

EMPOWERING THE GLOBAL VOLLEYBALL MOVEMENT

EDITION 3 / MAY - AUGUST 2025

A news report outlining the work of the FIVB in growing the sport of volleyball and empowering its community worldwide.

Welcome to the third edition of Empowering the Global Volleyball Movement. If you missed the previous volumes, you can find them [here](#).

As FIVB President Fabio Azevedo approaches his first anniversary in office, the FIVB celebrates an extraordinary year of growth. The Global Volleyball Movement has witnessed significant milestones – from strategic leadership appointments and major host city announcements to groundbreaking and innovative partnerships that propel the sport forward.

The successful implementation of the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032 is evident across every area of the Movement. Following record-breaking VNL, Beach Pro Tour and youth World Championship seasons, and with three World Championships on the horizon, volleyball's momentum has never been stronger.

The Global Volleyball Movement advances – Together as One.

VOLLEYBALL EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT



Over 100 projects approved in 2025 Volleyball Empowerment Support Window I

The FIVB's commitment to empowering national teams and National Federations (NFs) to reach their full potential is continuing at full speed, with 106 projects already approved as part of the 2025 Volleyball Empowerment Application-Based Support Window I. In the next wave of applications for 2025, 106 projects have been approved across 48 NFs with a total investment value of over USD 1.9 million.

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Empowered programmes primed for VNL 2025

Fourteen teams supported by FIVB Volleyball Empowerment will compete in the 2025 Volleyball Nations League. [The Empowered 14](#) include debutants, teams in the middle of a rebuild and others returning with higher expectations — all shaped by a process that has prepared them for this stage.

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FIRST EVER WORLD VOLLEYBALL DAY



A historic first: millions celebrate inaugural World Volleyball Day

The 7 July 2025 marked a moment that will go down in volleyball history. For the first time ever, people all over the world came together to celebrate World Volleyball Day, and the response was nothing short of extraordinary. The date commemorates 130 years since William G. Morgan first introduced the sport to the public in 1895. Powered by fans, athletes, clubs, federations and volleyball enthusiasts from every corner of the globe, this inaugural day was a true celebration of the sport.

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FIVB friends empower their communities on World Volleyball Day

The incredible success of the inaugural World Volleyball Day was made even more impactful through the actions and contributions of FIVB's friends and stakeholders around the world. Currently comprised of 222 National Federations (NFs), five Continental Confederations and 22 Zonal Associations, the Global Volleyball Movement reaches every corner of the globe, and many got involved in World Volleyball Day.

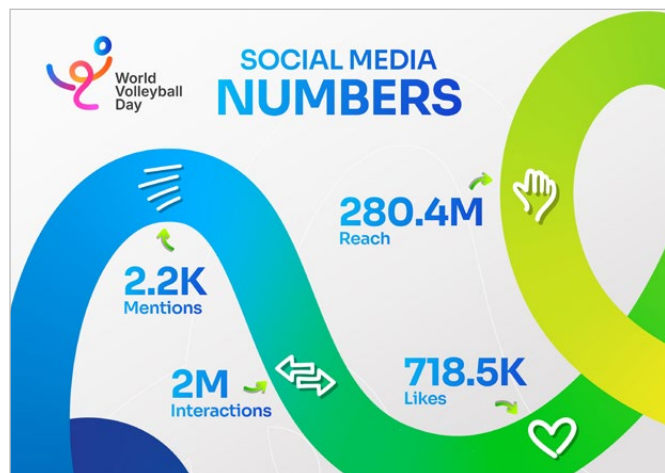
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France men's volleyball team honoured by President Macron on World Volleyball Day

France's men's volleyball team were honoured at the Elysee Palace in July, as President Emmanuel Macron awarded national honours to players and team officials nearly one year after the team won a second consecutive Olympic gold medal at Paris 2024.

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World Volleyball Day 2025: A global celebration like no other!

To everyone who made this day possible, whether you organised an event, posted online, played a match, coached a team, volunteered your time or simply supported from the sidelines, thank you. You made history. And this is only the beginning!

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VOLLEYBALL GROWTH WAS THE FOCUS OF MEETINGS IN PALAU



FIVB leadership meets President of the Republic of Palau to discuss future event hosting and volleyball legacy development

On day two of the FIVB delegation's visit to the Pacific Mini Games, the FIVB team met with the President of the Republic of Palau, Surangel Whipps Jr., to discuss future hosting opportunities and the development of volleyball in the country.

