

2024 ECVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting date | time 11/17/2024 4:10 PM |

Meeting location Porto, Portugal

Meeting called by Glenn Quinlan
Type of meeting AGM
Facilitator Glenn Quinlan
Note taker Brenda Allen

Attendees:
Arateide Caceres Hernandez-NORCECA Director (Dom Rep)
Pres. Glenn Quinlan-ECVA President (SKN)
Pres. Shayne Felicien -ECVA Secretary General-(LCA)
Pres. Wilbur Harrigan – ECVA Treasurer (ANT)
Elvin Henriquez-Board Member (EUX)
Pres. Jason Liburd (Anguilla)
Lisa LeBlanc (Bermuda)
Pres. Stephen Payne (British Virgin Is.)
Pres. Albert Loblack (Dominica)
Thornia Mitchell (Grenada)
Pres. Denfield Morris (Montserrat)
Pres. Jantzen Patrick (St. Eustatius)
Pres. Leonardo Romeo (Dutch St. Maarten)
Pres. Gary Mathias (St. Vincent & The Grenadines)
VP Phyllis Elliott (St. Kitts-Nevis)
Brenda Allen - ECVA Manager (St. Kitts)

WELCOME REMARKS

The ECVA's Annual General Meeting commenced at 4:10 pm with brief welcoming remarks from ECVA's President Glenn Quinlan. A quorum was confirmed for the meeting to officially commence.

President Quinlan notified everyone that the meeting was being recorded and asked that each attendee identify themselves verbally when their name was called. He also apologised for the absence of NORCECA's President Cristobal who had to attend a board meeting.

President Quinlan outlined the agenda which had been previously circulated and asked that someone move for the agenda to be accepted as circulated. Mr. Shayne Felicien of St. Lucia moved for the agenda to be accepted and Mr. Gary Mathias of St. Vincent & The Grenadines seconded the motion that the agenda be accepted. The agenda was so accepted.

President Quinlan then invited Mr. Hitesh Malhotra to make a presentation on the Volleyball Empowerment Plan along with the Knowledge Transfer Project. He noted that we should all be familiar with the programs but Mr. Malhotra would give us an overview as the repetition is good. He also noted that he was already in discussions with Hitesh regarding our 2025 plans.

Mr. Malhotra started by saying that he would be repeating some of what had been said over the last 3 – 4 days regarding the Volleyball Empowerment Plan. He back tracked a little to explain how the Empowerment Plan started when President Gracia made the decision to support the National Federations directly in 2017. The Volleyball Empowerment Plan was built using an online platform where National Federations could submit their applications, FIVB would go over the proper analysis and once approved, FIVB would move forward with the contracts. He spoke to the fact that there is a regular reporting and monitoring system for the Plan. One would have received reminder emails from Hitesh regarding reports and invoices. This is required to be in compliance with the audits, etc. Mr. Malhotra presented statistics showing that between 2017 – 2021, the FIVB supported some great projects, but it was 1 project per year per National Federation. 7 million dollars was invested in 418 projects between 175 national federations. After Volleyball World was introduced and more capital was invested into FIVB, in 2021 the Volleyball Empowerment was started allowing all national federations to submit multiple projects. A lengthy discussion followed with questions about the coaching support provided by the FIVB. The quality of coaches supplied by FIVB, what expenses were covered by the FIVB and national federation when having a coach under the empowerment plan, what caliber of coaches is the ECVA receiving for \$3,000.00 per month, etc. The question was asked if local coaches can be used or if only certified coaches from the FIVB pool can be used? The short reply was, the FIVB is not encouraging this if the national federation is looking to develop their national team for high performance. The FIVB sends a list of coaches, however if a national federation wants to use a specific coach, the coach's CV can be submitted to the FIVB. It is important to note that a national federation can apply for 12 months of coaching support using the 1 + 1 coaching support application.

