**Swieqi Phoenix Volleyball**

**Who We Are**

Swieqi Phoenix Volleyball forms part of Phoenix Sports Club and is a Maltese non-profit organization with the goal to provide every girl aged 8 to 18 with a chance to obtain physical, social and psychological growth through the sport of club volleyball. One of the main tenets of our programme is to encourage youth and young adults to develop their leadership and work ethics on and off the court. The whole working and learning environment within Phoenix SC emphasises positive reinforcement in building self-esteem and self-confidence in young women.

Our volleyball programme is based on years of effective instruction in the development of individual skills and the application of those skills to the concept of a team. This type of coaching allows for a greater appreciation of what is needed to set and accomplish goals, work together to achieve results and discipline, which we consider an all important element in creating a successful experience on and off the court.

**Exclusive Focus on Nursery**

In 2014 we decided to focus all the Club’s attention and resources exclusively on the nursery players, and we took the unprecedented step of fielding our u18s in the First Division. In a year in which our girls won the u-14 and u-16 national leagues, as well as runner-up position in the u-18 category, our teenagers also managed third place in the First Division. In 2015, our u-16 team was included in the Roll of Honour of the Sport Malta Awards.

**Major feeder club for Malta youth national selections**

The long-term commitment to playing club volleyball with Swieqi Phoenix Volleyball also gives our girls the chance to prepare for the possibility of playing volleyball on a national level. For the past two years, the Club has provided no less than five first choice players to Malta’s national u-16 selection, and indications are that this trend is set to increase.

**Education as part of long-term vision**

We believe in the value of having athletes with a rounded education in the sport. Our girls are regularly given exposure to different aspects of the game. This includes attendance at refereeing and coaching courses.

**Participation in International Camps and Competitions**

Swieqi Phoenix Volleyball is also a pioneer in giving youth volleyball players international exposure in competitions abroad. In September 2015, our u18s participated in, and won, an international tournament held in Rosolini, Sicily. More such opportunities are in the pipeline for the near future. We believe that the growth of our players will be substantially boosted by their participation in competitions against their international counterparts. This is a major area in which the Club intends investing in, going forward.

**Dedicated Coaches**

We have a team of dedicated coaches who are focused on passing on the values set by the Club, with the aim of transforming our young girls into athletes and top level volleyball players. Led by Technical Director and Head Coach Leonard Zammit Munro, the team is also composed of Assistant Coaches Mirko Placi’ and Mariana Zammit Munro. Our objective is to develop our young athletes into members of our coaching team, assisting our coaches especially with the younger categories (u-12 and u-14).

**The Phoenix Beach Volley Academy**

In another first for Maltese volleyball, in 2015 we set up a youth beach volley academy, which provides the skills necessary for young athletes to play this Olympic sport. We recognised the fact that that a growing number of our young indoor volleyball players were developing an interest in beach volleyball, which is a growing sport all over the world. Our volleyball coaching staff has developed a programme aimed at developing the skills needed for this sport.

**Fair Play**

As from this season, the official kit of Swieqi Phoenix Volleyball will carry a badge featuring the slogan 'Fair Play'. At the launch of the concept, Orlando Bonnici, President of Phoenix Sports Club, said that "the concept of fair play, particularly as regards respect for team-mates, opponents, and officials, and sportsmanship in general, is an integral part of the values we try to pass on to our young athletes. As a club we are proud to promote this sporting ideal"

**Sporting Excellence...and much more**

At Phoenix, we believe that sporting excellence is something that all athletes should aspire to. Although technical and athletic performance are given the importance they deserve, we hold great store by principles of sportsmanship and instilling life values which will accompany our girls throughout their lives. We also recognise the fact that belonging to a team will enhance the quality of their lives as individuals, especially at a time when friendships can provide an important measure of emotional support.

**A winning mentality**

Everything we do at Phoenix Volleyball Malta is underlined by our aspiration to be the best. Even though we face the multiple constraints which all other sports organisations in Malta need to contend with, our benchmarks remains best practice internationally. We realise that we owe this to our players, to their parents, to our coaches, as well as to our sponsors.