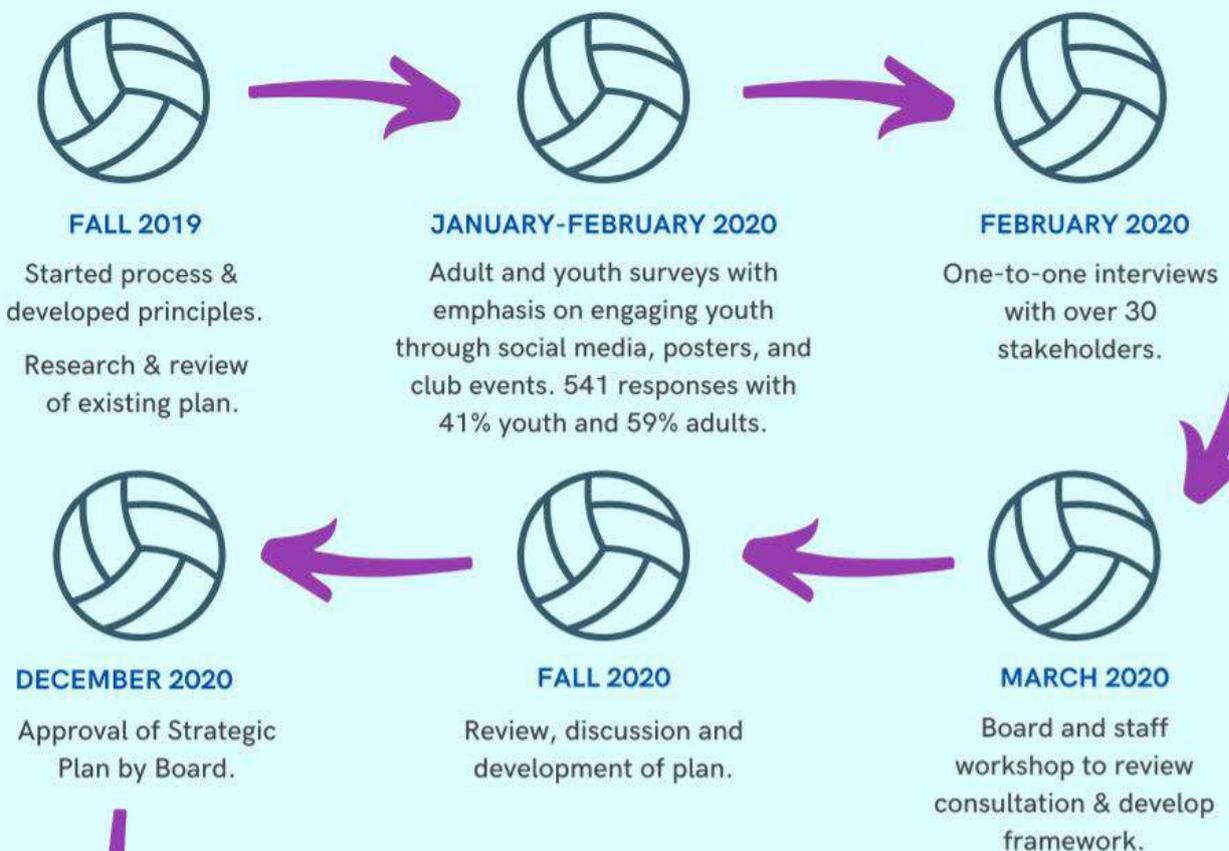


# Strategic Plan 2021-2024

During this past year, Volleyball BC embarked on the process of developing a new strategic plan to run from 2021-2024. Led by the Board and overseen by a Strategic Plan Working Group, we wanted to develop a realistic strategic plan that provides clear direction for the organization over the next few years.

We saw the process as just as important as the end result. It was very important to us that this plan was based on consultation and feedback from members and stakeholders. Over the year, we undertook a lengthy process to research, survey, and engage with many individuals who make up our volleyball community. We heard many powerful stories about the impact and potential for volleyball in BC. This Strategic Plan is a response to these voices that we are excited to put into action over the next few years.

