2022 Annual Report



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# 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 on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coastal Salish, Tsleil-Waututh, Sto:lo, and Squamish Nation people.



Reflecting back, 2022 was a year of transition for Volleyball BC. It represented the first full year of programs and events since the pandemic in 2019. The return of playing the game we love was both incredible and exciting. On top of that, demand for volleyball was almost instantly at pre-pandemic levels despite our nervousness about what recovery looked like.

But "return to play" was not without its challenges. We had to regain organisational knowledge and confidence about delivering services to our members and navigate changes that the pandemic brought to the sport landscape. Accessing facilities, recruiting referees, and re-training staff were just some of the logistical issues that we were presented with. It I s with the collaboration and support of our members and partners that we have been able to manage these challenges and respond fast to the opportunity to play volleyball again. We owe a debt of gratitude to our members for your patience and understanding over this transition – thank you!

2022 was also a year in which Volleyball BC made big leaps in key areas of our Strategic Plan. Safety in sport and being more inclusive and diverse were - and continue to be – hot topics for good reason. I am proud that 2022 marked the launch of our Safe Sport Action Plan and that our hard work in this area was recognised in viaSport BC's request for us to host a joint federal-provincial announcement of safe sport funding at our Harry Jerome Sport Centre. We also undertook important consultation and research into diversity, equity, and inclusion by participating in the Canadian Women in Sport's Same Game Challenge and by commissioning consultants to help us develop a Strategy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This was coupled with the development and implementation of programs to meet the needs of new populations, including Newcomers in Canada and sitting volleyball. We still have a long journey ahead in the areas of safety, diversity, equity, and inclusion, but 2022 was a foundational year of moving us ahead.

We are looking ahead with a positive and confident outlook. Volleyball continues to be a popular sport of choice and we continue to work hard to build and support our volleyball community. Thank you to our committed Board, staff, partners, and members – we cannot wait to see what 2023 brings!

Emma Gibbons
Chief Executive Officer

# **MEMBERSHIP**

This was the first year of full activity after the COVID-19 pandemic. The youth club season was run in a slightly modified format to allow for the resumption of competition but was met by high demand. Our membership numbers were almost back to pre-pandemic levels, with the exception of referees where numbers were impacted by two years of no game play. We will be focusing on the recruitment and retention of referees as a key priority over the next few years.

	Youth Players	Adult Players	Coaches	Officials	Total Membership
2020	5423	1428	1008	221	8080
2021	2600	3902	656	0	7158
2022	5086	3125	870	131	9212

## **COACH MEMBERSHIP**

Regions	2022
Kootenay	2
Thompson-Okanagan	147
Fraser Valley	304
Fraser River-Burnaby-Delta- Richmond	85
Vancouver-Squamish-Sunshine Coast	179
Vancouver Island-Central Coast	117
Cariboo-Northeast	36



#### REFEREE MEMBERSHIP



Level of Certification	2022
Level 1	39
Level 2	49
Level 3	23
Level 4	19
Level 5	1

# ADULT RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

For the first time since COVID-19, our adult recreational players were able to enjoy a year's worth of volleyball! With indoor volleyball, we successfully experimented with adding Spring and Summer indoor leagues at the Harry Jerome Sport Centre (HJSC) and significantly expanded our skills clinics with new community centre partners in Vancouver and Richmond. Our outdoor leagues and clinics were back to regular operations and took place across Vancouver, Coquitlam, and Burnaby.