Mr. Malhotra then moved on to discuss another type of support by the FIVB under the empowerment plan – Volleyball equipment. He stated that Mikasa, Senoh and Gerflor are FIVB's sponsors who provide value in kind grants. He listed some of the supplies being volleyballs, nets, net system. President Glenn pointed out the Senoh system does not come with the anchors which cost approximately US \$2,000.00 independently. He stated that this information should be told to national federations who are applying for the Senoh system under the empowerment plan.

The third category is the Knowledge transfer program. It encompasses three areas: Coaching, Referee and Sports Management & Administration Development. The FIVB gives CHF 5,000.00 for each successful application. Mr. Malhotra referenced that an FIVB coach can be invited to train and develop local coaches of a national federation using the Knowledge Transfer Program. There is an application window which closes on 31st December, 2024, therefore, Mr. Malhotra encouraged all national federations to apply before the deadline. He referenced the dashboard which was quite visible for everyone to see the number of national federations that the FIVB is giving

support to, the amount of funds being spent. This dashboard represents good governance and transparency he says.

Mr. Malhotra went on to explain about the change in process for accessing the annual support given by FIVB to Zonal Associations. A platform will be open from December 15 to 31st January, giving zonal presidents 45 days to submit their reports for 2024 activities. In February, the zonal association will present an invoice which will be paid by 15 days in March 2025.

World Ranking Points System – Mr. Malhotra explained that from 2025, zonal events will be able to receive world ranking points. Only 1 event (men & women) per year will allowed, the event must be homologated. NORCECA must approve the event, and the event must be registered on VA. The players participating in the event can only receive points if they are winning games and if the games are held between May to October which is the national team season.

Olympic Solidarity – Mr. Malhotra briefly discussed the different types of support that can be received from Olympic solidarity:

1. **Technical Coaches Course**
2. **Olympic Scholarship** – Can be tailor made to suit the national federation. University of Delaware has a 6 months program. There is also a 2 months module in Lausanne.
3. **DNSS Development of National Sports System** – Submit your application to your NOC for a level 1, 2, 3 or beach coaches course. NOC will receive approximately \$10,000.00 to organize the course (TCC). FIVB and IOC will pay the instructor's per diem & travel. Your NOC has a quota of 2 DNSS programs per year.
4. **Team Support Grant** – Application window closes 31st December, 2024. St. Kitts was referenced for the very successful Pilot programs using this grant (Youth Athlete Development Program which was done for the past 2 years). Mr. Malhotra said that they will do their best to get the support for this grant again next year)

Mr. Malhotra encouraged every national federation to establish a great relationship with their National Olympic Committee so that you can have more support from them.

President Quinlan asked Hitesh to quickly explain the process of applying for a knowledge Transfer Program as 4 NF had not fully completed their knowledge transfer contracts from the event the ECVA conducted with the training camp in St. Kitts. Mr. Quinlan alluded to the fact that switching to electronic signing might have impacted the completion of the contracts. Hitesh ended his presentation by quickly explaining the process of applying for a KTP from the submission of an application to the payment for the program. The incompleteness of the 4 KTP applications will affect the ECVA's ability to replicate in 2025 what was done in 2024 said President Quinlan.

Hitesh also briefly mention the opportunity for ECVA teams to access various Centers of Excellence if they are participating in regions such as Brazil, Netherlands, India or China. Teams can train at these centers (for a good price) before competing in International events. **Hitesh exited the meeting at approximately 5:15 pm**

2023 MINUTES (AS CIRCULATED)

President Quinlan then referred to the 2023 ECVA AGM Meeting minutes which had been circulated prior to the start of this AGM. He asked that the minutes be accepted. Shayne Felicien of St. Lucia voted that the minutes be accepted as circulated. Ms Thornia Mitchell Grenada seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as circulated and read.

There were no matters arising out of the minutes.

ECVA AUDIT REPORT

The Audited Accounts had been circulated prior to the ECVA AGM. It was proposed by President Denfield Morris of Montserrat that the audit be accepted as circulated. The proposal was seconded by President Shayne Felicien of St. Lucia. There were no matters arising from the Audit Report.

