

## **Director of Development Report 2015**

### **Staffing**

During the season we were unfortunate to lose 3 members of staff all within a couple of months. As early as the beginning of December 2014 our Club Development officer, Philip, had to leave as his wife Niamh was very ill. We are delighted to report that Niamh is now well on the way to recovery and wish them both well for the future. The great work that Philip had done both with schools competitions and with the development of new clubs has been impacted greatly by his absence and this is reflected in the stats. We are now delighted to have Conor Flood on board to take over this work and we would like to welcome him to the VAI. We are confident that the great growth shown over the last few years across the range of different clubs will soon be back on track.

Early in 2015 Graham for the WIS team and Aidan from the development team in the east of the country also left for pastures new. We wish them both well and thank them for their valuable contributions.

Jessica Carmody is a new and very welcome addition to the WIS team and she will also look after Sitting Volleyball and our new Mini Spikers programme catering for the 6-9 year old age group.

The new Development Officer for the Eastern Region has yet to be appointed and the post will be re-advertised in the summer.

We are also delighted to welcome Dwyne Hill to the staff. His main role will be with the WIS team but he will also become the new National Children's Officer and the VAI Anti-Doping Officer-putting these two roles on a professional basis for the first time.

There has been huge pressure during this period of upheaval on all the existing staff and I would like to thank personally, Mary in WIS, Eoin in the office and Ciara in Cork for all the extra work they did to minimise the effect on day to day workings of the VAI.

### **Schools Affiliations and Competitions**

The number of schools affiliated this year kept pace with last year and despite another year of teacher unrest a total of 294 schools affiliated with us.

The biggest and most satisfying news was a huge increase in the Primary School SpikeBall competition. Last year it was already at a staggering 244 teams and this

year it jumped to 334! That means a minimum of 2000 children between the ages of 10 and 12 years of age not only played SpikeBall in their school but actually played competitively against other schools. We can speculate from these figures that at least 20,000 children in that age group alone are participating in SpikeBall activity in school. County Finals were held in 17 counties, with some counties further split into two due to high volumes of teams entered. Regions were increased to four for Regional Finals. Following these 24 teams qualified for National Finals (8 boys, 8 girls, 8 mixed) which were held in Mary Immaculate College Limerick, with 9 counties represented at the finals stage. Post Primary schools involved in the TY SpikeBall Leader Programme are linked in with the running of this competition at all stages, with TY Leaders providing support in officiating at all these events that are run across the country.

<b>Primary Schools</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>
SpikeBall Championships	334 teams
<b>Post Primary Schools</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
SpikeBall Championships	247 teams
Senior Competition	55 teams
Cadette Competition	76 teams
Junior Competition	90 teams
<b>Total School Affiliations</b>	<b>294</b>

Across all school levels, both SpikeBall and Volleyball, a phenomenal 802 teams took part in competition this season.

Thanks also to all the teachers that helped to run the schools competitions this year in particular: Mary Barrett, Vivienne Kelly, Peter Bergin, Justin McGree, Jennifer Moret, Ollie Hally, Jola Radon, Aoife Hennessy and Marion Maloney.

In addition to competitions several fun blitzes were run over the year targeting Primary Schools to encourage their participation in the sport.

### **Courses for Teachers**

We continue to provide support to schools in the teaching of Volleyball through running practical workshops on a National basis during the academic year. We have continued to foster good links with various agencies in promoting opportunities for schools to get involved in Volleyball and in the provision of continuous professional development for teachers in the sport including:

- PEAI (Physical Education Association of Ireland)
- IPPEA (Irish Primary Physical Education Association)
- KES (Kerry Education Service)
- Active Schools Flag
- Local Sports Partnership Network

### **Teacher Training Colleges and Sport and Recreation Courses**

Once again Teacher Training Colleges were a big target for our courses. We continue to provide courses to many Universities and Colleges involved in educating students in Teacher Training and Sport and Recreation. This is a great opportunity to work with the students who will be the future Teachers and Sports Leaders in the Community. Courses were run in the following Institutions this year:

- Colaiste Chathail Naofa Dungarvan
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Mary Immaculate College Limerick
- University of Limerick
- UCC

### **Regional Leagues**

#### ***Cork Mixed Volleyball League:***

The 2014/15 Cork Mixed Volleyball League was run at an earlier time this year beginning in November and concluding in February. This league continues to be a very successful and popular competition and has had a very positive impact in the development of Volleyball in this region. 16 teams took part in this year's league, with a total of 185 players registered for the league. The league concluded with a Cup and Plate Competition, in what was certainly the most competitive league to date, results in appendix. Thanks to CIT Volleyball Club for again hosting the tournament and for their assistance in setting up each competition day.

