



NEVZA News #4 –May-Aug 2023

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President’s words



The summer is turning into autumn. After a long volleyball season and European Leagues, national teams now compete in the EuroVolley 2023. The beach volleyball season is still intense, both on the national and international level. From an organizational point of view, the coming NEVZA General Assembly is an important milestone for our future development.

At the third FIVB Zonal Presidents’ Meeting, one of many interesting topics was reports from five zonal associations. Our “CEV neighbours”, WEVZA and BVA presented how they’ve increased the competition classes. I believe we can learn a lot from them to develop our players.

In June, the second post-pandemic NEVZA Oddanesand senior beach tournament was arranged, with a high attendance. There is clearly a need for these international, mid-level competitions. There is the same need for youth, but we still have problems to get organizers. After a late withdrawal from this year’s U18/U20 organizers, we will put extra energy on supporting them in 2024.

The NEVZA Technical Meeting was held in Malmö at the end of May, where the regulations were confirmed. The common program was discussed and to a great extent settled. The next important meeting is the General Assembly in Brussels on September 2nd.

Finally, we congratulate Volleyball England’s Jonathan Moore for receiving the Distinguished Service Award, see article below, and the Swedish Jump setters who defended their European Champions’ title, followed by an Elite 16 victory.

News from CEV and FIVB

FIVB Zonal Presidents’ Meeting

At the third FIVB Zonal Presidents’ Meeting, one of many interesting topics, was reports from five zonal associations. Our “CEV neighbours”, WEVZA and BVA presented how they’ve increased the competition classes. I believe we can learn a lot from them to develop our players.

<p>CLUB COMPETITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEVZA LEAGUE (MEL W / M) UNDERAGE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – NEW - ZONES’ SUPERCUP – NEW - 	<p>NATIONAL TEAMS / UNDERAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U17 M/W U19 M/W U 20 M/W 1 ST ROUND CONTINENTAL QUALIFICATIONS ZONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 	<p>BEACH VOLLEYBALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDERAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U16 M/W - U18 M/W - U20 M/W SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS M/W CLUB SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS M/W 	<p>GRASSROOTS AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT GRASSROOTS PROJECTS JOINT ORGANIZATION OF MAJOR EVENTS FIVB EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM ERASMUS+ PROJECTS 	<p>Development and promoting the product of volleyball between youth category athletes are the first and important aim of the association. BVA secretariat, coordinating all these activities around the region, makes sure to realize them under friendly relations and cooperations to set up strong ties between members. Education of coaches, referees, trainers, technical delegates are also top priority for the Balka Volleyball Association.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>VOLLEYBALL</th> <th>BEACH VOLLEYBALL</th> <th>SNOW VOLLEYBALL</th> <th>CLUB EVENT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U21M</td> <td>SENIOR MEN & WOMEN</td> <td>SENIOR MEN & WOMEN</td> <td>BVA CUP MEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U21W</td> <td>U22 MEN & WOMEN</td> <td></td> <td>BVA CUP WOMEN</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U19M</td> <td>U18 MEN & WOMEN</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U19W</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U17M</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>U17W</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	VOLLEYBALL	BEACH VOLLEYBALL	SNOW VOLLEYBALL	CLUB EVENT	U21M	SENIOR MEN & WOMEN	SENIOR MEN & WOMEN	BVA CUP MEN	U21W	U22 MEN & WOMEN		BVA CUP WOMEN	U19M	U18 MEN & WOMEN			U19W				U17M				U17W			
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[NEVZA](#) (North European Volleyball Zonal Association), one of six zones within the [CEV](#) (Confédération Européenne de Volleyball) and [FIVB](#) (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball). NEVZA gathers the national federations of [Denmark](#), [England](#), [Faroe Islands](#), [Finland](#), [Greenland](#), [Iceland](#), [Norway](#) and [Sweden](#).



With the Zonal Presidents' initiative, the President is encouraged to promote the National Federation's to be part of the FIVB Empowerment and Development programme. In the last application window, only three of our eight NF's applied. Don't hesitate to contact me to discuss your opportunities to take part of the programme and develop your important work.