#### **INDOOR PROGRAMS**

Program	Participants	Locations
Winter HJSC leagues	114 teams	HJSC
Winter Richmond League	12 teams	AR MacNeill
Spring HJSC Leagues	90 teams	HJSC
Spring Richmond League	12 teams	AR MacNeill
Summer HJSC Leagues	26 teams	HJSC
Winter	114 teams	HJSC
Fall HJSC leagues	114 teams	HJSC
Fall Richmond League	12 teams	AR MacNeill
HJSC Adult Skills Clinic Beginner/Intermediate (Winter, Spring, Fall)	139 participants	HJSC
Adult Skills Clinics Partnerships Beginner/Intermediate (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	299 participants	Richmond Olympic Oval, Jericho, West Point Grey, Coal Harbour





# **OUTDOOR PROGRAMS**

Program	Participants	Locations
Grass leagues	66 teams	Central Park & David Lam Park
Beach leagues	510 teams	Spanish Banks & Coquitlam Town Centre
King or Queen of the Beach League	239 participants	Spanish Banks & Kits Beach
Beach Skills Clinic	100 participants	Spanish Banks
Beach Skills Clinic	25 participants	Coquitlam Town Centre Beach Courts







# YOUTH BEACH VOLLEYBALL

We had a full season of youth beach volleyball in 2022 with 14 tournaments across the province, culminating in 2022 Beach Provincials in July at Spanish Banks in Vancouver. We also hosted Beach Nationals in partnership with Volleyball Canada at the end of August.

Event	Teams	Athletes
Lower Mainland High School Beach Open	61	122
Lower Mainland Sand Series #1	123	246
Lower Mainland Sand Series #2	147	294
Island High School Beach Open	41	82
Island Sand Series #1	17	34
Island Sand Series #2	13	26
Island Sand Series #3	24	48
Okanagan High School Beach Open	21	42
Okanagan Sand Series #1	51	102
Okanagan Sand Series #2	40	80
Okanagan Sand Series #3	51	102
Okanagan Sand Series #4	56	112
Kootenays High School Open	12	24
Kootenays Sand Series	14	28
Beach Provincials	204	408





# THE BEACH TOUR AND VAN OPEN

Presented by Natura Solutions, the 2022 Beach Tour returned with full play and no COVID-19 restrictions. We hosted 7 tour events, including the Kamloops Open which was added for the first time to bring competition to a fourth community. We are excited to see this event grow in the future.

The Van Open was welcomed back by the beach community as an opportunity to gather, celebrate beach culture, and watch the highest level of beach volleyball action. We are grateful for the support of our sponsors and partners that allowed us to showcase our sport and deliver an exceptional event. These included our Presenting Sponsor, Natura Solutions, Victory Creative Group, Province of British Columbia, Sport Hosting Vancouver, Stanley Park Brewing Company, Canuckstuff, Modu-Loc, Tonic Adventures, Growers Cider, Skyball and Edna's Non-Alcoholic Beverages.









Event	Number of teams	Winners
Kits Classic	2 Star – 28 Women & 28 Men 1 Star – 16 Men	Women – Coulter/McKay Men – Mend/Stockton
Parksville Open	2 Star – 29 Women & 31 Men 1 Star – 10 Men	Women – McKay/Coulter Men – Caverly/Johnson
Jim Clive Cup	2 Star – 29 Women & 28 Men 1 Star – 19 Men & 10 Women	Women- Brach/Jefferson Men – Mend/Stockton
Penticton Open	2 Star – 24 Women & 24 Men	Women – McKay/ Wuttunee Men – Mend/Stockton
Kamloops Open	2 Star – 12 Women & 17 Men	Women – Weir/Wolf Men – Stockton/de Greeff
Van Open	3 Star – 59 Women & 73 Men	Women – Belanger/Bansley Men- Field/Schalk
Beach Provincials	2 Star – 32 Women & 32 Men	Women – Birker/Dunn Men – Bornemann/Burlacu





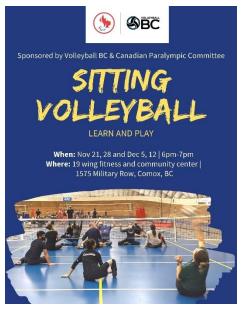
# **GROWING THE GAME**

# STRATEGY FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

One of the goals in our Strategic Plan is to expand our reach, putting programs and resources in place to create inclusive and welcoming opportunities for everyone to access volleyball. In 2022, VBC undertook work to research, consult, and produce a Strategy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that articulates our actions to promote inclusion and diversity in our governance and programs.