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FIVB leadership advances volleyball development in Palau during Pacific Mini Games

During a visit to Palau for the Pacific Mini Games, the FIVB team, led by FIVB President Fabio Azevedo, engaged in a series of high-level meetings and activities focused on strengthening the development of volleyball and beach volleyball in the Pacific region.

In a meeting with the Palau Volleyball Federation (PVF) leadership, led by its President and FIVB Board of Administration member Hila Asanuma, discussions focused on the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment programme.

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World Volleyball Day celebrated at Palau Mini Games during FIVB visit

The celebration featured a vibrant beach volleyball showcase, bringing together the local volleyball community and athletes participating in the Pacific Mini Games. The event fostered a festive and inclusive atmosphere, with players, fans and youth all uniting around the shared joy of the sport. The day's celebrations were also featured on ANOC TV, the media platform of the Association of National Olympic Committees. In an interview, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo reflected on the joy of witnessing children enjoying beach volleyball against the backdrop of Palau's stunning natural beauty.

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FIVB Commits to Nature-Positive Sport by Signing the Sports for Nature Framework in Palau

Guided by the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032, the FIVB has taken a decisive step in its sustainability journey by officially signing the Sports for Nature Framework, becoming part of a growing global movement to protect and restore biodiversity through sport.

The signing took place in Palau, a country internationally recognised for its pioneering leadership in marine and environmental conservation. The ceremony was held in the presence of Baklai Temengil, President of the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC) and Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), whose longstanding commitment to both sport and nature made her presence especially meaningful.

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ONE YEAR ON FROM PARIS 2024 CELEBRATIONS



Olympic beach volleyball champions relive Paris 2024 magic with visit to Eiffel Tower

One year on from the unforgettable Paris 2024 Olympic Games, beach volleyball stars Ana Patricia Silva Ramos and Eduarda Santos Lisboa (Duda), along with French Olympian Arnaud Gauthier-Rat and his new partner Téo Rotar, returned to the site of the iconic Eiffel Tower Stadium on the Champs-de-Mars. From 25 to 27 July 2025, the FIVB, in partnership with the City of Paris and the French Volleyball Federation (FFvolley), hosted a three-day activation at Paris City Hall, highlighting the city's continued dedication to its Olympic legacy.

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Paris celebrates Olympic beach volleyball legacy with City Hall festival

Present during the festivities were dignitaries including International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Kirsty Coventry, Honorary Life President of the IOC Thomas Bach, IOC Member/former President of Paris 2024 Tony Estanguet, Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo and the French Minister Delegate in charge of Sports/former Director of Impact and Legacy for Paris 2024 Marie Barsacq.

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PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION ARE CLEAR ON FIVB'S VISIT TO CHINA

FIVB leadership meet top Chinese sports officials to drive volleyball growth

In a high-level meeting held in Beijing, China, Gao Zhidan, Minister of the General Administration of Sport and President of the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC), welcomed the FIVB delegation to discuss the future of volleyball in the country. The discussions focused on several key areas aimed at strengthening the sport across the country. These included the continued development of China's national volleyball teams and the integration of volleyball into school curricula to foster youth participation.

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Air Volleyball: The fun, inclusive game inspiring the next generation

Hugely popular in China, air volleyball is winning fans of all ages as an exciting, accessible way to play the sport and inspire more children to play volleyball. With its lighter, softer and slightly larger ball, the game encourages longer rallies, more touches and more fun for everyone. A lower net and smaller court make it easy to set up and enjoy in almost any setting — from community spaces to bustling shopping malls.

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FIVB and Xinhua sign landmark MoU to promote volleyball in China and around the world

The FIVB signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Xinhua, China's official state news agency, aimed at further boosting the visibility and promotion of volleyball across the country and globally.

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FIVB leadership visits Beijing Sport University to strengthen volleyball collaboration

The FIVB leadership today visited Beijing Sport University (BSU), one of China's top institutions dedicated to sports science, physical education and management. Welcomed by Fan Zhanbei, Secretary of the Party Committee at BSU, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo and the team engaged in productive discussions aimed at deepening collaboration and building new partnerships in support of global volleyball development. The meeting emphasised BSU's unique role in supporting both elite performance and grassroots participation, aligning perfectly with the FIVB's Strategic Vision 2032.

