**Overview**

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| **SUBJECT:** | *Inter Regional Beach U17 Championships* | | |
| **PRESENTED BY:**  **DATE:** | | *Denise Austin for Junior Beach Volleyball Development* | **APPROVALS OBTAINED:** |
| *Gillian Harrison* |
| **DECISION REQUIRED:** | | | |
| *Approval by VE to sanction the IRU17 BV Championships Summer 2019 Proposed dates 12-14th July 2019* | | | |

**Stage 1 - *Context and Research***

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| **Background** | *The Inter Regional Championships (IRC) is included as part of the Volleyball Futures and has been bought back into the performance pathway as one of the stepping stones for young players to be signposted into National Squads.*  *There is currently no IR Beach Program, but an IR volleyball programme.*  *The addition of the IR Beach Event would begin to create parity between the two disciplines and encourage a heathy development of both disciplines. If we are to build for the future of beach volleyball we need better steps for all the players to be able to access beach volleyball at the beginning of their career.*  *Through establishment of the Beach Volleyball Program in the Regional Association, appointment of beach volleyball coaches and support staff, creating a training program, selection process and competition within the Regions, the hope is to create a pathway for young people into the sport of volleyball and beach volleyball.*  *From the London legacy there are courts built from this era and newly built beach volleyball courts are being constructed across the country.*  *With BUCS recognizing beach volleyball this past two years, it’s likely that more universities will begin to build courts.*  *We have an established beach volleyball coaching course which will be run in 2019 at Oxford in Easter Holidays* |
| **Research** | *During my time developing junior beach volleyball I have seen various forms of the development that have been successful and/ or unsuccessful*  *An initial Inter Regional Beach event was held in Brighton in 2009. There was minimal engagement from many regions and the event quickly ran its course. There were very few facilities in operation and not many coaches or regions with coaches operating on the beach game.*  *Establishment of the JVEBT which ran successfully for about 3-5 years until costs of the events meant that they were unfunded by VE which saw a lack of appropriate competition events for juniors. Over 100 junior athletes were competing on the JVEBT during some seasons. This is now not an option. This has led them, quite naturally and, without any other appropriate options, into the Senior VEBT. Many had been competing in both for quite a few years which was a good pathway for junior players, both national team and non-national team to access. This Is now not in existence.*  *The new Home nations event in 2018 brought about a shift change in the format of events and potential for the performance pathway for all of the Home Nations. There is complete commitment from all of the Home Nations to enter the event in 2019, with England committing to 3 men’s and 3 women’s teams-12 male and 12 female players.*  *The next logical step from there is to create an event that precedes the home nations to bring about earlier experiences into the sport. A competitive inter-regional event with an international-like feel will give athletes more of an understanding of the sport at the higher end. There would be additional motivation to be part of the regional squad as this event would act as a selection event for the Home Nations, which takes place a month after the Beach IRC.*  *The Home Nations event also created an international experience for many young coaches and coaches new to beach volleyball coaching at Youth International events. The regulations around coaching at a junior international event is different than coaching at domestic events and international senior events. (At Youth events a coach can sit at the side lines and coach).*  *It is also an opportunity for the development of referees to give them more experience on the international events style format of the event and expose them to beach volleyball officiating opportunities.* |