With the support of a consultant, Inclusion Incorporated, we embarked on a journey to better understand the barriers, challenges, and opportunities around accessibility to volleyball. In June 2022, this culminated in the Board's approval of a Strategy to be implemented over the next few years. The Strategy's commitment statement is to "empower our community to remove barriers to participation and be welcoming to all participants." The 4 strategic pillars include increasing capacity, supportive pathways, removing barriers, and building partnerships. We look forward to sharing our progress with members over the forthcoming years.









#### INDIGENEOUS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball BC serves on the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council's (ISPARC) Provincial Volleyball Committee to help promote, develop and coach volleyball within the province's communities. The CEO and Technical Directors were appointed to ISPARC's Volleyball Committee which oversees the selection and development of the provincial indigenous athletes. Over the past 12 months the Committee has supported the organisation of tryouts and selection of coaches to represent British Columbia at the North American Indigenous Games in Nova Scotia from July 15-23, 2023.

In addition, our Regional Managers attended the ISPARC regional meetings and supported the organisation of volleyball programs and activities where required. As part of our new Strategy for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, we will be seeking to strengthen our relationship with ISPARC and develop a more intentional and strategic partnership to support indigenous participation in volleyball.

#### SITTING VOLLEYBALL

Sitting Volleyball is a widely known form of ParaVolley thanks to its inclusion in the Paralympic Games in 1980. The Men's and Women's national sitting volleyball teams are based in Edmonton with several BC-based members of the women's team training out of our Harry Jerome Sports Centre.

In 2022, Volleyball BC was excited to receive funding through the Canadian Paralympic Committee and the Paralympic Sport Development Fund to support the initiation of sitting volleyball programs to support opportunities for athlete development. With this funding, we hosted several events through a Sitting Volleyball Series with training taking place in Comox and in the Lower Mainland. Lisa Tam led this initiative for Volleyball BC and project milestones included:

Milestone	Objective	Outcome
Sitting Programs for Adults	Increase exposure to sitting volleyball Target: 1 Program	Delivered 3 Sitting Series Programs in Burnaby and Comox with 25 participants in each
Youth Participation Opportunities	Increase the number of youth participating in an entry-level sitting program.  Target: 1 Program	Partnered with Pacific Sport Fraser Valley to deliver a sitting volleyball camp with 200 participants
Partnerships	Build a network of community partners to increase awareness	Delivered 2 partnership/awareness training sessions with Douglas College, LifeMark, and Pacific Sport Fraser Valley

"Our Team Canada Athletes from BC were able to share their sport through coaching and facilitating some of the sessions put on by Volleyball BC through the CPC grant. These funds gave us the opportunity to share sitting volleyball with our community and increase awareness for the sport in ways we wouldn't have been able to do on our own." - Lisa Tam, Volleyball Canada, BC Regional Coach

#### NEWCOMER PROGRAMMING

Volleyball BC successfully completed 4 newcomer programs in Vancouver, Richmond and Penticton between the months of January 2022- December 2022. Two of these programs were continued partnerships taking into consideration feedback from participants, coaches and partners from the first pilot program, and 2 were new partnerships.