NORCECA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This report was circulated prior to the AGM. There were no questions arising out of this report and so it was accepted as circulated.

ECVA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President's Report having been circulated prior to the meeting had a few items President Quinlan wanted to discuss:

Challenges of registration of referees on the FIVB site.

When we ask you to nominate a referee for each tournament, we need you to provide the information as required on the R1 form. If the referee is not registered on the FIVB site, there is not enough chance for the ECVA to reference their work, etc. etc. Referees need to be registered.

Move to expand the executive by 1 member – it should be a Regional Member.

President Quinlan asked President Shayne Felicien to elaborate on this move. President Shayne reminded everyone that coming out of the 2023 AGM, there was a mandate by the executive that since following the passage of time, and since the original Constitution was created for the original members, that since we had moved from a smaller unit in the ECVA that we should have thought to expand the executive committee. President Shayne spoke of an email he sent to President Quinlan which was a follow up from the last AGM regarding the expansion of the executive committee. He said that his actual wording was to capture the dependent colonies, and he was asking if the executive would allow him at congress to discuss the matter and now put it into writing for submission to the general body. The ECVA Congress members agreed with President Shayne and now await submission of wording from President Shayne to change the ECVA Constitution to increase the executive by 1 member.

President Quinlan added to the matter of "Regional Members" by saying that it is expected that the FIVB executive will reconsider the issue of making our NORCECA Regional members full FIVB members. It is expected to be tabled within the next 6 months as it is #13 on the new FIVB President's list. We should know within a year what the political will of the new board is regarding full FIVB rights for our regional members. President Quinlan recommended that President Shayne move forward with the proposal to increase the ECVA executive membership. He voiced his concern that the board would be moving from a membership of 5 to 6 which can pose a challenge when it comes to voting. After some discussion with Sabinah Clement, it has been suggested that a clause be placed in the constitution that if a tie break is necessary, that the president has the right to do so. President Quinlan stated that the constitution evolves over time and he thinks at some point, it will change again.

Governance Report

President Quinlan updated everyone on the fact that some national federations had election in the past year namely Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and Grenada. Grenada he said has a little hiccup and he wanted to state for the record that "it was unfortunate that he did not ask him to be to be with us". President Quinlan stated that he intervened because certain items were brought to his attention.

However, the bottom line is, he has simply indicated to the FIVB that elections have transpired. He said “and as everyone is aware, the FIVB is on an improved, increased governance protocol, so they will simply take it from there. And, it’s above board, we will welcome him with open arms. And if not, they will do the remedial work necessary to validate the situation”.

ECVA Championships – Beach & Indoor

Senior Beach:

After some discussions, it was agreed that the ECVA Senior Beach Tournament would be held in St. Lucia approximately 14th of March, 2025.

President Quinlan informed that during that tournament, the ECVA will attempt to conduct a similar event as the one done in St. Kitts, but it will be a Beach Referee’s Course. In order for this to work, we would have to apply for the Knowledge Transfer Program. He explained that each NF has the option of hosting the program in their country. However, it is a challenge to find the requisite numbers to conduct the program individually. What he is proposing is a similar arrangement where each country sends 3 beach referees and they received the same level of exposure. The host would request from their NOC the Olympic Solidarity Beach Referee Course. All the Knowledge Transfer funding would be used to offset the cost of airfares for the referees, accommodation, meals & transportation. Note: the beach tournament is a senior event. If a coach is attending, it is at the expense of the NF sending the coach. In addition, if extra teams are being sent, it is at the expense of their NF also.

Team Size for Indoor Events

A long discussion ensued with no agreeable outcome. It was agreed that a virtual meeting would take place the next week to continue the ECVA AGM.

Any Other Business

President Cristobal entered as the meeting was about to be adjourned. He stated that he was very happy to be a part of the FIVB Congress and he thanked everyone for their hard work. He announced that he had been elected to the FIVB Board of Administration as First Vice President by a 98% favorable vote. He pledged to continue working and delivering for the ECVA as well as other Confederations. He announced tht President Glenn had been voted as President of the Empowerment Commission with President Shayne Felicien being a member of that commission also. Mushtaq Mohammed has been approved as President of the Development Commission.