Another important presentation was the updated Olympic cycle, decided at the FIVB Board of Administration meeting in the Dominican Republic. 32 teams have the opportunity to compete for the World Champion's title every second, odd year. The Confederation Championships will still be every second year, but now even year's, including the Olympic.

The top-left slide shows the 'WCH QUALIFICATION PROCESS - 32 TEAMS'. It details a pool phase with 8 pools (A-H) of 4 teams each, followed by a direct elimination phase through four quarters (QF 1-4) leading to a final and bronze medal match. Statistics include: 32 teams, 88 matches in the pool phase, 15 teams in the elimination phase, 8 teams in the quarterfinals, 4 teams in the semifinals, and 4 teams in the final/bronze match. Total matches: 64. Total days of competition: 17. Maximum matches per team: 7.

The top-right slide is a table for 'WCH QUALIFICATION PROCESS - 32 TEAMS':

Qualification places	Pathway
1	Host*
1	Current World Champion
15	3 top teams from each Continental Championships
15	FIVB World Ranking*

The bottom-left slide shows a timeline from 2025 to 2028, highlighting the Volleyball Nations League (VNL) and Continental Championships (CEV, AVC, AVC, AVC) leading to the Volleyball World Championship (with 32 teams) and the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

The bottom-right slide is a table for 'QUALIFICATION FOR LA 2028 - 12 TEAMS':

Quota	Timeline	Pathway
1	Host Country	USA
5	Continental Championships 2026	Champion of each Continental Championship
3	World Championship 2027	3 top teams not yet qualified
3	FIVB World Ranking	3 top teams not yet qualified

No one following this year's CEV events can have missed the 50 years anniversary. Special attention will of course be presented at the CEV General Assembly in Brussel in September.



The European Volleyball Confederation was officially established on September 9th 1973, in The Hague. A number of events will be special highlights of the celebration year.



International Events

NEVZA cities and countries in EuroVolley pool play

2023 EuroBeachVolley is now a historical event, while we are in the midst of the Women's EuroVolley pool play. If not in place, follow the matches on eurovolley.tv.

Women

16/08-24/08 Finland in Tallinn, EST; Sweden in Düsseldorf, GER; Phase 2 in Brussels, BEL and Firenze, ITA.

The tournament runs from August 15th -September 3rd

Men

28/08 - 06/09 Denmark in Skopje, MKD; Finland in Varna, BUL; Phase 2 in Bari, ITA and Varna, BUL.

The tournament runs from August 28th -September 16th

Volleyball

Youth

The Northern European Zonal Under-Age Volleyball Regulations are updated and the solution to use the U17 and U19 tournaments will also be qualifiers for the 2024 EuroVolley U18/U20. U17 will continue to be hosted by DVBF in Ikašt 2023-2025. This year, the tournament is played on October 16th-18th. Rovaniemi will host the U19 championship in 2023, on October 27th-29th. The coming years, U19 will be moved to Faroe Islands (2024-2025).

Senior

A final proposal for 2024 NCC, the Northern European Club Volleyball Championships, was accepted at the Technical Meeting this spring. Yet, not enough countries' champions were ready to sign up. There will be an attempt to extend the registration for establishing the competition, if this is agreed on the General Assembly.

Beach Volleyball

Youth

The member federations have shown a great interest in underage championships in beach volleyball. For a long time, it looked as if we had a solution for U18 and U20 in England. But the organizers had to make a late withdrawal because of an under-budgeted event. After the late withdrawal from this year, we will put extra energy on supporting the organizer in 2024.

Senior

The NEVZA Senior tournament in Oddanesand, NOR, was a success, with perfect summer weather and full classes. Sweden claimed gold in both Men's and Women's tournament, see the news posts' on www.nevza.org.

Now we look forward to upcoming indoor NEVZA competition in Gothenburg, but also the expected test event for Club Championships in Sweden in November/December. A result of this test event will hopefully be the start of club competitions in 2024, both national and zonal.