- 1. Partnership with South Vancouver Neighborhood House (SVNH) After the completion of a pilot program we ran in July and August 2021, we learned that the South Asian girls had requested a female-only program. We partnered with SVNH to receive Sport For Life funding to implement quality sport for racialized and newcomer women and girls. This allowed us to introduce "South Van Flare Volleyball" in summer 2022. We held one mentorship session with 3 volleyball leaders (coach/referees) from ethnic backgrounds of the girls/women and 4 beach volleyball sessions at Spanish Banks. The participants learnt about various career paths in volleyball and the benefits and positive experiences sport brings. For many the beach volleyball sessions was also the first time they had ever been to a beach.
- 2. **Partnership with Richmond Multicultural Community Services (RMCS)-** We received additional funding through Jumpstart to run another 8-week program between January-April 2022 in partnership with RMCS for another new group of 9-12 year old newcomers that were mainly Spanish speaking at Brighouse Elementary school.
- 3. **Partnership with South Okanagan Immigrant & Community Services (SOICS)** We ran an 8-week program at Penticton Community Centre in Penticton in summer 2022. SOICS was very excited to join us as our program perfectly fit into their mandate and priority for health and physical activity. The communities targeted in this program were from India, the Philippines, and Spain.
- 4. **Partnership with Intercultural Society of Greater Victoria (ICA)** We ran a volleyball "Try-It" Session during ICA-Victoria's Newcomer Family Night at Spencer Middle School in Victoria

Partner Organisations	Dates	Location	Number of Participants	Demographic Profile of Participants
RMCS	Jan-April	Richmond	15	Spanish, Middle East, Chinese, Arabic, Dari
SVNH – Mentorship Session	April	Vancouver	22	South Asian
SVNH – Beach Program	July	Vancouver	23	South Asian
SOICS	July-August	Penticton	31	Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Tamil
ICA – Victoria (Information/Try it Session)	December	Victoria	30+	Various

## 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 IGNITE 12-14U PROGRAM

The Team BC Ignite Program is a multi-day camp ranging from 3-5 days ran across BC. The program is a fun, high energy experience through small sided game play where athletes can develop skills, confidence and IGNITE a life long journey and passion for volleyball. It is open to all athletes; no try outs or identification is required for participation.

Region	Participants
Lower Mainland	58
Fraser Valley	18
Island	19
Okanagan	14
Kootenays	12
TOTAL	121



# TEAM BC 15U PROGRAM - BC SUMMER GAMES

The Team BC Zone Program is the first Team BC experience where athletes are selected to participate in a program. Athletes build off the IGNITE experience and continue to GROW their skills for continued growth and prepare for future participation with Team BC High Performance Programs. In 2022, athletes who participated with the Team BC Zone program represented their home zone at the BC Summer Games in Prince George July 19-23.

Region	Participants	Winners
Region 1	10 boys & 14 girls	BOYS
Region 2	14 boys & 14 girls	GOLD – Fraser River
Region 3	12 boys & 14 girls	SILVER – Okangan
		BRONZE – Vancouver Coastal
Region 4	14 boys & 14 girls	GIRLS
Region 5	14 boys &14 girls	GOLD – Vancouver Coastal
Region 6	14 boys & 14 girls	Silver – Fraser River
Region 8	14 boys & 14 girls	Bronze – Fraser Valley

#### TEAM BC RED & BLUE PROGRAM – 16-17U

The Team BC Red & Blue program's goal is an athlete's first opportunity to be identified to train, grow, and compete In a High-Performance Environment. Athletes identified have future potential to develop and compete to represent BC at national and post-secondary levels.

The 2022 Team BC Red & Blue program identified BC's top athletes to train in a camp-based program for 12 days in Kamloops led by a full coaching staff and integrated support team. The teams competed at the Canada Cup in July 2022.

Coaches for Female Team: Rob Gowe, Eric Chou, Staci Proctor, Ashley Shannik

Coaches for Male Team: Graham Walkey, Matt Ekholm, Derek Meeuwisse, Emma Meeuwisse

Results: Team BC Red - 3<sup>rd</sup> and Team BC Blue - 4<sup>th</sup>

#### TEAM BC SELECT PROGRAM - 19U

The Team BC Select is the pinnacle program for athletes in the Team BC Development Pathway. Athletes are identified that have future potential to excel and compete for Canada at international levels in the future.

