

Keith Suckling

Player, Level 1 Coach, Nat AAA Referee, Volleyball Groupie

To those who don't know me... Hi.

You may have seen me running around on court with the UTSSU AVL/ V-League team as their setter, or with UTS Honours men at SVL or one of the State Cups. You may have seen me on the stand as a referee during AVL/SVL or some other competition. You may even know my name from me being the Chairman of the NSW Volleyball Referees Association for the last 6 years. You may even have seen me around the UTS Division 1 women's team which my partner Jo plays in, probably running after an adorable little 3yr old redhead – her name is Emma.

I'm originally from WA, from the town of Collie (pop. 12,000 - 1 set of traffic lights, no McDonalds – until recently anyway). I first learnt my volleyball at age 17, from a school teacher, who thankfully knew their volleyball. I moved to Perth to go to university playing with Southern Cross Volleyball Club, being a member of their Board and coaching staff after I did my Level 1.

I moved across to Sydney some 14 years ago now, and have played with 4 clubs over that time. Most of my time though has been spent with UTS Volleyball club where I am a player, coach and Board member.

When I joined the NSW Volleyball Referee's Association Board, some 6yrs ago, I did it because I thought I could improve the state of refereeing in NSW. Hopefully I helped do that. There are certainly some initiatives that we (because this stuff only happens with the help of many people who give their time) were able to implement.

- Most SVL teams now have a qualified referee in their midst, which can only benefit the game.
- In 2005, my first year on the Board there were 66 referees on the books. This grew as high as 132 in 2007, before being at 122 when I left at the end of 2011. SVNSW members declined during this time.

I am nominating for the position of SVNSW Board member because I think I can help to improve the state of volleyball in NSW.

- **More communication about what SVNSW is doing**

- **Do you know the key decisions the Board made during the year about how money was spent and what activities were chosen over others?**

I didn't. I had to look at the financials and do some guesswork before I could get an idea.

- **More participation in volleyball across NSW**

- **Why aren't there more showcase and developmental opportunities for schools, juniors and development players?**

During 2010, when a round of Australian Volleyball League (the elite national competition) was scheduled to be played in Sydney, a schools competition was changed to be scheduled on that same weekend at a different location (over 40mins travel time away). This meant any chance to expose those kids to that higher level volleyball was lost.

- **More accountability for the actions, dollars and performance**

- **Do you think the dollars that SVNSW collects are spent efficiently and effectively based on the rate of participation?**

Based on the financials within the annual report (and some guesswork), I estimate that SVNSW spent over \$250 per player for V-League, but collected over \$120 per player for National Juniors. Check my guesswork for player numbers and make up your own mind.

	NSW Volleyball...			Players Involved...			Spend per Player
	Spends	Collects	Net Result	Teams	Players/ Team	Total Players	
National Juniors	\$75,787	\$85,187	-\$9,400	6	12	72	-\$130.56
State Cup		\$30,420	-\$30,420			400	-\$76.05
Sydney Volleyball League	\$28,680	\$52,432	-\$23,752	50	8	400	-\$59.38
School Competitions	\$25,035	\$20,832	\$4,203	100	8	800	\$5.25
AUSU15s	\$27,475	\$23,759	\$3,716	4	12	48	\$77.42
V League	\$12,426	\$8,390	\$4,036	1	14	14	\$288.29

Hopefully you are asking yourself some of these questions about our sport.

And even if I don't end up on the Board, I hope you keep asking them.

I will be.

Yours in volleyball



Keith

<http://keithsuckling.wordpress.com/2012/05/15/to-board-or-not-to-board/>

