



Olympic Games 2008

Volleyball Media Guide





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World League and World Grand Prix 2008 honours are not included

H=Height, W=Weight, S=Spike, B=Block, OG=Olympic Games, WC=World Championship, OTH=Other

Credits

Editorial: Fabrizio Rossini - FIVB Press Officer
 Project Manager: Volleyball Events Department
 Data: Alberto Rigamonti - FIVB IT Department
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FIVB President's Message

The Olympic Games in the country of Volleyball tradition

Forty-four years after its debut at the 1964 Tokyo Games and 20 years after the Seoul Games, Olympic Volleyball returns to Asia ready to embrace the challenge of putting on yet another spectacular show for television, the media and spectators. Beijing will host the 29th Olympic Games and our best athletes, for both Volleyball and Beach Volleyball, are ready to fight for 12 Olympic medals. China is a country where Volleyball has strong roots and the FIVB is extremely proud to bring players from around the world to compete in its two Olympic disciplines in a land where Volleyball and Beach Volleyball culture thrives.



This Media Guide is a clear example of how we appreciate the role of the media in promoting our sport. We have listed here all the teams that will participate at the Olympic Games, with all the data useful to the media covering the event. Our website will be another strong support tool for journalists. It will be updated after every match, making sure you are constantly updated with the latest news. We have also prepared a Beach Volleyball Media Guide, which is at your disposal in the Press Working Room in all of the three venues devoted to Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.

The FIVB has prepared something special for this edition of the Olympic Games. The teams will play for the first time with a new ball, which combines innovative technology with a dramatic new design. Indeed, after we introduced the coloured ball in the 1990s – a revolutionary concept highly appreciated by television and fans –

we have continuously revamped the sport, its rules and its tools to make the game more attractive.

As you probably know, on August 24 after the Men's Gold Final I will hand over the FIVB Presidency after 24 memorable years and Mr. Jizhong Wei from China will be the third President in FIVB history. I would like to thank all the TV and media who have given us their full support over these years and I hope this support will consolidate our sport and give Volleyball and Beach Volleyball the attention and media coverage they deserve. It is the beginning of a new era in which the media will enjoy the best days of our sport.

Get involved, Keep the ball flying!

Dr. Rubén Acosta Hernandez
FIVB President

Volleyball History, Facts, Feats and Dates

1895

- Volleyball is born at the YMCA in Holyoke, Massachusetts, by William G. Morgan, a New Yorker born in 1870.



1896

- Another American, Alfred T. Halstead, proposes "Volleyball" as a more appropriate name for the sport instead of the original "Mintonette."

1898

- Canada adopts Volleyball for its recreational programs.

1908

- Franklin H. Brown introduces Volleyball in Japan.

1910

- Elwood S. Brown introduces Volleyball in the Philippines and Dr. J. Howard Croker introduces Volleyball in China.

1913

- Volleyball is adopted at the first Far Eastern Games in Manila.

1918

- Six-a-side Volleyball is adopted.

1922

- The three hits per side rule is adopted.
- The first known Volleyball and Basketball association is created in Czechoslovakia.

1928

- The American Volleyball Association is created.
- The first USA National Volleyball Championships are played at the Brooklyn Central YMCA.

1929

- Men's Volleyball is adopted at the second Central American and Caribbean Games in Havana, Cuba.

1933

- Women's Volleyball is played at the Central American and Caribbean Games in San Salvador.

1934

- The first Volleyball International Committee is created under the Field Handball Federation.

1946

- Poland, France, Czechoslovakia, USA, USSR and Romania set up the first Autonomous Volleyball Commission.

1947

- The Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) is founded by 14 National Federations in Paris and elects Paul Libaud as its first President. The founders are USA, France, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Egypt, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, Brazil, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

1948

- First Men's European Championships are held in Rome.

1949

- The International Olympic Committee adopts Volleyball as a non Olympic sport.
- First Men's World Championships in Prague. USSR crowned champions.
- First Women's European Championships in Prague. USSR crowned champions.
- Introduction of the three player attack and the penetration of the back court setter.

1951

- Hands can pass over the net under certain conditions (block).

1952

- First Women's World Championship held in Moscow. USSR crowned champions.

1955

- Volleyball enters the program of the second Pan American Games in Mexico City.
- The Asian Confederation is created.

1956

- Men's and Women's World Championships are held together for the first time in Paris with 24 Men's and 17 Women's teams.

1957

- IOC session in Sofia recognizes Volleyball as an Olympic sport and FIVB as the sole worldwide Volleyball governing body in all its disciplines on September 24.