Snow Volleyball

In 2024, EuroSnowVolley Championships will return, after years of struggle with pandemic, bad winters and the tragic earthquakes in Türkiye. The ambition of the CEV is also to arrange an Underage championship coming year. We see a great interest from the winter resorts, and there are numerous possibilities to grow the sport. For example, by letting young volleyball/beach volleyball players be coaches as part of the children hospitality program. We encourage especially the Swedish, Finnish and Norwegian Federations to start preparing for the next season, we have the possibility to be the second zonal organizer after BVA's successful event last year.

Development Programs, Technical Meeting and General Assembly

Technical Meeting

This year's Technical Meeting was held on May 22nd-23rd in Malmö, SWE. It was a productive meeting, discussing all common NEVZA topics, 1-3 year tournament schedules, regulation updates, and the economic situation. There was also an open discussion regarding the organization and the roles within NEVZA. At the General Assembly, the President and General Secretary for the coming two years will be elected. General Secretary Jussi Jokinen has announced that 2022-23 is his concluding term.



Picture: Participants from left Tapio Kangasniemi, FIN, Sebastian Mikelsons, DEN, Simon Dahl, Jakob Birgersson, and Angelica Ljungqvist, SWE, Boban Ilic and Peter Holm, FER, Rósborg Halldórsdóttir, ISL, Lennart Neovius, NEVZA. Jonathan Moore and Guin Batten, ENG, participated by Teams and David Cox, NOR was excused second day. Photo Jussi Jokinen

General Assembly

The NEVZA General Assembly and the CEV General Assembly will be back-to-back in Brussels on September 2nd. It will be a fantastic weekend, with many interesting questions to discuss on both zonal and confederation level. It is the weekend when the Women's EuroVolley Championship finals are played, with the Men's EuroVolley pool played running in parallel. The documents for the NEVZA meeting have been circulated, with an updated budget and proposals for elections of President and General Secretary.



Development

The streaming project initiated at last year's U17 Volleyball Championships in Denmark will be continued. The ambition this year is to increase the coverage of the side courts of both U17 and U19 this autumn. This will be achieved using advanced equipment and more operators.

Information sharing and the webpage are under developing. The NEVZA homepage is updated with relevant information and the calendar continuously updated. Another important work is this newsletter.

The General Assembly and meetings in Brussels in the beginning of September will be perfect for discussing the organization and implementation of the projects for "Young Leadership" and "Common Highest Level (3/4) Coach Education Program".

News from the member countries



Jonathan Moore, Volleyball England's Major Events Manager, has been recognised for his services to World ParaVolley. Jon, who has helped to organise World ParaVolley events across the globe, was a Technical Delegate for Sitting Volleyball at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics and was part of the team behind the delivery of Sitting Volleyball at the London 2012 Paralympics.

In honour of his services to the sport, Jon was awarded a Distinguished Service Award at the 2023 World ParaVolley Awards for his work as an International Technical Official, and in event management and administration.

– *"It's an honour to be awarded the World ParaVolley Distinguished Service Award, Jonathan comments. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to help deliver Sitting Volleyball events across the world, with my involvement at the Tokyo Paralympic Games a personal highlight."*

Read the full article at [Volleyball England's homepage](#).



Calendar

This Newsletter calendar is an initiative to increase the awareness of NEVZA as an important complement to CEV and NF activities.

Aug 15–Sep 3	EuroVolley Women, BEL, ITA, GER, EST
Aug 28–Sep 16	EuroVolley Men, ITA, BUL, MKD, ISR
Sep 2	CEV General Assembly Brussels, BEL
Sep 2	NEVZA General Assembly Brussels, BEL
Sep 9-10	England Beach Volleyball Championships TBC
Oct 16-18	NEVZA U17 Ikast, DEN
Oct 27-29	NEVZA U19 Rovaniemi, FIN
Nov 3-5	NEVZA Beach Gothenburg, SWE 16 teams, no qualification
Jan 5-7	NEVZA Men's Club Champions Cup NCC, Tampere, FIN, TBC
Feb 9-11	NEVZA Women's Club Champions Cup NCC, Tampere, FIN, TBC

Comments: TBC Preliminary date and/or site, to be confirmed; TBD unspecified date and/or site, to be decided

It's our ambition to provide you with accurate information. Please inform us if you spot any error or if you can complete the current information.