The 2022 Team BC Select program identified BC's top athletes to train in a camp-based program for 20 days in Kamloops led by a full coaching staff and integrated support team. The teams competed at the Canada Cup in July 2022 and at the Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ontario

Coaches for Female Team: Ryan Adams, Brent Hall, Gina Schmidt, Mischa Harris

**Coaches for Male Team:** Charles Parkinson, Kelvin Ma **Results:** Team BC Women – 3<sup>rd</sup> and Team BC Men - 5<sup>th</sup>





# TEAM BC BEACH - 21U

The program aims to identify and develop athletes who have the potential to compete and excel at the 2022 Canada Summer Games. Athletes selected to this program were selected through a camp and tournament.

Coach for Female Team: Dave Dooley
Coach for Male Team: Maverick Hatch

**Results:** Team BC Women  $-3^{rd}$  and Team BC Men  $-2^{nd}$ 

# BC ATHLETES ON THE NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Senior Team Athletes – Men's Indoor	Senior Team Athletes – Women's Indoor
Jesse Elser, Matthew Neaves, Eric Loeppky, Lucas	Kiera Van Ryk, Claire Cossarini, Brie King, Emily
van Berkel, Jordan Schnitzer, Ryan Sclater, Blair	Maglio, Hilary Howe, Caroline Livingston,
Bann, Brodie Hofer, Derek Epp, Jackson Howe, Mathias Elser	Kennedy Snape, Sydney Grills, Avery Heppell
Junior Team Athletes – Men's Indoor	Junior Team Athletes – Women's Indoor
Aaron Elser, Reeve Gingera, Logan Greves, Mason	Taylor DeBoer
Greves, John Obi, Cory Schoenherr	
NextGen Men's National Team - Indoor	NextGen Women's National Team - Indoor
Jesse Elser, Matthew Neaves, Jordan Schnitzer,	Avery Heppell, Gabrielle Attieh, Trinity Solecki,
Fynna McCarthy	Sydney Grills, Kacey Jost, Kennedy Snape
Men's National Excellence Program	Women's National Excellence Program
Piers De Greef, Alex Borrowski	Taylor De Boer, Esther Lim, Tianna Kehler
NextGen Men's National Team – Beach	
Alex Russell	
Senior Team Athletes – Men's Sitting	Senior Team Athletes – Women's Sitting
Jason Beaman	Danielle Ellis, Felica Voss-Shafiq, Jayme Lepp,
	Jennifer McCreesh

# HALL OF FAME

Following the success of the virtual format in 2021, we delivered the 2022 Hall of Fame Awards in a similar way for 2022. Our eighth annual ceremony was held in March 2022 when a new inductee was honoured each week through a virtual program, podcast, and online ceremony. Over 200 individuals from across the country and the world attended the online ceremonies and joined in our celebrations of the individuals who have had a significant impact on our sport in British Columbia.

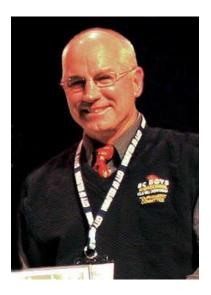
# GLENN WHEATLEY OFFICIAL CATEGORY



Glenn started refereeing when he was in Grade 10 when one of his teachers convinced him that it would be a good idea. That was the beginning - starting out as an indoor local level official in 1978, he would achieve his provincial and regional level certifications a few years later. Glenn gained his indoor national level certification in 2003. He became a Volleyball Canada Referee Supervisor & Evaluator in 2007 and a national level Official Clinician/Evaluator in 2010 – a role that he continues to fulfil today. On the international stage, he served as the Referee Assistant Manager at the NORCECA Men's Continental Cup in 2016 in Langley and most recently the Referee Manager at the NORCECA Men's World League Qualifiers in 2020 in Vancouver. Throughout his tenure, Glenn has also been an Assignor at the local, provincial and national levels and has assigned more than fivethousand games. Glenn now works as the Referee Development Manager at Volleyball BC, where he helps develop and mentor younger referees and gives back to the sport and position he loves.