Temporary Adjournment

Everyone was in high spirits as they left the meeting which temporarily adjourned at 6:05pm due to having to attend FIVB Congress dinner. Virtual meeting expected to resume the next week.

Meeting location Virtual

Meeting called by Glenn Quinlan
Type of meeting AGM (Continued)
Facilitator Glenn Quinlan
Note taker Brenda Allen

Attendees:
Arateide Caceres Hernandez-NORCECA Director (Dom Rep)
Pres. Glenn Quinlan-ECVA President (SKN)
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Pres. Jason Liburd (Anguilla)
Lisa LeBlanc (Bermuda)
Pres. Stephen Payne (British Virgin Is.)
Pres. Albert Loblack (Dominica)
Javin Noel (Grenada)
Pres. Jantzen Patrick (St. Eustatius)
Thierry Stephen (St. Martin)
Pres. Leonardo Romeo (Dutch St. Maarten)
(St. Vincent & The Grenadines)
VP Phyllis Elliott (St. Kitts-Nevis)
Kisheba Sprauve (British Virgin Is.)
Brenda Allen -ECVA Manager (St. Kitts)

This meeting was a continuation of the ECVA AGM which started on 17th November in Porto, Portugal. A quorum was reached at 8:06 pm allowing the meeting to start.

President Quinlan quickly reviewed the information that had been circulated for the AGM, noting what have been presented and approved in the previous meeting in Porto.

Treasurer's Report

An unaudited Treasurer's Report was unavailable at the moment. Treasurer Harrigan indicated that he had not put any numbers together as it was not customary to present unaudited reports at the AGM.

VIS Report

The VIS Report was downloaded and added to the shared notebook for everyone to see. President Quinlan pointed out that the VIS Team encountered some hiccups at the last tournament mainly because they were using Volley Station for the first time. The Technical Team reported on the challenges they encountered and gave recommendations to rectify the challenges in the VIS Report.

Reference Commission

Neither Shayne Felicien nor Sabina Clement were in attendance, therefore President Quinlan sought to explain that coming out of the last ECVA AGM in December 2023, the request was made for the ECVA's Legal Team to visit the idea of adding at least one member to the executive committee. Currently there are 5 members and because we have added members since the start of the ECVA, the body in 2023 felt it was necessary to increase the executive by one. This has been on the table and the legal team is expected to provide full wording soon. There was the question as to the even number of executive members especially in the event of a three – three tie. The legal team has indicated that the president would have a tie breaking vote.

2024 – 2025 Championships

President Quinlan gave an overview of what transpired in 2024 with regards to championships. He referenced the Senior Beach Tournament which was held in February 2024 in St. Lucia noting that a request has been made that the event be pushed back a few weeks in 2025. President Shayne Felicien (not present at that moment) had tacitly agreed that the actual dates would be the first full week in March 2025. Pursuant to discussions, it was established that the date would be around the 13th of March 2025.

The U21 Beach Tournament was up next for discussions with the knowledge that U21 World Championship was being hosted in Georgia in Europe in September 2025. It was confirmed that NORCECA only has four slots. To keep the qualifier pure in terms of numbers, President Cristobal has stated that it will be 16 teams at the NorthEast qualifiers, therefore it will be the top three from ECVA who qualifies to participate. There will be four groups of four with the top four qualifying for the World Championships. Afecavol gets 4 slots because their teams are ranked higher than the ECVA teams. Discussions were had regarding challenges such as students exams around the times proposed to host the U21 ECVA Beach event. Easter was seen as a feasible option, however travel and accommodation costs might be a deterrent. President Quinlan assured everyone that the ECVA would continue to look at options and revert within the fortnight in terms of updates.