**Stage 2 - M*aking the decision***

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| **Recommended Decision** | *The discussion has been had by the National Team coaches for the need to have beach volleyball being delivered earlier and more consistently to younger player, encouraging all those in the talent pathway to be part of the beach pathway.*  *This was taken to the Regional Commissions who are keen to explore the potential and also look at how this can be established.* |
| **Other options?** | *Each region can establish and create their own events e.g. SW Junior Beach Tour*  *Clubs enter pairs and compete at the British Championships in Sandbanks.*  *There is the potential for discussions with the UKBT to look at how they can help support a UKBT Junior Beach events program with ranking.* |
| **Expected outcomes** | *The expected outcomes of running an IR U17 Junior Beach Volleyball Championships are:*   1. *To utilize the beach volleyball facilities that were built by VE during the Legacy 2012 era resulting in significant and relevant evidence of VE and Sport England Capital investment being used* 2. *The expectation is to see more players competing in junior and senior beach volleyball events, gaining more playing experience to increase their chance of selection into their regional team. VE would see a raised level of junior participation, directly impacting on the number of national team athletes, with a wider base of technical knowledge and delivery as well as increased fitness of their performance athletes.* 3. *The expectation would be to see more coaches attending beach volleyball coaching clinics run by VE, with one currently scheduled at Oxford in April 2019. There will be a greater demand for Staff Tutors to deliver beach volleyball coaching awards and, consequently, more coaching working collaboratively, bringing players into the game.* 4. *Each region would be expected to provide a beach referee for the event. The expectation would be that regions would be looking to increase their beach referee base and be able to provide beach referees for the event. This would increase the availability of referees for selection and delivery of events.* 5. *A raised playing standard year on year as more players compete for selection, an increased number of events being delivered to cater for the need to increase playing levels of the young players.* |
| **Supporting VE strategy** | This event sits perfectly with the Volleyball Futures and fully supports the initiative. As discussed above, there is the lack of an IR beach event given that VE supports the indoor version. The IRC is back into the performance pathway and so it is essential for a beach version to exist.  We would look at working closely with the regions to ensure they deliver the necessary KPI’s this event would provide the opportunity to deliver. |
| **Financial Implications** | |
| **Costs** | Any additional funding/Sponsorship will be sought by the Regions/VE/Academy of Beach Sports to help reduce the cost.  £20 PER REGION ENTRY FEE/COMMITMENT – ADMIN COSTS  BASED ON HOME NATIONS COSTS, THE COST PER PERSON FOR COACHES IS:   * Suggested two-four per region £85 * NAMED COACHING TOP * ONE NIGHT STAY AT CARDIFF MET * BRUNCH- SATURDAY/SUNDAY * LUNCH-SATURDAY/SUNDAY * DINNER- SUNDAY   THE COST PER PERSON FOR ATHLETES IS £130 PER PERSON:   * ENTRY FEE * COURT HIRE * REFEREE COSTS * NAMED AND NUMBERED PLAYING TOP * ONE NIGHTS STAY AT CARDIFF METT * BRUNCH- SATURDAY/SUNDAY * LUNCH- SATURDAY/SUNDAY * DINNER- SUNDAY   TRANSPORT COSTS BETWEEN CARDIFF MET AND CARDIFF BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT ARE NOT INCLUDED (POTENTIAL TO SOURCE COACH/MINIBUS TO CREATE ALL INCLUSIVE PACKAGE IF REQUIRED) |
| **Budgeted impact** | *Currently all costs are to be met and found by the Regions and their players.* |
| **Income** | The event will be self-funded should VE be unable to provide financial support. However, any support would be welcome especially as the IR U17 Beach Championships will deliver KPI’s for VE. Moving forward this has to be run by paid staff, either VE or the Academy of Beach Sports. Their job is to liaise with volunteers and oversee the safe and successful running of the event. |
| **Return on investment/VfM** | Each region and their players will be spending the following at the event:  £20 commitment entry per region- (max 8 x £20= £160)  £130 player entries (max 64 x £130= £8320)  £85 coach’s costs (min 16 x £85= £1360. Max 32 x £85= £2720)  Maximum investment= £11200  For 10% investment (£1120):  VE would get 64 performance athletes competing in a two-day mid-tier stepping stone event to support their performance pathway.  Encouragement of more coaches into the beach game at a performance coaching level  Encouragement of more beach referees into the beach game at a performance level. |
| **Risks and compliance** | *The Academy of Beach Sports will be the delivery club for the first year of the project subject to review after year one. They have a website for the use of this event* [*www.inter-beach.net*](http://www.inter-beach.net) *which is run with good guidelines to support the junior project.* |

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**Stage 3 - F*ollowing the decision***

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| **Implementation** | *As many regions to agree to the suggest date and suggest alternative.*  *13th-14th July 2018*  *Agree to run the event in Cardiff Beach Volleyball Centre as the most central six court venue that is the minimum required for the format. (move it around in 2020 if needed)*  *Each region to appoint a beach officer or equivalent role, who is in charge of their regional squads. Regions to formally commit to entering the event, appoint coaches, organize a program, make selections and then register their players and coaches.* |
| **Communication of decision** | *The Academy of Beach Sports will communicate to the regions with a bulletin with updates surrounding the event at set dates. They will enforce the rules and regulations, ensure the H&S of the participants, provide the requirements to deliver the project. They will look to have some paid work to deliver the project on time.* |
| **Monitoring** | *The event will be delivered in the same way as the Home Nations. All competitors will be listed on the site, all results will be listed along with as many live streams as possible and galleries of the event. There will be a daily report of the action. Any further information that the VE requires should be gathered from the website for their KPI or on request. Academy of Beach Sports will engage in a post-event reflective process with the regions (inclusive of VE if appropriate) and feedback to VE.* |