



NATIONAL BEACH VOLLEYBALL CIRCUIT 2013

NEWS RELEASE

Durban's New Beach to host the cream of SA's beach volleyball talent from 5 – 7 July 2013

South Africa's growing crop of top beach volleyball players hits the sand at Durban's New Beach this weekend for the third leg of the National Beach Volleyball circuit.

The three-day tournament offers dozens of competitive match-ups against the backdrop of a warm winter's day at one of Durban's main attractions. Play starts on Friday 5 July from 8am and continues on Saturday and Sunday.

The event will offer a carnival atmosphere which is designed for maximum crowd participation and enjoyment during the three days which coincides with the school holidays and other major events in Durban. Giveaways and prizes will be on offer during the course of the tournament and the organisers guarantee that there will be something on offer for all age groups and tastes during this bonanza.

The tournament will see a record number of entrants that include 30 teams from each gender as they compete for a place in the semi-finals, play-offs and finals as well as the most valuable player (MVP) category and other awards.

Beach volleyball is one of the few sports where men and women receive equal prize money with the total prize money for the tournament being R60 000.

FASTEST GROWING

With beach volleyball enjoying a worldwide surge of support and participation, there are those among South Africa's top players who will be aspiring to join the lucrative global professional circuit, says Tubby Reddy, President of Volleyball South Africa.

"We expect record crowds at this event," says Reddy. "Beach volleyball is one of the fastest-growing sporting codes in South Africa and internationally. Its popularity was confirmed at last year's London Olympics when it made headline news worldwide and took its rightful place in the top 10 of the best Olympic moments on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) website."

Nearly all the beach volleyball competitions at the Olympics were sold out and TV coverage of the matches received high ratings throughout the games.

SPECTATOR SPORT

“It is a popular spectator sport,” says Reddy. “The reasons for this are a combination of the quality of play, the drama and suspense of the competition and the festive atmosphere in which the games take place.”

Hosted by the City of Durban, which is becoming the beach volleyball capital of South Africa, the July event is a collaboration involving the City of Durban, VSA, Kwa Zulu-Natal (KZN) Volleyball with Sizawena branding & marketing in partnership with South African beach volleyball promoter Geness Consulting together with sponsors Gateway Theatre of Shopping and PC Training. It will be followed by two more legs of the South African national circuit to be held on 27 to 29 September 2013 and 6 to 8 December 2013, both to take place in Durban.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The teams who finish at the top of the five-leg circuit in both genders will automatically be entered in the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) City of Durban Beach Volleyball Open scheduled for 11-15 December 2013. Geness Consulting spokesperson, Dr. Sheena Geness highlighted that “we are very excited about bringing the FIVB event to Durban, where we expect participation from the best professional beach volleyball stars on the planet in both genders. Durban is set to experience a spectacle that is unprecedented and crowds will get to experience the suspense, exhilaration, action, crowd participation and world-class sporting environment that international beach volleyball has to offer”.

Says Senior Event Manager Vivienne Holden: “We are proud to be the host city for these high-calibre sporting events. We believe that beach volleyball highlights what Durban is best-known for: fun in the sun and all-round entertainment for the whole family.”

“Our city’s infrastructure, especially around the beach front, is ideal for this kind of event and we are certain that local people and visitors will come down in numbers to New Beach for the tournament.”

LOCAL TALENT

Tournament Director Gershon Rorich says South Africa has a great talent pool of beach volleyball players.

Says Rorich, who accompanied the South African team as coach to the London Olympics: “What’s more, the sport is easily accessible and economical for the players. In the end all you need is beach sand, a ball, a net and the talent and passion to win.

Any person who comes down to the beach for the tournament will find it easy to pick up the key rules of the game, while our top players would love the opportunity to introduce people to the sport.”

PARTNERS

Geness Consulting has partnered with the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) for the national and international tournaments and will make a contribution to the efforts of CANSA in the City. CANSA will be present at the tournaments, promoting skin sun protection and skin cancer prevention.

ENDS

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Teams who still want to enter the July event can contact Tournament Director Gershon Rorich on +27 78 085 2817 or on rorichgb@gmail.com. The entry fee for each team is R200. This must be paid into the following bank account: Volleyball South Africa, First National Bank, Killarney Branch, account number: 538 900 46 776. Proof of payment must be emailed to rorichgb@gmail.com and volleballsa@mweb.co.za.

ABOUT VSA

Established in 1992, Volleyball South Africa is the country's first fully representative national volleyball federation, including both indoor and beach volleyball codes. SASCOG CEO Tubby Reddy is President of VSA.

ABOUT FIVB

The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) is the Switzerland-based governing body responsible for all forms of volleyball on a global level. Working closely with national federations and private enterprises, the FIVB aims to develop volleyball as a major world media and entertainment sport through world-class planning and organisation of competitions, marketing and development activities. The FIVB is part of the Olympic Movement, contributing to the success of the Olympic Games.

ABOUT GENESS CONSULTING

Geness Consulting is a progressive black empowered company that has been granted the exclusive rights to organise, stage, publicise and promote national and international beach volleyball events in South Africa by Volleyball South Africa (VSA) and the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) respectively.

ABOUT CANSA ACTIVE

CANSA offers a unique integrated service to the public and all people affected by cancer. As a leading role-player in cancer research, the scientific findings and knowledge gained from research is used to realign health programmes as well as strengthen CANSA's role to the greater benefit of the public.

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