#### ***South Regional Men's and Women's League:***

This season also saw the inaugural running of the South Regional Men's and Women's League. This is a really exciting development for Volleyball in the South of the country and provides teams further opportunities to participate in competitive Volleyball on a more local basis. 6 men's teams and 6 women's teams are currently competing in this league which is due to conclude at the end of May. Following this

positive start in terms of team numbers it is hoped this league can be built on in seasons to come and more divisions introduced.

### ***Dundalk Recreational League and U18 Competition:***

Unfortunately both of these were affected by staff shortages but they did go ahead thanks to the late intervention of new Club Development officer Conor. Winners and further details can be found in the stats section at the back of this document.

### **Development funding projects**

A small portion of funding was made available during the year for specific development programmes including the following:

#### ***East Cork SpikeBall Schools Programme:***

This programme was run in conjunction with Cork LSP and targeted schools in the East Cork region. This schools programme has previously been run very successfully in four other regions in Cork. It provides schools that have not previously been involved an introduction to the sport, support and many of these schools have progressed onto playing in the Primary School National Competition. The programme provides training workshops for teachers, equipment and resources to get the game up and running in their school and FUN blitz days for all pupils involved. 7 Primary Schools were involved in this most recent programme, with 13 teachers completing two training days and over 300 pupils participated in their first fun blitz days.

### **Club Standards Award Scheme**

Again the lack of staff slowed down the expected progress this year but DVC are well on the way to becoming the first Irish club to graduate from this scheme.

We would encourage clubs to come forward and be part of this fantastic opportunity to secure the future of your club and attract more members at all ages and abilities. Contact the office for more details.

### **The Mini Spikers Programme**

The Mini Spikers Programme is an introductory Volleyball Programme targeting 6 to 9 year old children. The overall aim of the programme is to develop children's Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) through a variety of FUN activities and provide

an age appropriate FUN introduction to the game of Volleyball. The Mini Spikers game is a simple adapted game that is presented and taught through three stages preparing players to progress onto playing SpikeBall and Volleyball.

The Mini Spikers Programme encourages:

- Movement, Movement and **MORE** Movement!
- Active involvement with activities offering children a learning opportunity while having fun with friends.
- More children to start playing Volleyball at an earlier age and continue playing Volleyball.

This programme is in its final stage of development. Mini Spikers resource packs for Primary School Teachers are being finalised. We aim to pilot the programme in 6-8 Primary Schools during the months of May and June. In September we are planning on distributing the Mini Spikers Programme to multiple schools throughout Ireland.

### **Sitting Volleyball**

To date we have completed one sitting volleyball taster session at a Disability Inclusion Day for Cavan County Council. A total of twenty eight children took part in the session and it was enjoyed immensely by all. We will be running another taster session at Kildare's County Council Disability Inclusion Day on Saturday May 9th. At which over twenty five children are planning to attend. We would like to say a big thank you to Joanne Cardiff and Dwyne Hill for all their help with Sitting Volleyball this season. Next season we are hoping to continue delivering taster sessions throughout Ireland and to get some sitting volleyball clubs up and running.

### **National Children's Officer**

The welfare and protection of children is paramount to everything that we do. It is our responsibility to ensure that children's early experiences in sporting and cultural activities are fun and positive, irrespective of their age, gender, ability or ethnic background.

The Volleyball Association of Ireland has demonstrated its commitment to the welfare and protection of all children, by ensuring that all policies and procedures are in line with current best practice and with current legislation. All policies and procedures have been developed in accordance with the Irish Sports Council and Code of Ethics, and legislation from the Department of Justice and the Department

of Children and Youth Affairs. The Nationals Children's officer has completed the following:

- Review of policies and procedure's within the VAI
- Updated Policies
- Created new templates for clubs to use
- Contacted Children's Officers in all National league clubs
- Made sure all Children's Officers have the required qualification/training

Over the next year the National Children's officer will support clubs, by visiting the relevant committee members to make sure that their policies are up to date and meet required legislation and best practice. If any clubs need further assistance or advice they can contact the National Children's Officer via the VAI office.

### **Anti Doping**

The Volleyball Association of Ireland's policy is that doping is contrary to the spirit of sport and every member has a duty to ensure that the sport is free of doping. The Volleyball Association of Ireland fully subscribes to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) procedures. According to these, under the strict liability rule, athletes are responsible for any substance that may be found in their bodies.