1961

- IOC sessions and Japan OCOG in Athens add Volleyball to the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

1963

- European Confederation is created as a Zone Commission.

1964

- First Olympic Volleyball Competitions for Men and Women are held in Tokyo. Japan Women win gold medal, USSR Men win gold medal.
- Adoption of the new blocking rule (hands over the net, block multiple contacts allowed).



Tokyo 1964

1965

- The first Men's World Cup is held in Warsaw.
- The African Zone Commission is created by Chadly Zouiten.

1966

- The Central American and Caribbean Zone Commission is founded by Dr. Rubén Acosta.

1968

- USA and Canada join the Central American Zone to found the NORCECA Confederation at the proposal of Dr. Rubén Acosta.

1972

- The Five Continental Zone Sport Commissions are recognized as Continental Confederations.

1973

- First Women's World Cup held in Uruguay.

1974

- Men's and Women's World Championships are broadcast on live TV from Mexico to Japan and many other countries for the first time.

1975

- Africa Women's Championships start in Dakar, Senegal.

1976

- Olympic Games are played in Montreal for the first time with the three-ball system, created by Dr. Rubén Acosta, and three hits after the block are permitted.
- Width of the net is reduced to nine meters.

1977

- First Junior (Under-21) Men's and Women's World Championships are held in Brazil.

1980

- First FIVB rules of the game are adopted in French and Spanish at Moscow Congress.

Volleyball History, Facts, Feats and Dates

1984

- Dr. Rubén Acosta is elected President to replace the founder Paul Libaud.
- FIVB headquarters are moved from Paris to Lausanne, Switzerland.



Los Angeles 1984

1985

- The first major Volleyball World Plan is approved to bring Volleyball into the professional sports arena.
- The first World Gala is held in Beijing and Shanghai with China Women's Olympic champions facing the All Stars World team.



Seoul 1988

1990

- First Volleyball World League with eight countries and USD 1 million in Prize Money.

1992

- Beach Volleyball FIVB World Series recreated as a World Tour to determine the World Champions (Men and Women). Events are held in Japan, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Italy and Australia.

1993

- FIVB becomes the largest sports organization in the world with 210 affiliated member associations.
- The first World Women's Grand Prix with eight countries and USD 1 million in Prize Money is held in eight Asian cities.

1994

- The ball can touch any part of the body including the feet. The service zone is extended to the full outline.
- IOC session in Monte Carlo includes Beach Volleyball into the 1996 Olympic Games program as a full medal discipline for Women (16 pairs) and Men (24 pairs).
- The Centennial Congress in Athens approves the World Plan 2001 proposed by President Rubén Acosta with a view to improved management skills of National Federations and to create National Professional Leagues and Beach Volleyball circuits in as many countries as possible.

1995

- Volleyball celebrates its 100th birthday.

1997

- Beach Volleyball's World Championships are held in Los Angeles with total Prize Money of USD 600,000 for both genders.
- The eighth edition of the World League increases its Prize Money to USD 8 million.

1998

- Rally Point System and Libero officially accepted and played at the World Championships in Tokyo, following the 26th FIVB World Congress.

1999

- Cuban Women become World Cup champions for the fourth time and the Russian Men's team claim important first world title under their new flag.

2000

- The Rally Point System is extended to Beach Volleyball.
- Karch Kiraly of USA, Lorenzo Bernardi of Italy and three-time Olympic champion Regla Torres of Cuba are celebrated as best players of the century.

2001

- Beach Volleyball is confirmed as a full Olympic program sport.

2002

- The FIVB World Congress in Buenos Aires adopts a Code of Conduct and rules against conflicts of interest and introduces height limit competitions (185 cm for men, 175 for women).
- Italy win the FIVB Women's World Championships for the first time in Berlin.

2003

- Brazil Men win all 11 games in Japan to claim the World Cup title for the first time. China Women do likewise to win their first World Cup title.

2004

- China's Women win the Volleyball Olympic title in Athens for the second time following their victory 20 years earlier in Los Angeles. Brazil's Men also win for the second time, their first Olympic title being claimed in 1992.

2006

- Dr. Rubén Acosta is unanimously reelected as President of the FIVB by delegates representing 196 of the FIVB's 219 National Federations at the 30th FIVB World Congress in Tokyo, Japan.
- The Brazilian Men defend their World Championship crown by beating Poland in the final in Tokyo. Russia's Women win their sixth World Championship and their first since 1990.

