

COPY

FOR INFO.

21 Pilcher Street,
BENDIGO. 3550

20/8/80

Ms J. Percival,
Secretary,
Mildura Volleyball Association,
P.O. Box 422,
MILDURA. 3500

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your letter received on 5th August enquiring about affiliation with the V.A.V.A. I have been well aware of your existence since an ex-Bendigo volleyballer, Greg Hilson, shifted to your area. In fact a team from Mildura had a social weekend with my club, Kanyana, last year I think it was. Greg of course is back in Bendigo now, so I was pleased to hear that you are still functioning and considering extending your horizons by looking at affiliation.

Allow me to outline the structure of Volleyball from the top down, so you have a fuller understanding of what affiliation is all about.

Volleyball in Australia is governed by the Australian Volleyball Federation, Incorporated, AVF for short, and is made up of elected office bearers and State reps. The AVF controls volleyball and liases with all overseas bodies and is affiliated with the International organization, the F.I.V.B. The World of volleyball is divided up into zones, one of which is the Asian zone, of which we are part. Our zone includes Japan, Korea, China, New Zealand, Indonesia, Phillipines, etc. These are the countries we compete against to qualify for Olympic games and World Championships, etc. There is another type of zone which is recognized and of which we are part, and that is the Oceania region. This area covers all the countries in and around the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Although not an official zone for Olympic purposes, etc, there is an annual Pacific Rim Championship, which includes most Asian zone countries and also includes America, Canada, Guam, etc. The 1980 Pac Rim Championships are being conducted right now in Canada. The Pac Rim Championships are for the U20 age group of players. The Championship for the Open players is called the Oceania Championships, and we hosted those two years ago in Sydney. You may recall in 1975 that Victoria hosted the Asian Volleyball Championships. These were the Olympic pre-selections for the 1976 Olympics. All of these type of Championships are AVF responsibilities, even though they may be delegated to individual States to host.

The AVF is also responsible for the maintenance of all Australian teams in Open, U20, U17 and U15 age brackets. They are also responsible for the passing on of all new rules and interpretations to the States.

A full time National Executive Director is employed by the AVF to handle the development and promotion of the sport in Australia. This appointment is in its first year, and already we are seeing the benefits of the position. It is funded by Federal Govt. grants and individual player registration fees. The N.E.D. has proposed a major re-structure for Volleyball, and this will probably be adopted at a meeting in Adelaide in a couple of weeks. I have enclosed a copy of his proposal for your info.

We then come down to the States. Each State has its own controlling body, and here in Victoria it is the V.A.V.A. We employ a full time State Director of Coaching, whose job it is to coach players, coaches and referees at all levels. He has been with us for nearly three years now, and has improved the level of Volleyball throughout the State dramatically. He is funded by Youth, Sport and Recreation grant and player registration fees. Associations have free access to him, and most Associations use him for one to two weeks each year for coaching Association players, Coaches and Referees. Usually, he is organized to enter the school system during the day to coach students and teachers, with the result that interest is generated in the schools providing new teams for the local competition, with a skill level well above what they could have had, if he had not visited the area. This results in increased numbers at a higher level. The S.D.C. has his own equipment and promotional material, so a school really gets a good deal when it accepts him, as it doesn't cost them a cent. We also hire out the S.D.C. to un-affiliated groups at \$10 per hour, to try and recoup some of his costs.

The V.A.V.A. is also responsible for providing coaches courses through the V.A.V.A. Coaches Commission, and is providing referee training and grading through the newly formed V.A.V.A. Referees Commission. We are responsible for the maintenance of State representative teams in Open, U20, U17 and U15 Men and Women. Our other major responsibility is the promotion of the sport, and to this end we have posters, stickers, banners and badges and booklets which are available either for sale or for free. We organize large scale promotions such as World Sports Expo stands, International visits of teams, etc.

