



A point of view
Standing Beach ParaVolley – the way forwards
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We have to restart the conversation about standing beach paravolley and more importantly, we have to think about our possibilities to support and push standing beach paravolley for inclusion in the Paralympic Games Program.

Before I am going to write to you my thoughts, I want to make very clear, that WE HAVE AND WE SHALL NOT "BAN" sitting paravolley beach FROM OUR ACTIVITIES!!! This was not my intention and will never be! I don't want to be misunderstood.

BUT,

as we decided, as World ParaVolley decided, the priority, our priority for development is/has to be standing beach paravolley.

That means, that we have to think about our strategy to fulfill our aim, we have to create new and hopefully better and useful strategies. And only about our strategy I want to express my ideas.

But before I want to write a few sentences about beach volleyball for the able-bodied athletes:

We had at the beginning of beach volleyball for the able-bodied, more or less the same situation, the same difficulties as we have as World ParaVolley has now with standing beach paravolley.

In the beginning, beach volleyball for able bodied had very few players and the most of them were not the best players of indoor, but indoor players from the second or third division or league. The professionals didn't want to play beach volleyball, because as indoor players they got a excellent salary which didn't want to risk.

Parallel to this, the FIVB at the beginning and much more the national federations didn't support the beach teams sufficiently, they were thinking about, and continued to support indoor volleyball.

And ALSO the coaches of the professional teams didn't allow their players to participate, during the transition period of the training, in beach volleyball tournaments, because they were afraid to lose them, they were afraid that the players might change the discipline. Therefore, few players were trying to play professionally beach volleyball after, or shortly before they are going to retire.

From all of the above history is very clear, that beach volleyball had to recruit players from indoor and the national federations were doing this, but the federations since around 15/20 years have created specific programs for beach volleyball and they are now successful.

AND SINCE MANY YEARS THE FEDERATIONS HAVE MORE AND BETTER/STRONGER SPONSORS FOR BEACH VOLLEYBALL THAN FOR INDOOR VOLLEYBALL.

I hope, you understand, what I am going to say, therefore I don't continue to write more about beach volleyball.

I think, I suppose we, World ParaVolley, and standing beach paravolley have more or less the same situation as FIVB and the national federations with the beach volleyball.

Therefore, our strategy must be to learn from the FIVB volleyball and beach volleyball history.

They recruit, and still they are recruiting players for beach volleyball from indoor!

AND WE MUST RECRUIT, more or less, PLAYERS FROM SITTING VOLLEYBALL!

Therefore, we can't organize tournaments for both disciplines at the same time and at the same place! If we continue to offer both disciplines, then we will have less, few teams for standing beach paravolley and we will miss our aim. We must, we have to try, to organize more than one, two of three tournaments with more than 18 participating nations from at least three continents which is the criterion of the IPC for the inclusion of another sport discipline in the Paralympic Games such as standing beach paravolley.

WHY?

FIRST of all, the national federations are supporting generally sitting much more, also because it is in the Paralympic Games program. Therefore, any activity for sitting, also in beach, is or can be supported by the national federations, BUT NOT SO MUCH STANDING BEACH PARAVOLLEY.

SECOND, our players prefer sitting, BECAUSE standing beach paravolley is more complex and more difficult to play. The level of the technical skills, of the techniques, is higher and the teams must have a good and longer preparation. That means, that the teams must have at least several weeks for training and preparation.

THIRD, our players are not professionals, that means that they have to ask their company or at the office for more free days ALSO for training and tournaments for standing beach paravolley. And for this are the national federations responsible and sure they need support and help from the Zone Confederations and from WPV.

BECAUSE OF ALL ABOVE,

WE, WORLD PARAVOLLEY, ZONE CONFEDERATIONS, THE NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MUST NOT OFFER AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE BOTH DISCIPLINES. WE MUST ORGANIZE COMPETITIVE TOURNAMENTS ONLY FOR STANDING BEACH PARAVOLLEY **or** sitting beach for recreation.

THE DISABLED CLUBS MUST TRY TO OFFER STANDING BEACH PARAVOLLEY IN ADDITION TO SITTING. THIS IS ALSO GOOD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAYERS GENERALLY.

WORLD PARAVOLLEY, CONFEDERATIONS AND NATIONAL FEDERATIONS MUST OFFER COACHES COURSES, BECAUSE THE BEST PERSONS TO DEVELOP THE GAME IN A REGION OR COUNTRY ARE THE COACHES.

(We don't need courses for referees at the start, our rules are essentially the same as for FIVB beach volleyball)

Finally, we must transfer the discussion and our intention to include standing beach paravolley in to the Paralympics to all disabled national federations.

Especially, World ParaVolley must use initiative, must build strategies, must support for this the confederations must support the nations. We must be creative and find out the best possible strategies, ALSO BECAUSE MOST OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATIONS ARE SUPPORTING ONLY PARALYMPIC GAMES PARTICIPATION.