

# BEYOND THE NET

## PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY MESSAGE



As the year draws to a close, I extend my warmest holiday greetings to the entire Asian volleyball family—our athletes, coaches, officials, national federations, partners, and supporters.

The past year reflected the continued growth of volleyball across Asia, shaped by historic achievements, competitive championships, and steady progress at every level of the game. These milestones were made possible through your dedication and shared commitment to the sport.

As we welcome the 2026 calendar year, I look forward to your continued support as Asian volleyball enters another important chapter of competition and development.

On behalf of the Asian Volleyball Confederation, I wish you peace, good health, and success in the year ahead.

**Ramon Suzara**  
President, Asian Volleyball Confederation



# AVC CONFIRMS 2026 CALENDAR WITH MAJOR EVENTS ACROSS ASIA

As 2025 came to a close, the Asian Volleyball Confederation formally unveiled its international volleyball calendar for 2026, confirming a year defined by major continental championships and a wide geographic spread of host cities across Asia.

The season will open in late April with the AVC Women's Champions League in Goyang, Republic of Korea, followed by the AVC Men's Champions League in Pontianak, Indonesia in May. June will see the AVC Women's Cup staged in Candon City, Philippines, before the men's competition moves to Ahmedabad, India later in the month.



 <b>2026</b> <b>VOLLEYBALL EVENTS</b>		
April 26-30	AVC Women's Champions League 2026	 Goyang, KOR
May 13-17	AVC Men's Champions League 2026	 Pontianak, INA
June 6-14	AVC Women's Cup 2026	 Candon, PHI
June 20-28	AVC Men's Cup 2026	 Ahmedabad, IND
July 1-7	AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship 2026	 Nakhon Ratchasima, THA
July 12-18	AVC Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship 2026	 Manama, BRN
August 21-30	AVC Volleyball Women's Continental Championship 2026	 Tianjin, CHN
September 4-13	AVC Volleyball Men's Continental Championship 2026	 Fukuoka, JPN
September 16-22	20th Asian Games (Women)	 Aichi-Nagoya, JPN
September 27 - October 3	20th Asian Games (Men)	 Aichi-Nagoya, JPN

Youth championships will take center stage in July, with the AVC Girls' U18 Volleyball Championship hosted in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, and the AVC Boys' U18 Championship held in Manama, Bahrain. The senior continental season resumes in August with the AVC Women's Continental Championship in Tianjin, China, before the men's tournament takes place in Fukuoka, Japan in September.

The calendar culminates with volleyball competitions at the 20th Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, with the women's event scheduled for mid-September and the men's tournament closing in early October.

By confirming dates and venues across all levels, the AVC closed the year with a clear roadmap for 2026—one that places Asia's premier volleyball events firmly on the calendar and across the continent.



# ADELAIDE DELIVERS A GOLDEN CHAPTER IN BEACH VOLLEYBALL HISTORY

In mid-November 2025, , delivering one of the defining events of the international beach volleyball season. The tournament brought the world's leading teams to South Australia and placed the city at the center of the sport's global calendar.



The women's competition delivered a historic breakthrough. Tina Graudiņa and Anastasija Samoilova captured the women's world championship, defeating Kristen Nuss and Taryn Brasher of the United States in the final. The victory marked Latvia's first-ever Beach Volleyball World Championship gold, a milestone achievement for both the pair and their national program.

As the championships concluded, Adelaide's hosting and the emergence of new world champions combined to make the 2025 edition a standout moment, closing the season with defining results on both the men's and women's sides.

While the best performing team from Asia was Qatar's Cherif Younousse and Ahmed Tijan, the duo looked sharp in the group stages but were halted in the Round of 16 (9th place), falling in a thrilling 2-1 battle to the eventual bronze medalists, Rotar and Gauthier-Rat of France.

Conversely, Jasmine Fleming and Stefie Fejes. The young duo emerged as the nation's top women's finishers, battling their way to the Round of 32 (17th place),



The men's championship concluded with Olympic champions David Ahman and Jonatan Hellvig completing a rare double, adding the world title to their Olympic gold. The Swedish pair capped their campaign with a victory over fellow Swedes Jacob Holting Nilsson and Elmer Andersson in the final, securing the one major title that had been missing from their résumé. Their run through the tournament was marked by consistency and control, culminating in a composed performance on the sport's biggest stage.





# KOREA CLINCH AVC U16 TITLE AFTER FIVE-SET FINAL AGAINST CHINESE TAIPEI



The AVC Asian Women's U16 Volleyball Championship concluded in November with a dramatic final in Amman, where Korea captured the continental title after a five-set victory over Chinese Taipei. The championship match, staged at the Prince Hamzah Hall, provided a fitting finale to a highly competitive tournament hosted by Jordan.

Korea edged Chinese Taipei 3-2 in the final, prevailing in a contest marked by long rallies and shifting momentum. After the teams traded sets through the opening four frames, Korea pulled away in the deciding set to secure the gold medal, showing composure under pressure in the closing moments.



