

## **VOLLEYBALL BRIEF HISTORY**

In 1995, the sport of Volleyball was 100 years old! The sport originated in the United States, and is now just achieving the type of popularity in the U.S. that it received on a global basis, where it ranks behind only soccer among participation sports. Today there are more than 800 million players worldwide who play Volleyball at least once a week.

In 1895, William G. Morgan, an instructor at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Holyoke, Mass., decided to blend elements of basketball, baseball, tennis, and handball to create a game for his classes of businessmen which would demand less physical contact than basketball. He created the game of Volleyball (at the time called mintonette). Morgan borrowed the net from tennis, and raised it 6 feet 6 inches above the floor, just above the average man's head.

During a demonstration game, someone remarked to Morgan that the players seemed to be volleying the ball back and forth over the net, and perhaps "volleyball" would be a more descriptive name for the sport. On July 7, 1896 at Springfield College the first game of the "volleyball" season.

- In 1900, a special ball was designed for the sport.
- In 1916, in the Philippines, an offensive style of passing the ball in a high trajectory to be struck by another player (the set and spike) were introduced.
- In 1917, the game was changed from 21 to 15 points.
- In 1920, three hits per side and back row attack rules were instituted.
- In 1930, the first two-man beach team was played.
- In 1934, the approval and recognition of national volleyball referees.
- In 1947, the Federation Internationale De Volley-Ball (FVIB) was founded.
- In 1948, the first two-man beach tournament was held.
- In 1949, the initial World Championships were held in Prague, Czechoslovakia.
- In 1964, Volleyball was introduced to the Olympic Games in Tokyo.
- In 1974, the World Championships in Mexico were telecast in Japan.
- In 1987, the FVIB added a Beach Volleyball World Championships Series.
- In 1990, the World League was created.

- In 1995, the sport of Volleyball was 100 years old!
- In 1996, 2-person beach volleyball was added to the Olympics.