Beneath the V.A.V.A. in Victoria are two Councils - the Victorian Country Volleyball Council and the Greater Melbourne Volleyball Council - V.C.V.C. & G.M.V.C. The G.M.V.C. is very new and is having some teething problems, but the V.C.V.C. has been functioning for several years and seems to be going from strength to strength. The VCVC is made up of two members from each affiliated Country Association, and allocates the dates for all country tournaments, is responsible for running a country championship in Open, U20 and U17 divisions, participating in Interstate challenge matches and general co-ordination between country Associations. The Council meets two to three times per year, one of which is an A.G.M. held in conjunction with the Open Country Championship. This year, we ran a first and second division Open Champ., and it appears that this will continue in the future to give better competition for the newer Associations.

The VCVC is the body responsible for the collection of registration details and fees, which is then passed on to the V.A.V.A. and part to the A.V.F.

You can see then, that a progression path exists for players who have the ability and desire to improve their volleyball, from their own local club, to combined Association teams competing in Country Championships, to combined Country teams in Interstate matches, to combined State teams in National Championships to combined National teams in International Championships. You may feel that there is little likelihood of that for Mildura players. I don't believe that your players would be any less talented than any others, but you do have a distance problem. Many years ago,

I would not have guessed that Bendigo would have Australian representatives, but we have had them, and we still have them. None of them could afford the costs either, but when a player reaches this level, somehow the public and industry seems to come good with sponsorship, and I see this as your main aim to overcome the distance and the resultant costs. Your distance makes no difference in distributing copies of minutes, promotional material and alterations to rules and the like, so if you can overcome the high travel costs, then you are in business.

One area of promotion, or fund raising, that the V.A.V.A. have introduced is a general Insurance scheme called Volleypak. You may have heard of Tennispak, well it is very similar, except that we had ours first, and they got publicity for theirs. It covers all general household type insurances, at better than competitive rates, and both the local Association and the V.A.V.A. receive a substantial commission on each policy and each renewal. Therefore, it is possible to generate large sums of money and to keep that money coming in each and every year. The scheme does not involve going out and selling insurance - all that is required is to distribute the brochures to your players and friends, and urge them to support it. I have enclosed a copy of the brochure for your information.

The next important thing is what does affiliation cost? To join the VCVC costs \$25.00 per year plus the registration of every player, the fees from which go to VAVA and the AVF. Registration fees are currently Open - \$3 p.a., U20 - \$2.00 p.a., U17 - \$1.00 p.a. and U15 - \$0.50 p.a. All age groups are as at 1st Jan. These fees are current, and there is a likelihood of them rising in 1981. I don't know by how much yet, but our aim is to generate enough income to support a full time Executive Officer for Victoria. His duties will be to co-ordinate the enormous development of the sport in this State, and directly assist affiliated bodies in their administration if they have problem areas.

Very broadly then, this covers the structure of Volleyball. If you would like to further discuss the matter, please feel free to ring or write. My phone no. is 434923 (H) and 431877 (W). If you wish to affiliate, all you need do is write a letter to the VCVC, P.O. Box 815, Morwell. 3840, setting out your request and the broad details of your competition (No. of teams, grades, venue used, playing nights, etc). The VCVC will then formally accept you at its next meeting (Constitutional procedure only), and you will be forwarded the necessary forms for registration of your players. All country players are registered on computer, so this data will be processed, your lists produced and an account sent for registration fees. Once affiliated, fees are payable in two sums. Half of the previous years fees in May/June, and the balance of the current years fees in Oct/Nov, when your registrations have been updated. I also act as the VCVC Records Secretary, so you would be hearing from me in another capacity.

There are 10 country Associations plus two new ones in the last month. This gives us Associations in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Goulburn Valley, Seymour, Hamilton, Seam Hill, Leongatha and Maffra-Sale. I am sure Mildura would gain from affiliation, and the VAVA and VCVC would welcome your application. Once again, if there is any further information you would like, please don't hesitate to ask. My apologies for the length of the letter and the typing errors - I'm not a qualified typist - yet anyway.

Yours in Volleyball,

Murray Mansfield - Secretary