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STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING THE GLOBAL VOLLEYBALL MOVEMENT THROUGH COLLABORATIONS



FIVB hosts first Zonal Association Presidents Seminar driven by FIVB Strategic Vision 2032

The FIVB proudly hosted the 2025 Zonal Association Presidents' Seminar online, bringing together leaders from across the Global Volleyball Movement, including the Presidents of FIVB's Zonal Associations. FIVB's Continental Confederation Presidents were also invited to attend as observers alongside the members of the FIVB Volleyball Empowerment and Development Commissions.

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Join the Global Celebration of the Art of Giving: A Fortnight of Kindness and Connection

In May, the FIVB invited the Global Volleyball Movement to join the world in celebrating the [12th International Day of Art of Giving](#). From 2 to 17 May 2025, everyone had the chance to join the Fortnight of Happiness by spreading the word and promoting acts of kindness within their communities.

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FIVB and FFVolley unite in Antibes to shape future of French volleyball

The French Volleyball Federation (FFVolley) hosted its General Assembly in June, in Nice, led by FFVolley President Eric Tanguy. Joining the meeting was the FIVB delegation, led by the FIVB President Fabio Azevedo as well as the CEV President and FIVB 2nd Vice-President Roko Sikirić. This was part of an ongoing collaboration with national and continental leaders to advance the sport's development in France and internationally while encouraging discussions within the Global Volleyball Movement.

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Louise Bawden joins athlete leaders at International Athletes' Forum

FIVB Athletes' Commission President Louise Bawden joined more than 400 athlete representatives from around the world at the International Athletes' Forum 2025 in Lausanne, where sessions covered athlete representation, anti-doping, mental health and wellbeing, prevention of competition manipulation, social media, and Athletes' Commission administration. Organised by the IOC Athletes' Commission, the Forum opened with reflections on Olympic Agenda reforms and the IOC AC Strategy.

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FIVB welcomes The Netherlands' Orange Sports Forum to Volleyball House

In June, the FIVB welcomed representatives from the Netherlands' Orange Sports Forum (OSF) to Volleyball House for a strategic meeting focused on volleyball's global development. During the meeting, the FIVB presented its Strategic Vision 2032, an ambitious yet realistic roadmap designed to take volleyball to the next level globally. Presentations also covered the FIVB's latest innovations and strategic approaches in the areas of event delivery, sustainability and game technology.

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FIVB meet with French Guyana National Federation at Volleyball House

The FIVB welcomed Marc Olivier Anatole, the President of the French Guyana National Federation (NF), a Regional Member of the FIVB, to the Volleyball House in Lausanne, Switzerland, where discussions focused on the Volleyball Empowerment programme and future collaboration opportunities.

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Key meetings held as Philippines prepares to host historic World Championship

As part of the ongoing preparations for the Philippines' historic hosting of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship 2025, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo held a series of high-level meetings with government officials, sports authorities and key stakeholders. These meetings form part of the FIVB's commitment to working closely with its local partners to ensure the first-ever Volleyball Men's World Championship in the Philippines is a world-class event with a lasting legacy.

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IOC/OLYMPIC MOVEMENT COLLABORATIONS



FIVB hosts delegation from Orlando to explore strategic collaboration ahead of LA28

The FIVB welcomed a senior delegation from Orlando, Florida, to the Volleyball House in Lausanne yesterday for high-level discussions centred on strategic collaboration and the advancement of volleyball initiatives in the region. During the visit, discussions were held on the potential hosting and activation opportunities in Orlando in the lead-up to the Olympic Games LA28.

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FIVB meets with Turkish Olympic Committee leadership, volleyball development headlines discussions

The FIVB met with the leadership of the Turkish Olympic Committee (TOC) at its headquarters in Istanbul, following the country's successful hosting of the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) Champions League Volley 2025 Final Four Women on 3-4 May. The meeting focused on further strengthening volleyball development in Türkiye and celebrating the nation's continued success in the global game.