Rod began his volleyball career coaching when he started his teaching career in Mission in 1973. After three years coaching grade eight junior boys and girls, Rod moved to Kelowna and began coaching senior boys volleyball at KLO Secondary. From 1978 to 1998 he coached the KLO senior boys to 19 provincial championship appearances. His impressive record included four AAA and one single A gold, three AAA and one AA silvers, and four AAA and 1 AA bronzes. Rod took his coaching to the national and international level where he was the Assistant Coach of the BC Pacific Rim team. at the 1987 Canada Games Team. He became the Head Coach of the Pacific Rim Teams with trips to Hawaii, Japan and Australia. Rod helped develop a provincial ranking system for the BC High School Boys Provincial Championships. In 1999, Rod pursued a new coaching challenge – post-secondary – by becoming the Head Coach at the Okanagan University College. His success continued as he led the team to silver and bronze at the provincial level and won a bronze medal at the national level. Rod was also a provincial level official and was the allocator for officials in Kelowna from the mid-80s to 1999.

ROD BELINSKI
BUILDER CATEGORY



# TOM GRAHAM ATHLETE CATEGORY



Tom's long storied volleyball career began in Courtenay, BC where he was a member of the Georges P. Vanier Towhees that captured the Vancouver Island High School Volleyball Championship in 1972. After high school, Tom stayed close to home and played at the University of Victoria and then left BC when he was selected to go to the national team training centres in Montreal and Winnipeg. Before he left, Tom helped Team BC win Gold at the Canada Winter Games in 1975. While in university, Tom made Team Canada's Men's Volleyball team and competed in the Pan-American games, World Cup, World Championships and the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Following the Games, Tom played for the University of Manitoba Bisons where he would help lead them to two CIAU national championships in three years. After graduating with a Bachelor's in Psychology, he eventually made his way back to BC and stepped into coaching, with stints at Trinity Western and UVic before heading to the University of Saskatchewan where he continued his coaching career with the Huskies. He is a part of the Saskatchewan Hall of Fame, Volleyball Saskatchewan Hall of Fame, and was most recently inducted into the Volleyball BC Hall of Fame in 2020 in the Team category for the 1975 Canada Winter Games Men's team that won gold.

Jamie started her career with Claremont Secondary while playing club for the Victoria Volleyball Association. She helped them win silver at the 18U Indoor Nationals. Jamie played both beach and indoor volleyball throughout her high school and collegiate years where she stayed close to home at Malaspina University College, winning silver and bronze at the CCAA Nationals in 2004 and 2006. During her time in university, Jamie was making a name for herself on the beach stage winning U18 Beach, U20 and U24 Beach Nationals while representing Canada at multiple FIVB Beach World Championships around the world. Jamie moved to the Lower Mainland where she then played for the UBC Thunderbirds Women's Volleyball team for two years helping them capture the CIS Championship in 2008 while being named a tournament all-star. That same year she was also named to the National Beach Volleyball team and went on to become one of the most decorated Beach Volleyball athletes to come out of this province. Jamie's 11-year beach volleyball career with Team Canada saw her achieve many great accomplishments including NORCECA titles in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017. She also became the first Canadian woman to win an FIVB World Tour medal, capturing gold in China in 2015.

# JAMIE BRODER ATHLETE CATEGORY



Jamie represented Canada in the Olympic Games in 2016 with a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish in Rio De Janerio. Jamie continued to excel after that achievement, collecting more hardware with gold and bronze medals at the Senior Beach Volleyball Nationals in 2017 & 2018 and gold and silver medals at the Vancouver Open in 2018 & 2019.