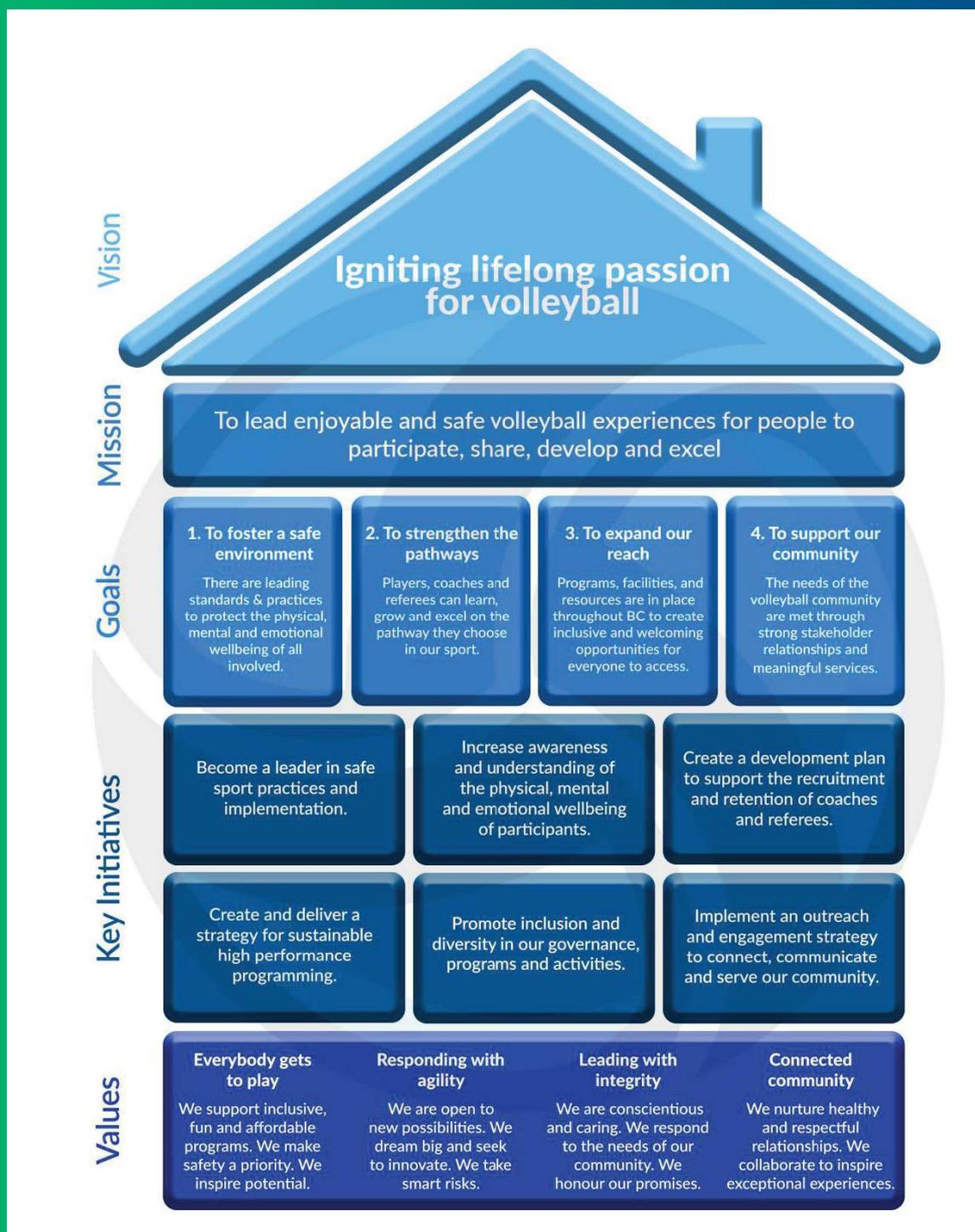
## Our Strategic Planning Process



# Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Informed by consultation, research, and review, we are proud to introduce our new Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. This house outlines the strategic framework of our vision, mission, values, and goals. It will be used to guide our direction, planning, and resources and will be a touchstone to remind us that our members are at the centre of everything we do.

From here on, we will develop milestones and key indicators that will monitor and measure our success. The Board will receive regular progress reports from staff to ensure that we are on track and we will share our progress with our members and the wider volleyball community.



# Sponsors & Partners



## Board of Directors

**President:** Doramy Ehling

**Vice-President:** Rayel Bausenhaus

**Treasurer/Secretary:** Rob Hill

**Athletes Representative:** Jamie Hatch

**Members at Large:** Ryan Gandy

**Member at Large:** Jake Cabot

**Member at Large:** Chantz Strong

## Staff

**Chief Executive Officer:** Emma Gibbons

**Director of Operations:** Adrian Goodmurphy

**Technical Director:** Jay Tremonti

**Adult Programs Manager:** Erinne Babcock/Kiruthika Rathanaswami

**Regional Manager, Okanagan and Kootenay:** Jackie Toews/Troe Weston

**Regional Manager, Fraser Valley:** Fraser McIntosh

**Manager of Operations:** Alex Pappas

**Regional Manager, Vancouver Island:** Stephen Epp/Trevor Thors

**Regional Manager, North:** Dan Drezet

**Manager, Member Relations & Human Resources:** Rosalynn Campbell

**Referee Development Manager:** Glenn Wheatley

**Communications Manager:** Kevin Berar

**Facilities Manager:** Derek Stevens

**Office Administrator:** Lorraine Wong