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IOC President Thomas Bach joins volleyball action during Brisbane 2032 visit

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach joined students for a volleyball session at Brisbane State High School. The President was taking part in grassroots sport during his visit to Queensland, in the lead-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games Brisbane 2032. Australian Olympian Natalya Diehm also took part in the activity, which showcased the strong connection between sport and youth engagement in Australia.

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FIVB, Olympic Solidarity and St Kitts & Nevis conclude successful ECVA U21 Beach Volleyball Championship

From 6-8 June, St. Kitts & Nevis proudly welcomed the Eastern Caribbean's brightest young beach volleyball talents for the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) U21 Beach Volleyball Championship. Organised in close partnership with the FIVB and Olympic Solidarity, the championship brought together 24 teams representing 10 countries, all vying for top spot.

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FIVB reaffirms commitment to building a better world through volleyball during Olympism365 Summit

At the inaugural Olympism365 Summit in Lausanne from 4 to 5 June, the FIVB stood at the heart of a transformative conversation on sport's potential to drive sustainable development. Featured in the final plenary session, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo joined Olympic legend and changemaker Abhinav Bindra OLY on stage to speak candidly about how volleyball, and sport at large, can make a real difference through collective action.

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FIVB welcome delegation from India to Volleyball House

In July, the FIVB welcomed a high-level delegation from the Government of India and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to the Volleyball House in Lausanne, Switzerland, for productive discussions on the exciting future of volleyball in India. The delegation was also updated on the FIVB's Volleyball Empowerment programme, which supports National Federations to reach their full potential. Since 2017, India has received a total investment of USD 420,000 through four coach support projects for its men's national volleyball team.

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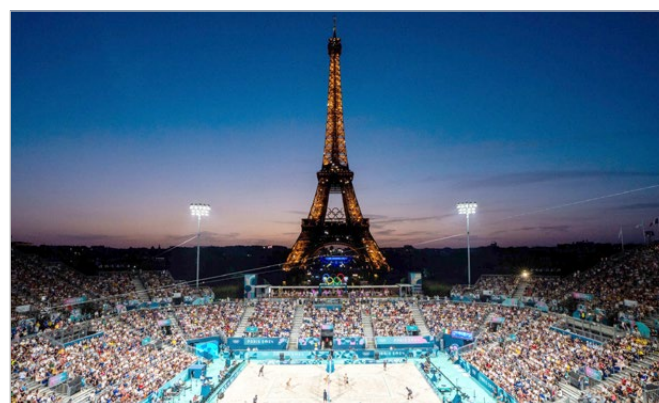


FIVB and Qatar Foundation explore new opportunities for collaboration

Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson of Qatar Foundation and a member of the FIVB Volleyball Foundation Board, visited Volleyball House.

During the visit, FIVB President Fabio Azevedo presented the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032 and shared the organisation's plans for the future of volleyball over the next eight years. The Volleyball Foundation was one of the key topics discussed at Volleyball House during the meeting with Her Excellency Sheikha Hind, who plays an active role on its Board. There were also discussions around future collaboration between the FIVB, Volleyball Foundation and Qatar Foundation, especially in areas such as sport promotion, coach education and women's empowerment.

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FIVB and Global Volleyball Movement celebrate Olympic Day

The Global Volleyball Movement joined millions around the world in celebrating sport and everything the Olympic spirit stands for. The theme for Olympic Day this year is "Let's Move?" — a simple call to action: get active, bring someone with you and make movement part of your day. Whether it's on a court, on the sand or in the park, movement is what connects us — and few sports capture that better than volleyball.

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Volleyball and beach volleyball competition schedule confirmed for Olympic Games LA28

With just three years to go until the Olympic Games LA28, the LA28 Organising Committee has officially confirmed the competition schedule and format for volleyball and beach volleyball. Both sports are set to shine once again as part of the Games programme which will take place from 14–30 July 2028.

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FIVB COMMISSION MEETING

FIVB Finance Commission meets to advance Strategic Vision 2032

The FIVB Finance Commission convened via videoconference in June, with members joining both in person and online to address key financial matters and strategic initiatives for the future of volleyball.

FIVB President Fabio Azevedo officially opened the meeting, underlining the Commission's vital role in advancing the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032: FIVB Good Governance — State of the Art principle. He highlighted that integrity, transparency and good governance remain the pillars guiding the Federation's operations, particularly in its financial management.