The anti doping officer over the next 12 months will:

- Role out an education programme to all national teams, this will include online training for players and support staff.
- Promote the use of the Irish sports council Medicine check app for smart phones.
- Send to all Clubs, Irish Sports Council Anti doping Wallets.
- Provide outreach training for our International team.
- Update VAI website including links to the Irish sports councils Anti Doping Unit.
- Introduce programme of In competition and Out of competition testing at a senior level.

If any club or individual needs an assistance or advice they can contact the Anti Doping Officer via the VAI office. Any reports of misuse by an athlete or support staff can be made in confidence to the VAI anti doping officer.

**Women in Sport**  
**TY Girls SpikeBall Leaders Award Programme 2015**

The budget constraints are continuing to have an ongoing effect on the ability of schools to provide supervision of students to attend courses on a regional basis. However, we are delighted that the TY Course has been a resounding success yet again this year. The feedback from both Primary and Secondary schools is very encouraging with continued new and returning requests to be included in the programme again next year.

Class teachers are excited about teaching SpikeBall and delighted with the work done by TY students and all concerned with the programme. The fact that SpikeBall is deliberately inclusive of all students is a big plus for the promotion and development of our sport.

The TY students appreciate the joys and challenges of working with younger pupils and are enjoying the opportunity to impart their knowledge and display their leadership skills. These young Leaders are a great source of future coaches, leaders and administrators for our sport.

It is great to not only see TY students who came through the programme in Primary School now becoming the TY Leaders. We have also had some of the former TY Leaders contacting us and letting us know they are now teaching and continuing to teach SpikeBall and loving it!

We would hope to have the opportunities to further develop the TY Programme and continue to tap into this enormous potential for our Association.

***TY Programme Targets:***

- A total of 25 post primary schools took part in the Leaders Award Course.
- 12 SpikeBall Leaders Award Courses to 12 schools nationwide have been delivered.
- To date 8 Tutor Courses have been delivered to 9 schools
- 5 New Tutors have been qualified.
- To date 304 TY Students have participated in the course with 301 TY students achieving certification.
- To date 2234 Primary students have taken part in the programme.
- To date 18 Blitzes have been held nationwide. A further 10 Blitzes will be held before the summer break.
- To date 377 teams have taken part in blitzes. A further 110 teams will participate in blitzes.

- Approximately 94 teams will have participated in a SpikeBall Blitz for the first time.

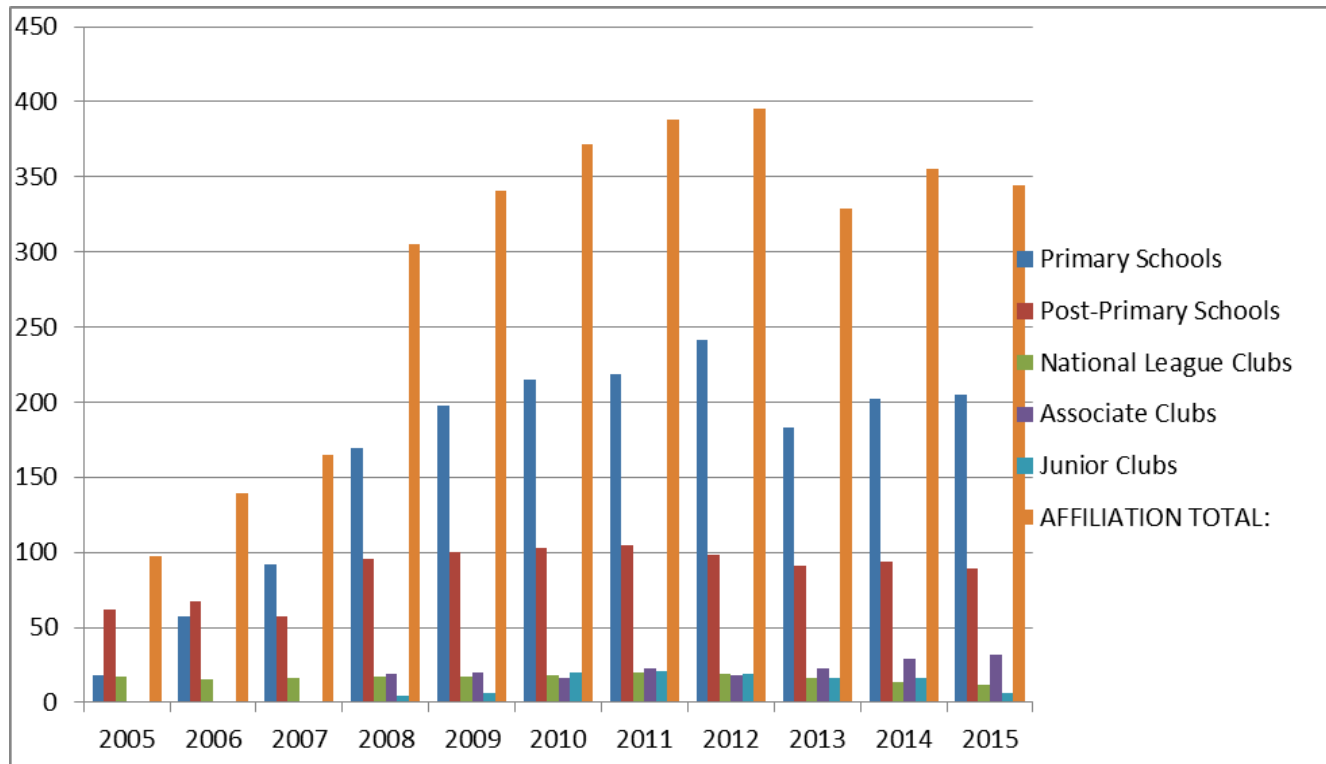
***Further Education Courses Targets:***

