

Profile - Murray Mansfield

Chair, Volleyball Victoria Country Championships Commission

November 2019

Murray Mansfield has served volleyball in Australia with distinction as an official and volunteer for five decades. Murray was introduced to the sport in 1964 while at College and retired as a player 40 years later. He has maintained a continuous involvement in a variety of roles including as a player, coach, delegate, referee, announcer, and many more.

In his first decade of involvement, Murray had already acted in several significant roles in Victoria, including as Junior Vice President of the then Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association.

In 1974, Murray was appointed the official announcer for the Australia vs Japan match in Wangaratta and the First Asian Championships hosted in Melbourne. During the Championship finals, Murray was match commentator for ABC television.

In 1975, Murray developed a submission to the Victorian Government for the employment of Australia's first full-time coach, Tomas Santamaria. In 1980, he attended the U17 National titles in Adelaide as a referee and was graded to National Candidate.

In 1981 Murray was appointed as the Australian Head of Delegation for the first Commonwealth Volleyball Championships in England. In 1983 he developed and led the organisation of Australia's first commercially produced television series, the Lightning Spike Cup. The series continued annually for five years, the longest running TV8 sports production and was commentator for all series.

In 1986, Murray authored and published the 'Volleyball Administrators Manual' which was subsequently accepted into the International Volleyball Federation Resource Library. Having continued his support for numerous national activities, including co-ordinating the National Junior Volleyball Camps in Bendigo from 1995 until 2018, Murray was acknowledged Distinguished Service Award from the then Australian Volleyball Federation (AVF).

Driven by his passion for officiating Murray continued to pursue opportunities to advance refereeing and was appointed Referee Manager for Australian leg of 1997 World Series Beach Volleyball at the Tennis Centre. For 20 years he acted as Hall Manager/Referee Supervisor at Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Melbourne, concluding in this capacity 2018.

In 2000, Murray joined the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games as the Indoor Volleyball Referee Manager for both the Olympics and Paralympics. For three years from 2001, Murray was a Member of AVF Board and in 2003 appointed Chair of Australian Volleyball Schools Cup Event Commission. Continuing his involvement in major events, Murray was Chief Referee International Deaflympics in 2005 hosted in Melbourne, in 2007 was awarded Outstanding Volleyball Event Organiser by the AVF for Australia vs Argentina match hosted in Bendigo, appointed Coordinator and Chief Referee for the 2008 Australian University Games in Melbourne, and in 2016 was Court Manager for World Women's Grand Prix Bendigo leg competed by Australia, Columbia, Croatia, and Cuba.

In 2006, Murray was appointed National Referee Trainer, delivering numerous referee courses throughout Victoria and South Australia.

Murray personally identifies his greatest achievements as:

- Referee Manager at Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics, introducing the first ever pre-printed score sheets with player and coach lists
- Established Bendigo Academy of Sport to include volleyball
- Conceived and delivered the Lightning Spike Cup
- Extensive history of supporting junior development: national camps, AVSC, State junior teams, Australian junior Volleyball Championships

Murray was awarded Life Membership to Volleyball Victoria in 1984 and has been integral to the establishment and conduct of major national and State events, including the inception of the Country Championships in 1969. Murray has also been recognised as Sport Administrator of the Year by Vicsport, the peak body for sports in Victoria.

Murray continues his outstanding involvement as Chair, Volleyball Victoria Country Championships Commission and is motivated to offer his experience to provide the best possible Country Championships for regional associations and maximise player satisfaction via refereeing.

Full History:

- 1964 - Introduced to the sport whilst at College and commenced playing in the Bendigo YMCA domestic competition
- 1967 to 1976 - Captain and/or coach of Bendigo Men and/or Women in local competition, YMCA Championships, regional tournaments and State League
- 1967-2018 – Member Bendigo Volleyball Association Board of Management – Secretary, Vice President, President, Newsletter Editor, YMCA Representative, Chair Bendigo Junior competition, organised numerous International matches including televised Australia vs Japan, formed Bendigo Referees Commission
- 1972 - Co-founded Kanyana Volleyball Club
- 1972 – Joined Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association (VAVA) Council as Country Representative
- 1973-1975 – Junior Vice President of VAVA
- 1974-1985 – Initiated the formation of the Victorian Country Volleyball Council (VCVC) – Vice President, Records Secretary, Treasurer
- 1974-1975 - Announcer for Japan vs Australia match in Wangaratta & First Asian Championships in Melbourne. Commentator on ABC TV for finals series of games
- 1975 – Developed submission to Victorian Government for the employment of Australia's first full-time coach, Tomas Santamaria

- 1978-1982 - Secretary of VAVA
- 1980 - Victorian referee at U17 National titles in Adelaide in 1980 – graded to National Candidate
- 1981 - Established Victorian Referee Commission. Appointed Records Secretary and Newsletter Editor - developed grading course and wrote theory exam for State referee grading
- 1981 - Head of Australian Delegation for first Commonwealth Volleyball Championships in England
- 1982-1987 - Treasurer and Records Secretary of VAVA (became VVI in 1986)
- 1982–present – Officiated as referee in countless Regional, State, National and friendly International events. Graded to National Referee and currently Level 4
- 1983 - Developed and led the organization of Australia's first commercially produced television series, the Lightning Spike Cup. The series continued annually for 5 years, the longest running TV8 sports production. Commentator for all series.
- 1986 Wrote and published Volleyball Administrators Manual - accepted in the International Volleyball Federation Resource Library.
- 1987-1988 - Publicity Officer of VVI
- 1987-1993 – Managed Victorian Junior boys teams from U15-U21
- 1991-1993 - Secretary Victorian Coaches Commission
- 1994 – Established Bendigo Academy of Sport with Volleyball an initial sport - Victoria's first regional Academy. Appointed Executive Officer 1994-2000
- 1995 - Awarded Distinguished Service Award from AVF
- 1995-2018 – Co-ordinated National Junior Volleyball Camps in Bendigo
- 1997 - Referee Manager for Australian leg of World Series Beach at Tennis Centre
- 1997 - Finalist, Vicsport Eunice Gill Award for Sports Administration
- 1998-2018 - Hall Manager/Referee Supervisor at AVSC in Melbourne
- 2000 - Joined SOCOG as Indoor Volleyball Referee Manager for Olympics & Paralympics
- 2001-2003 – Member of Board of Australian Volleyball Federation
- 2002 - Reviewed Country Championships and established Volleyball Victoria Country Championship Commission
- 2002-Present – Chair VVCCC
- 2003-2006 - Chair Australian Volleyball Schools Cup (AVSC) Event Commission

- 2004 - Convened Southern University Games (Geelong)
- 2004 – Retired from playing
- 2005 – Chief referee International Deaflympics – Melbourne
- 2006 - Appointed National Referee Trainer, delivering numerous referee courses throughout Victoria and South Australia
- 2007 - Awarded Outstanding Volleyball Event Organiser by AVF for Australia vs Argentina match in Bendigo
- 2008 - Coordinator & Chief Referee Australian University Games (Melbourne)
- 2016 - Court manager for World Women's Grand Prix in Bendigo - Australia, Columbia, Croatia & Cuba
- Life Member of Kanyana Volleyball Club, Bendigo Volleyball Association and Volleyball Victoria
- 2019 – Awarded Life Membership to Volleyball Australia