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OCEANIA SQUASH FEDERATION

"OSF"

Report to the World Squash Federation's 2008

Annual General Meeting

The OSF and its member countries continue to promote and develop Squash in the Oceania Region, and wherever possible encourage an expansion of the sport in the Pacific while assisting the WSF in its pursuit of greater Olympic recognition for our sport.

Highlights of activities and events over the last twelve months, together with planned future activities, include those summarised below.

1. The number of full member countries/territories affiliated with the OSF remains at 8. Prospects of a ninth country joining as a full member in the near future are very encouraging, particularly as squash courts already exist in the country. The OSF is currently looking at assistance programs to help form an association in the country. Expansion into other countries in the Pacific is inhibited by the absence of squash facilities, which is an ongoing challenge for our sport.
2. The Oceania Region continues to meet its obligations to the Squash world, both at the elite player level in addition to providing significant support to the WSF in the areas of administration, coaching development and refereeing development.
3. The OSF continues to be supported by a number of standing committees which play a valuable role in the region. The OSF also continues to fulfil its obligation to the WSF with the appointment of Oceania representatives on the various WSF committees. An example of OSF support was the recent contribution from Oceania to the WSF World Junior Rankings Working Group. All committees are serviced by volunteers who contribute enormously to the OSF and the sport of Squash.
4. The Oceania Squash Championships continue to be a priority activity for the OSF. The championships are held as a stand alone event or as part of the Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games when accepted as a participant sport in the Games program. The OSF has been extremely fortunate to achieve the retention of Squash in the Games program for 2009 and 2011, against competition from other sports. The VIII Pacific Mini Games will take place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands in September/October 2009 with 15 sports competing for medals. New squash courts are being constructed in a multipurpose facility for the Games. Planning is well advanced for the XIV

Pacific Games which will be hosted in 2011 by Noumea, New Caledonia. New squash facilities are also planned for the Noumea Games.

5. Junior development continues to be a major challenge for the OSF and the region generally. The high cost of travel and equipment is a major restriction, particularly for those players in the small developing countries and remote areas of Australia. It highlights the need for the use of technology to address the difficulties of distance and cost. The 4th Oceania Junior Open Aged Squash Championships were scheduled to take place in Suva, Fiji in August 2008. However, the event has now been postponed to mid 2009. The Championships are an important element of the OSF's strategic direction for junior development, and presents an opportunity for juniors in the region to compete against players from within Oceania as well as from other regions. Australia and New Zealand entered teams in the recent World Junior Men's Championship and World Junior Women's Teams Championships in Hong Kong.
6. Elite players from Oceania continue to perform well on the world scene, with David Palmer, Stewart Boswell and Cameron Pilley holding rankings in the top 20 of the PSA list, and Rachael Grinham, Shelley Kitchen, Kasey Brown and Jaclyn Hawkes ranked in the top 20 of the WISPA listing. Shelley was WISPA's most improved player in 2007. Australia and New Zealand continue to conduct high performance programs which are widely recognised for their quality and excellence. Australia and New Zealand also entered teams in the Men's World Teams Championships in India.
7. Masters Squash is an important component of our sport, and continues to be very active in the region. The Oceania Masters Championships are conducted every year and the 15th Oceania Masters was held recently on Norfolk Island. The 16th Oceania Masters will take place in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand in October 2009, following the World Masters Games in Sydney, Australia also in October 2009. Australia and New Zealand continue to hold Masters Championships that attract a large number of entries and are very popular events.
8. Open Championships, including events with PSA and/or WISPA classification, have featured in 2008 and hopefully will continue to grow in the future – allowing our elite players to spend more time in the region. Squash Australia conducted a wide range of Australian Championship events culminating in the Australian Open which took place in the South Australian wine growing district of Clare, with an all glass centre court in use. This event continues to grow and gain greater publicity. Squash New Zealand also conducted a number of major events, and gained live national television coverage of the 2007 Nationals. A major step forward for the region in 2008 is the strategy of Open Championships in a number of developing countries, including Cook Islands, Fiji, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.
9. Planning is well advanced for the next Arafura Games to be held in May 2009 in Darwin, Australia. These Games are continuing to expand and gain recognition and attract players from more countries in the Oceania and Asian region. Squash is one of the participant sports at the Games.

10. Planning is now in progress between Squash Australia and the Australian University Sport system for the hosting of the 2010 World University Squash Championships which will be held in Melbourne, Australia.
11. Representatives from the Oceania Region, particularly from Australia and New Zealand, have been extremely active in assisting the WSF in co-ordinating the development of the revised Squash Doubles Rules, and in the development of the world wide referee accreditation program (CBTA). Our thanks are extended to all concerned.
12. Susie Simcock was awarded a Member of New Zealand's Olympic Order – a very prestigious and well deserved award. Congratulations Susie.
13. Squash New Zealand is undergoing a full strategic and operational review of the sport in New Zealand. Items on the Agenda include a new IT platform, Club/Facility and District development, Rationalisation of resources, and the One Sport – One Brand approach.
14. Papua New Guinea Squash is looking at building a new facility in Port Moresby, capital of PNG, that will serve both tennis and squash. The facility, still in the planning stages, is the initiative of the PNG Sports Foundation that will help improve and raise the standard of play in tennis and squash. Currently there are no squash facilities in the capital.
15. Samoa is now well serviced with squash facilities following the 2007 South Pacific Games. Three Singles courts and one Doubles court were constructed at the Faleata Sports Complex and one Singles court and one Doubles court at the National University for the Games. A further 4 court complex operates in Apia, capital of Samoa. Samoa Squash is focusing on the future management, promotion and utilisation of the facilities.
16. Squash Australia conducts an annual Hall of Fame Dinner, which is a very successful event and great initiative. Former players Kevin Shawcross, Cameron Nancarrow and Rodney Eyles were inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008.
17. The OSF continues to maintain its membership of the Olympic Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO) and close links to the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC). It plays an active role in these organisations to further the profile of squash and contribute to the development of sport generally in the Pacific.
18. The OSF developed its Strategic "Objectives 2008 – 2012" including a Vision and Mission Statement for the Federation. These were endorsed at the Federation's last General Meeting.
19. The OSF remains committed to a close relationship with the WSF and in supporting its strategic objectives in the governing and development of Squash throughout the world. The OSF is also committed to supporting the objectives of the OSFO and ONOC, and playing an active role with these organisations in fostering the development of sport throughout the Pacific.

20. The OSF will continue to work with and support its member countries to develop and promote Squash in Oceania, and encourage Governments in non-member countries to invest in our great sport. The OSF continues to operate entirely with volunteers with a very small funding base.

Colin J. Clapper AM
President & Executive Director
Oceania Squash Federation
26th August, 2008.

John Holland
Oceania Regional Vice President
to the World Squash Federation
26th August, 2008.