2007

- Brazil's Men defend their World Cup title in Japan, while the Italian Women win their first World Cup title.
- Brazil claim the World League for the fifth straight year and sixth time overall. They pick up a winner's cheque for USD 1 million.
- The Netherlands win the World Grand Prix title in Ningbo, China, their first trophy in major FIVB competition. The Europeans become the sixth team to win the renowned annual Women's title and snap Brazil's run of three straight triumphs.

2008

- The FIVB opens its new premises of "Château Les Tourelles" in May, a gorgeous building by Lake Geneva in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- The 31st FIVB World Congress takes place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in June.



FIVB World Grand Prix 2008

Dr. Rubén Acosta makes official his announced retirement from the Presidency of the FIVB at the end of the World Congress. It is agreed that Mr. Wei Jizhong of China, FIVB First Vice-President, is to take over the leadership of the organisation as President, unanimously elected until the next elections foreseen in 2012, according to the Congress decision to follow again in four years' time the



Olympiad cycle. The delegates of the 200 National Federations gathered in Dubai give a long, warm ovation to Dr. Acosta who, for personal reasons, had expressed his intention in May 2008 to cut short his mandate on the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of "Château Les Tourelles." "I am leaving the Presidency during this Congress so that a new era can unfold for the FIVB," declares the Mexican leader. After announcing, not without emotion, that he had presented his last report in Dubai, Dr. Acosta says to Congress Delegates, "I take with me souvenirs of my life at the FIVB which are among the happiest of my life, souvenirs shared by my wife who has accompanied me all these years in successful times as well as in distressing and difficult times. We have had happy, joyful moments, times full of laughter and sometimes, unfortunately also troubles and tears. But never, absolutely never, have our hopes been dashed. Our work was demanding and hard, but it was worthwhile."

FIVB History

The Founding



A decisive moment in the history of Volleyball's first 100 years was certainly that of the founding of the FIVB (Federation Internationale de Volleyball) when in April 1947 representatives of 14 countries (Belgium, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Uruguay, USA and Yugoslavia) met in Paris under the leadership of France's Paul Libaud to found the FIVB. Libaud,

President of the French Federation, was elected first President of the FIVB. The headquarters were established in Paris, where they remained for the first 37 years until 1984 when Dr. Rubén Acosta of Mexico took over the Presidency from Libaud.

The Beginning of the FIVB World Championships

The first World Championships were organized in 1949 for Men and 1952 for Women and both have remained the biggest events in Volleyball, along with the Olympic Games, since 1964. The world competitions immediately generated enthusiasm, and the number of players and National Federations affiliated with the FIVB grew by leaps and bounds. Volleyball fever had caught on just about everywhere and increased rapidly. FIVB promoted events began to multiply.

Olympic Games

Testifying to the prestige attained in 1959 at the IOC session in Munich, Volleyball was included as a medal sport in the Olympic Games. The game was played with 10 Men's and six Women's teams for the first time at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, where the Japanese Women and USSR Men won gold medals. Consequently, the Volleyball phenomenon started in Japan soon after the Games. Thirty-two years later, at the Atlanta Games, Beach Volleyball, one of the world's fastest-growing sports, made its Olympic debut as Volleyball's successful second discipline.

The World Cup

In 1965, Poland hosted the first World Cup for Men before Uruguay hosted the first World Cup for Women in 1973. Following the first two editions for Men and the first edition for Women, Japan gave new life to Men's and Women's World Cups by staging the third and second editions respectively in 1977. From there on until today, with the sponsorship of Fuji Television, the quadrennial World Cup has become a major event and qualifies three teams for the Olympic Games.

Members rising

From the 14 founding members the FIVB grew to 45 in 1955, 89 in 1964 and 101 in 1968, distributed over the five continents: 25 in Europe, 25 in Asia, 25 in Africa, 11 in South

America, and 15 in NORCECA (North, Central America and the Caribbean). Today the Federation counts 220 affiliated National Federations including 53 in Africa, 65 in Asia, 56 in Europe, 34 in NORCECA and 12 in South America.

Dr. Rubén Acosta succeeds President Paul Libaud

One of the big turning points for the FIVB came in 1984 when President Paul Libaud, by then in his 80s and highly acclaimed for having founded the Federation and making it a significant reality on the world sports stage, resigned after 37 years of leadership. Dr. Rubén Acosta was elected new President to succeed Libaud at the World Congress in Long Beach, California.

The Move

The FIVB moved its headquarters to Lausanne, Switzerland, the same year, bringing it closer to the International Olympic Committee. Soon after, Dr. Rubén Acosta became Volleyball's ambassador, relentlessly promoting the sport in worldwide competitions held in the five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and NORCECA).