- 20 Coaches to gain qualification by end of September.
- 21 SpikeBall Referees to gain qualification by September.
- 8 students to attend Photography & Journalism workshop by September.



## STATS/FIGURES

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Primary Schools</b>	18	57	92	169	198	215	219	241	183	202	205
<b>Post-Primary Schools</b>	62	67	57	96	100	103	105	98	91	94	89
<b>National League Clubs</b>	17	15	16	17	17	18	20	19	16	14	12
<b>Associate Clubs</b>	0	0	0	19	20	16	23	18	23	29	32
<b>Junior Clubs</b>	0	0	0	4	6	20	21	19	16	16	6
<b>AFFILIATION TOTAL:</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>344</b>



## RESULTS 2014-15

<b>Senior Schools</b>		
<b>Senior Girls A</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Mary's College, Naas
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
<b>Senior Girls B</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Presentation Secondary School Kilkenny
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Portlaoise College
<b>Senior Girls C</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Carlow Vocational School
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Mercy College, Coolock
<b>Senior Boys A</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Drumshanbo VS, Leitrim
<b>Senior Boys B</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Mountrath CS, Laois
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Colaiste de hIde, Tallaght

<b>Senior Cup</b>		
<b>Girls</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Mary's College, Naas
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea

<b>Cadettes</b>		
<b>Cadette Girls A</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Mary's College, Naas
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge
<b>Cadette Girls B</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Presentation School, Fethard
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	St Mary's College, Naas
<b>Cadette Girls C</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Colaiste Mhuire, Ennis
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Sutton Park, Dublin
<b>Cadette Boys Cup</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea
<b>Cadette Boys Shield</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Brigid's Vocational School, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Presentation School, Fethard

<b>Juniors</b>		
Finals to be played May 2015		

<b>Post Primary SpikeBall</b>		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Girls</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Convent of Mercy, Roscommon
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year Girls</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Rockford Manor, Foxrock, Dublin
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Scoil Mhuire, Strokestown, Roscommon
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Boys</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year Boys</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Kildare Town Community School
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	St Paul's Community School, Waterford
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year Mixed</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Tiernan's, Crossmolina, Mayo
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Mountrath Community School, Laois
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year Mixed</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Colaiste an Eachreidh, Athenry
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Portlaoise College

<b>Primary Schools SpikeBall</b>		
<b>Girls</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Ita's, Loughrea, Galway
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Holy Cross Primary School, Killarney, Kerry
<b>Boys</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Gaelscoil Riabhach, Loughrea, Galway
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Church Hill N S, Kilkenny
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Glenbeigh N S, Kerry
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Claregalway Educate Together, Galway

<b>Cork Mixed League</b>		
<b>Cup</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Impact A
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Munster Thunder
<b>Shield</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Impact B
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Bishopstown A

<b>Student Sport Ireland</b>		
<b>Men's</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Waterford Institute of Technology
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Trinity College Dublin
<b>Women's</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Dublin City University
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	University College Cork

**U18 Competition**

<b>Girls</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	St Raphael's College, Loughrea
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny

**Dundalk Recreational League**

<b>Mixed</b>	<b>Winners:</b>	Dundalk Institute of Technology
	<b>Runners-up:</b>	Lobinstown