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FIVB STRATEGIC VISION 2032



FIVB BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING



FIVB Board of Administration continues to chart bold path for sport's future during online meeting

The FIVB Board of Administration met online to continue strengthening the future of volleyball and beach volleyball, with key decisions, strategic updates and exciting developments for the sport explored. FIVB President Fabio Azevedo presented the FIVB's Investment Strategy, underscoring a powerful commitment to giving back to the sport. Between 2021 and 2024, the FIVB redistributed 74% of its revenue — over USD 100 million — into volleyball, through prize money, Volleyball Empowerment support and transfer reimbursements.

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THRIVING FIVB ECOSYSTEM

FIVB launches landmark athlete career transition seminar: “Beyond the Court”

In a landmark moment for the Global Volleyball Movement, the FIVB Athletes’ Commission with support from the FIVB launched its first-ever athlete post-career seminar — “[Beyond the Court](#)”. This pioneering programme is designed to guide volleyball and beach volleyball athletes as they transition from elite competition into post-professional-athlete careers.

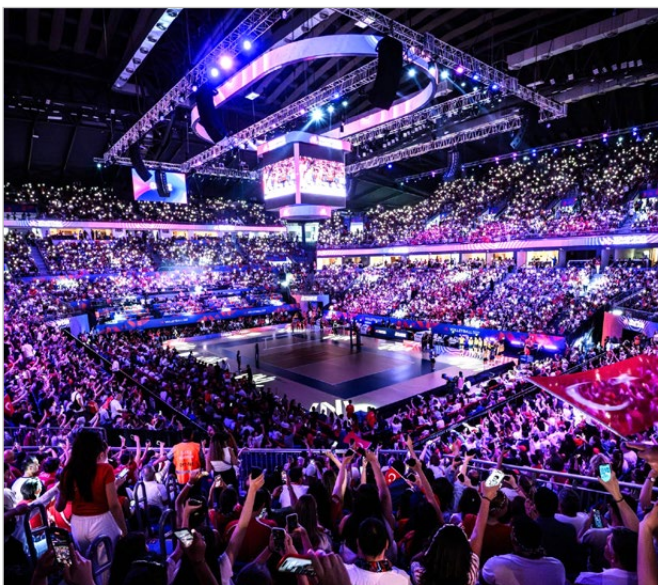
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FIVB updates two key rules for World Ranking system

The FIVB has updated two key components of its World Ranking system following consultation with the World Ranking Working Group and the Volleyball Council. The changes aim to enhance fairness, improve system flexibility and align with the organisation’s development objectives. The first update revises the Overlapping Events Rule. The second update introduces a broader definition of National Federation (NF) activity.

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Men’s World Championship featured in Times Square

The 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship was featured on a digital billboard in Times Square, giving the event a high-profile moment in one of New York’s most recognisable and busiest landmarks.

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It’s confirmed! The Netherlands is set to host FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships 2027

The FIVB and Volleyball World have officially confirmed the Netherlands as the host nation for the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships 2027.

The decision follows a highly competitive bidding process, with three shortlisted countries submitting strong proposals. While all bids were recognised for their quality and potential to contribute to the sport’s global growth, the Netherlands presented the most ambitious and wide-reaching concept built around four cities.

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FIVB VOLLEYBALL FOUNDATION UPDATES

FIVB Volleyball Foundation marks one-year anniversary with global impact and expanded commitments

Over the past year, the Foundation has worked in close collaboration with stakeholders across the Global Volleyball Movement to support impactful community-based projects and initiatives focused on inclusion, education, youth development and gender equity.

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FIVB Volleyball Foundation Board approves four transformative volleyball projects

The FIVB Volleyball Foundation Board of Administration reaffirmed its strong commitment to using the global reach and power of volleyball to provide meaningful support to communities worldwide.

The meeting, held in hybrid format at Volleyball House in Lausanne, Switzerland, saw the Board approve new projects for 2025. Each aim to ensure the Foundation has a wider outreach across the Global Volleyball Movement.

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FIVB Volleyball Foundation organises historic FIVB Level 1 course for BVL

For the first time ever, Brahmaputra Volleyball League ([BVL](#)) held an FIVB Level 1 coaches course for members of its community. The course, which was held from 4 to 8 May at Guwahati in Assam state in India, was delivered in partnership with the FIVB Volleyball Foundation.