Indoor Tournaments:

President Quinlan asked for support to form a committee with members from Antigua, French St. Martin, Dutch St. Maarten, BVI and Dominica. President Quinlan would sit in on the committee. This committee would be charged with regularizing some rules from a technical point. We are moving into a technical area (live streaming). We have to provide statistics for FIVB and little things such as visibility of a jersey is key. Placing a dark number on a dark uniform makes it difficult for our technical team who are calling the stats to see quickly. The numbers have to be bold and in significant contrast. One of the rules is going to be that every team MUST have a white uniform top. The committee will also be charged with creating a reasonable understanding of "athlete eligibility". The committee will be called "**The Competition Committee**", they will also discuss team sizes and registration fees. Discussion went on about the challenges and costs associated with hosting tournaments and the demands placed on the host.

President Quinlan apologized for the use of the ball used in the male competition in Antigua citing that the error was entirely his fault. He also asked for input on the referee calls specifically regarding ball contact and penetration. Discussions went on for approximately 20 minutes with people voicing their concerns regarding the quality & experience of the referees. The presidents were reminded that they were the ones who nominated the referee to represent their National Federation. It was agreed that some presidents should sit on the referee committee and referee refresher courses should be had before tournaments.

Streaming Service:

President Quinlan pointed out that the ECVA had improved significantly in this area but still had a long way to go. The viewership has improved but he thinks it can be expanded by to include the local leagues of each National Federation. The President asked that all National Federations who are streaming their matches include the ECVA channel so that we have more content.

The president spoke of the quality of video produced by the VIS team and see this as an avenue for generating income. He asks that the host make the team working conditions suitable as they will be working long hours and the internet they have is top notch. There are two things that we must capture, one is on the court and the other is the fan's experience. He referenced the VNL with their DJs being in sync with the announcer. "It requires resources, but it is something we need to pay serious attention to".

U23 Women & Men Tournament & U21 Beach Tournament

St. Kitts will host the U21 male & female Beach Tournament – dates to be finalized.

Dutch St. Maarten has been identified as potential host for the women tournament in 2025. President Leo will revert with confirmation. He thinks if hosting is to become a reality that the tournament would be in October 2025.

BVI has been identified as a potential host for the U23 males

National Federation Administration Course

The ECVA is looking at hosting this course with National Federation Presidents, Vice Presidents and either Treasurer or Secretary General from each ECVA Federation attending.

Other courses that the ECVA is aiming to host in 2025 are:

- Beach Volleyball Referee Course

- National Federation Administration Course

- Beach Volleyball Coaches Course

- Level Three Indoor Volleyball Coaches Course (with the U23 men or women tournament)

Training Camp at U21 (ECVA needs all the help they can get to clinch one of the four NORCECA spots for the U21 World Championship).

The ECVA will apply for Knowledge Transfer funding for most of these courses. President Quinlan will inform all presidents when they need to apply.

There were several questions and suggestions regarding the National Federation Administrative Course:

Is it just for presidents, vice presidents, treasurer and secretary general? – We are going to fund three persons, you can bring as many as you wish.

Can the administrative course be run virtually? – We can embrace technology, but it would be for the other NF board members outside of the three.

Concerned with the disparity between our NF in terms of where we stand today – How do we bridge the gap? President Quinlan responded by saying he expects levels of interaction to occur with each NF, so there will be one on one discussions to get a feel of where they are, what their challenges are, how much of these challenges are communal, etc. We can break out into several discrete components as he believes that one size does not fit all.

It was agreed that Item 14 on the agenda (Growing the ECVA Brand) would be bypassed and discussed at a later date.

Volleyball World

President Quinlan reminded everyone that Volleyball World is now free or heavily discounted and each national federation should capitalize on the opportunity and spread the word.

Any Other Business –

Mr. Javin Noel of Grenada asked about uniforms from NORCECA

President Quinlan thanked everyone for attending the ECVA Congress continuation. He promised to have a formal “to do” list by Wednesday 27th November, 2024.

Adjournment:

The meeting was called to a close at 8:45 pm.