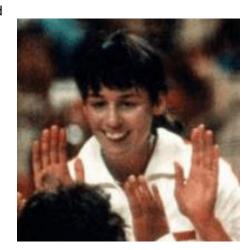
# MOO PARK COACH CATEGORY



Moo came to Canada in 1974 when he was hired to become the first full-time National Women's Team coach to develop and prepare the team for the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. He brought his innovative techniques and gameplay to Vancouver, which would become the National Team's training centre. Moo travelled across the country to recruit the best Canadian female volleyball athletes to train on the West Coast. In the lead up to the Olympic Games, Moo took the team to several high-level tournaments including three NORCECA championships, an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish at the 1974 World Championships, and a bronze medal at the 1975 Pan-American Games. Canada finished 8<sup>th</sup> place at the Montreal Olympics putting up strong competition against some of the best countries in the world. After the Games, Moo decided to stay in the Lower Mainland and coach the Vancouver Chimos, winning two Women's National titles. He later would work with Volleyball BC and run highperformance programs where he trained some of the top young men and women in the province. Moo's hard work and dedication turned the Canadian Women's program into one of the top 15 in the world.

Audrey's volleyball career started in high school playing for Burnaby Central where she was named First Team All-Star and led her team to a third-place finish at the High School Provincial Championships in 1971. She attended the popular Winfield Camp where she met Moo Park who would later go on to be her coach at the national level. She attended UBC and joined the Chimo Volleyball Club led by Art Wilms in 1972. Audrey got her first taste of international action as part of the Junior Canadian National Team where they finished first. She went on to be selected to the Senior National team later that same year where they won gold at the 1973 Canadian Senior Nationals. The following year, Audrey was selected to be one of 14 players to represent Canada at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. Prior to the games, Audrey was awarded Top Blocker in a pre-Olympic Games competition in Romania and was selected as an All-Star in Japan. The team would surprise many and finish 8<sup>th</sup> place at the Montreal Olympic Games. Following this success, Audrey trained in Vancouver and Toronto with the National Team. She relocated to Toronto and continued with Team Canada, playing in the World Championships in Russia and Peru, in the Pan-Am Games in Venezuela, and at the 1983 NORCECA Championships in Indianapolis where the team achieved an impressive third place finish. Audrey finished her national career with an appearance at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles where the National Team finished 8th at the Games.

# AUDREY VANDERVELDEN ATHLETE CATEGORY



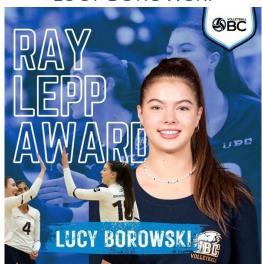
## RAY LEPP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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.

Congratulations to our 2022 recipients of the annual Ray Lepp Scholarship, Lucy Borowski and Lucas Woelders. 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.

#### **LUCY BOROWSKI**



Lucy is a second-year outside hitter at UBC and has a strong history of success at the high school and club level, capped off with her winning a BC Girls AAA provincial championship in 2019 with Little Flower Academy.

Lucy competed with Team BC volleyball for over 5 years, both indoor and beach, where this past summer she helped guide Team BC to an indoor volleyball bronze medal at the Canada Summer Games.

On the national level Lucy has participated in National Excellence Program with Volleyball Canada as well as participated with the Volleyball Canada 21U national team.

Lucas is a first-year outside hitter at University of British Columbia Okanagan (UBCO).

The graduate of Langley Christian School and FVVC Volleyball has numerous provincial medals and all stars awards highlighted by a 2022 Club Provincial Gold Medal and All Star nomination.

He was a BC Boys top 5 graduating player for his age class, and represented Team BC at the 2022 Canada Summer Games.

#### **LUCAS WOELDERS**



## STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024

In February 2021, we launched our new Strategic Plan 2021-2024. With the vision of "igniting passion for volleyball", our strategic plan outlines ambitious goals around safety, player pathways, diversity and inclusion, and membership engagement. The Plan was the result of extensive consultation with players, coaches, referees, and clubs about volleyball in BC. Below are our accomplishments in 2022:

#### GOAL 1 – TO FOSTER A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Safe Sport Action Plan finalised and approved by VBC Board in March 2022 with a launch to our members mid-2022. Our Safe Sport Working Group met 2-3 times throughout 2022 to review plan and progress.
- Audit completed of VBC policies and procedures with plan to review and revise in accordance with best practice in safety.
- Safety screening and education tracked in HR system for VBC contractors and staff.
- Hosted the viaSport BC Safe Sport funding announcement with the Federal and Provincial Sport Ministers in May.
- Tracked incidences of physical injuries at Provincial and National Championships to better understand risks.
- Youth survey conducted in April-June about mental health and wellbeing, shaping activities for 2023.
- In June 2022, under Volleyball Canada, Volleyball BC committed to use the Abuse Free Sport Program as an independent third party to handle all complaints and issues relating to abuse and maltreatment.





#### GOAL 2 – TO STRENGTHEN PATHWAYS



- Professional development opportunities for coaches included a "lunch and learn" session with Women's National Team Head Coach, Shannon Winzer, in Summer 2022.
- Delivered Team BC coach development through 6 online workshops and integration of the Team BC Style of Play philosophy.
- Work underway to establish roles, relationships, and responsibilities within the referee community, Volleyball BC, high school, and post-secondary institutions. Sharing of best practice and learnings from other volleyball provincial sport organisations and attendance at the National Referee Committee meetings.
- Successfully organised 8 online Level 1 clinics with around 300 attendees, resulting in approximately 70 certified referees. As part



of the Team BC program in Kamloops in July, we organised an introductory session to refereeing for players and hosted a High-Performance Referee Clinic to support the development of Level 3 referees.

- Delivered Development Coach workshops for 111 participants (44% Female, 56% male) and Advanced Development Coach workshops for 72 participants (24% Female, 76% Male).
- Dedicated monthly coach newsletter launched and distributed to 900 registered coaches.
- Established a High Performance Board-Staff Working Group and appointed Sport Law as an external consultancy to support creation of the High Performance Plan. Work included researching best practice, conducting a survey of key stakeholders, and identifying VBC's role. Work in 2023 will finalise this plan for launch and implementation.

#### GOAL 3 – TO EXPAND OUR REACH

- Worked with Inclusion Incorporated to consult, survey, and facilitate the development of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategy for Volleyball BC.
- Participated in Canadian Women and Sport's "Same Game Challenge", a 7-step supported process to review and embed gender equity in Volleyball BC. Our focus was on encouraging more gender equity in coaching and refereeing. We analysed participation data and held focus groups with female coaches and referees to better understand some of the challenges and opportunities that they face. This work ran from January to June and resulted in 4 recommendations for increasing the number of female coaches and referees. These recommendations are integrated into our new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategy.
- Delivered 6 newcomer programs introducing over 150 New Canadians to volleyball in Vancouver, Richmond and Penticton. Working in partnership with community agencies, we delivered multiweek programs to newcomer youth, using coaches who spoke the language of participants. Coaches received volleyball coaching support and training in delivering sport to Newcomers.

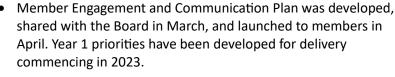


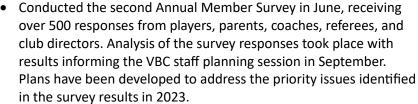


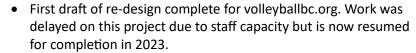
#### GOAL 4 – TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

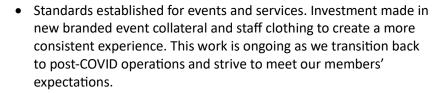














#### GOAL 5 – TO CREATE AN ENGAGED AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

- Transitioned to a new HR system to improve human resources processes, onboarding and management.
- Implementation of consistent screening, contracts, and onboarding for temporary contractors.
- Analysis of staff results from 2021 Belonging Metric survey and development of an action plan to address key areas.
- Staff training and professional development provided in communication, negotiation, safe sport, and first aid.





# SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

















#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Coach Development Manager: Ryan Adams Referee Development Manager: Glenn Wheatley