From game to great TV spectacle

At the same time, Volleyball went through a number of modifications to change the face of the sport. The need to make it more telegenic in order to attract fans and sponsors led to major modifications in 1998, such as the introduction of the Rally Point System, the Libero player, the "let ball in play" rule and many other new rules that make the game much more attractive.

Today and tomorrow

In 2008, the FIVB consists of 220 affiliated Federations and governs, manages and promotes all forms of Volleyball and Beach Volleyball worldwide through tournaments such as the World Championships, World League, World Grand Prix, SWATCH FIVB World Tour, World Cup, Grand Champions Cup, Junior and Youth tournaments and, of course, the Olympics. In the words of President Dr. Rubén Acosta, the FIVB is entering the third phase of its life with the election of Jizhong Wei as President, after 24 years of continuous improvement under Dr. Acosta and the 37 years of leadership from President Libaud. The crowning achievement after 24 years of peerless leadership from Dr. Acosta was in realizing his and wife Malú Acosta's dream of creating a fitting home for Volleyball's future generations. The result of their endeavour was the creation of "Château Les Tourelles," FIVB's stunning new headquarters on the banks of Lake Geneva in Lausanne, Switzerland.



Château Les Tourelles

International FIVB events

As well as the Volleyball and Beach Volleyball tournaments at the Olympic Games, there are a number of other spectacular FIVB events.

VOLLEYBALL

FIVB World Championships

The Men's and Women's World Championships, staged every four years, are the most important Volleyball competitions as they are preceded by a global qualification process that for the 2010 World Championships will involve more than 200 National Teams. The world's best 24 National Teams of each gender compete in the Finals. In 2010, the Men's Championship is set for Italy, the Women's for Japan.

FIVB World League

Volleyball's flagship annual event, started by the FIVB in 1990, is a spectacular showcase for the crème de la crème of Men's Volleyball. The 2008 edition featured 16 National Teams playing 106 matches over seven consecutive weekends in 42 cities across the globe and competing for more than USD 20 million in Prize Money. The 2008 Final Round was contested by six teams in Rio de Janeiro through July 23-27. The total attendance for the 2007 edition was 637,000 fans, with 2,244 hours of television coverage and more than 1 billion TV viewers for the Final Round, with 757 hours of live TV coverage.



FIVB World League Italy 1990

FIVB World Cup

The road to the Olympic Games commences with the World Cup, the quadrennial round-robin event that showcases the very best 12 Men's and 12 Women's National Teams in the world. Japan and television partner Fuji TV host an event that grips the nation and produces incredible television ratings. The top three teams in the Men's and Women's competitions earn berths in the Olympic Games Volleyball Tournaments. The next World Cup is in 2011.

FIVB World Grand Prix

The annual international Volleyball competition involving the world's best Women players this year saw 12 National Teams play a total of 69 matches over four consecutive weekends in

10 cities. The Final Round took place in Yokohama, Japan, with six teams playing a round-robin format through July 9-13. In 2007, a total of 334,975 spectators watched the matches, with attendance in the Final Round in Ningbo, China, improving on 2006. There were 500 hours of first-run TV coverage and a potential audience of 498.65 million TV households.

FIVB Grand Champions Cup

Hosts Japan, the Continental Champions from the African, European, NORCECA and Asian Confederations and a wild card come together for these quadrennial round-robin competitions for Men and Women. The hosts and television partner NTV produce a stunning Volleyball spectacle to see who is the Champion of Champions. The next edition is in 2009.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

SWATCH FIVB World Tour

The SWATCH FIVB World Tour is an annual tour that in 2008 began in late March with the Adelaide Australia Open and is scheduled to end with the Sanya Open in China in November. The 20 Men's events and 19 Women's events throughout 2008 will generate a record \$8.325 million in Prize Money. Qualification for the Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Tournament can be earned solely through points won on the World Tour.

SWATCH FIVB World Championships

Staged every two years, the SWATCH FIVB Beach Volleyball World Championships feature the brightest stars of the SWATCH FIVB World Tour, with 48 teams of each gender taking part. The 2009 World Championships are set to take place in Stavanger, Norway, with total Prize Money of USD 1 Million. The chosen city will hope to emulate and improve upon the huge success of the 2007 event in Gstaad, Switzerland. Held in the foothills of the Swiss Alps, the event attracted tens of thousands of fans and showed how Beach Volleyball can be played everywhere and not only beside the sea.



SWATCH FIVB World Championships Gstaad 2007