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VOLLEYBALL WORLD UPDATES

Michael Payne appointed Chair of Volleyball World; Fernando Lima to retain position on Board

Volleyball World announced the appointment of internationally renowned sports marketing expert Michael Payne as its new independent Chair.

Michael Payne brings over four decades of experience in the global sports industry. As the International Olympic Committee's first-ever Marketing and Global Broadcast Rights Director, he pioneered the groundbreaking Olympic Partner (TOP) global sponsorship programme and played a central role in the Olympic Movement's commercial transformation.

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Volleyball World announces the appointment of Ugo Valensi as Chief Executive Officer

Valensi joins from Grand Slam Tennis, where, as Chief Executive Officer, he managed the partnership between the Grand Slams, overseeing strategic collaboration across the sport's most iconic tournaments — the Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, and the US Open.

His arrival comes at a pivotal moment as Volleyball World builds on the momentum provided by the sport's exposure at last year's Summer Olympics in Paris. 800 million people worldwide now engage with volleyball in some form, and last year Volleyball World content had a combined 1.8 billion views across television and digital platforms, underscoring the sport's growing global appeal.

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MAJOR EVENTS

Women's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) 2025

Italy continue at the top with third VNL title after win over Brazil, Poland secure Bronze

FIVB World Ranking leaders Italy continue to dominate the international women's volleyball scene and secured their third-straight major title, taking gold against Brazil in the Volleyball Nations League 2025 in Łódź, Poland. Bronze went to hosts Poland for a third-straight time.

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Men's Volleyball Nations League (VNL) 2025

Poland triumph in VNL after emphatic blowout of Italy, Brazil claim bronze

Poland triumphed as the men's Volleyball Nations League 2025 champions after an emphatic sweep the final against Italy in Ningbo. It was the second VNL gold for Poland, after 2023, and sixth consecutive podium. With this result, Poland completed a perfect run through the Finals in China, without a set dropped in three matches played. Italy, on the other hand, took silver, their first-ever hardware in the history of the men's VNL. Brazil earned the bronze medal their second podium result in the history of the competition, after they triumphed with the trophy in 2021.

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Girl's U19 Volleyball World Championship —
2–13 July 2025 — Croatia & Serbia

Bulgaria win historic Girls' U19 World title

Bulgaria are the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Champions. The European champions produced a remarkable comeback to beat defending champions, the USA. In the third-place playoff, Poland saw off Türkiye in straight sets to secure the bronze medal and complete the podium.

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Boys' U19 Volleyball World Championship —
24 July – 3 August 2025 — Uzbekistan

France repeat as Boys' U19 world champions

France defended its title with a comeback win over Poland, while Spain battled past Iran in five sets to claim bronze at the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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Women's U21 Volleyball World Championship —
7–17 August 2025 — Indonesia

Italy triumph in Surabaya to reclaim Women's U21 crown

Italy finally broke through against rival Japan, winning the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Women's U21 World Championship in a five-set thriller at JAWA POS Arena. The result gave the Italians their third world crown, while Brazil secured its second straight bronze medal after beating Bulgaria.

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Men's U21 Volleyball World Championship —
21–31 August 2025 — China

Iran defend Men's U21 World Championship title in Jiangmen

Iran overcame an early deficit to defeat Italy and defend their crown at the FIVB Volleyball Men's U21 World Championship at the Jiangmen Sports Center, sealing the squad's third world title, while the USA captured a historic first medal by taking bronze against Czechia.

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LOOKING AHEAD

After what has been a jam-packed and record breaking year for volleyball, more is yet to come for volleyball fans and stakeholders around the world. The Global Volleyball Movement can also immerse themselves in three major World Championships: men's volleyball in the Philippines, women's volleyball in Thailand and, for the first time ever, the Beach Volleyball World Championships in Adelaide, Australia. Stay tuned as the world's best players go head-to-head in what is set to be three spectacular competitions!



Beach Pro Tour — March — November 2025

[Link](#)



Women's World Championship — 22 August - 7 September 2025 — Thailand

[Link](#)



Men's World Championship — 12-28 September 2025 — Philippines

[Link](#)



Beach Volleyball World Championships — 14-23 November 2025 — Australia

[Link](#)



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