The title capped a strong tournament run for Korea, who advanced steadily through the group and knockout stages. Chinese Taipei also delivered a standout campaign, reaching the final with disciplined performances and pushing the champions to the limit in the title match.

Beyond the final result, the championship benefited from Jordan's efficient organization and strong local support, with Amman providing a well-run and welcoming stage for Asia's emerging volleyball talents. Korea's victory closed the event on a high note, while the tournament itself reinforced the growing standard of youth volleyball across the continent.



# A HISTORIC HOME RUN: THAILAND SEALS DOUBLE GOLD AS SOUTHEAST ASIA SHINES



The closing weeks of 2025 delivered one of the most memorable chapters in Southeast Asian volleyball history, as the 33rd SEA Games in Thailand produced landmark results across indoor and beach disciplines. Playing before passionate home crowds, Thailand completed a rare and emphatic sweep, capturing gold medals in both the women's and men's indoor volleyball tournaments.

Thailand's men provided the exclamation point with a dramatic victory over defending champions Indonesia, reclaiming the SEA Games crown in a final that tested composure as much as skill.

The triumph complemented the women's title run, where Thailand once again affirmed its long-standing dominance on the regional stage, lifting its 17th SEA Games volleyball gold and reinforcing its status as the competition's benchmark nation.



Beyond the indoor courts, beach volleyball told a story of regional balance and rising programs. The women's tournament belonged to the Philippines, who claimed their first-ever SEA Games gold in the discipline, a breakthrough moment that signaled steady progress in the sand. On the men's side, Indonesia emerged on top after a tense golden match, underlining their depth and resilience in high-stakes encounters.



Taken together, the SEA Games results highlighted the continued growth of volleyball across Southeast Asia, a region whose depth and competitiveness suggest even more to come in the years ahead.



## KYRGYZSTAN CLOSE 2025 WITH CAVA DOUBLE, CLAIMING SENIOR AND U19 WOMEN'S TITLES

The final stretch of 2025 marked a defining period for Kyrgyzstan, as the nation secured two major women's titles across separate CAVA competitions, reinforcing its growing stature within Central Asian volleyball.

The first triumph came at the Women's CAVA Cup 2025, held from December 21 to 25 in Malé, where Kyrgyzstan captured the senior crown after defeating hosts Maldives in the final. After dropping the opening set, Kyrgyzstan regrouped to earn a 3–1 victory, gradually taking control of the match through steadier reception and improved execution at the net.

Earlier in the season, Kyrgyzstan had already claimed the CAVA Women's U19 Volleyball Championship 2025 in Colombo, defeating Nepal in a dramatic five-set final. After conceding the opening set, Kyrgyzstan responded to secure a 3–2 win (22–25, 25–20, 25–21, 13–25, 15–11), holding firm in the deciding set to seal the title against a resilient Nepal side.

Taken together, the two championships—earned across different age groups and tournaments—closed 2025 on a high note for Kyrgyzstan. Winning both the senior and U19 titles within the same season highlighted the depth of the country's women's program and underscored its rising competitiveness within Central Asian volleyball.



## OSAKA BLUTEON CARRY ASIA TO THE CLUB WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL



December delivered a landmark moment for Japanese volleyball as Osaka Bluteon became the first Japanese club to reach the final of the Men's Club World Championship, held in Belém, Brazil. Their run marked a breakthrough on the sport's biggest club stage and a significant milestone for the domestic club game.

Osaka Bluteon secured their place in the final with a commanding straight-sets semifinal victory over Poland's Aluron CMC Warta Zawiercie, winning 25–17, 25–23, 25–19. The performance was anchored by Yuji Nishida and Miguel Ángel López, whose scoring and composure proved decisive against top-level European opposition.

In the championship match, Osaka faced Italian powerhouse Sir Safety Perugia. Perugia prevailed in three sets to lift their third Club World Championship title, completing an unbeaten run in Belém and denying Osaka a historic gold medal.

Despite the final result, Osaka Bluteon's silver-medal finish stood as a milestone achievement. Reaching the championship match rewrote Japanese club history and demonstrated the growing competitiveness of teams from the region at the highest level of the global club game.



## AUSTRALIA SECURES DOUBLE QUALIFICATION FOR 2026 ASIAN CONTINENTAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Oceania Zonal Qualification Tournament in Canberra served as the critical pathway for teams aiming to reach the 2026 AVC Continental Volleyball Championships. This event was the deciding factor for which nations would represent the Oceania zone on the continental stage.

In the men's division, the Australian Volleyroos delivered a flawless performance. They remained undefeated throughout the tournament and capped their campaign with a decisive 3-0 victory over New Zealand in the final.

The Australian women's team was equally dominant in their three-match series against Samoa. The squad swept every game with straight 3-0 sets to claim a comprehensive victory on home soil.

With these results, Australia has successfully qualified for the 2026 AVC Continental Volleyball Championships in both the men's and women's competitions, confirming their spot among Asia's elite teams for the upcoming year.

## TASHKENT HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATE REFEREE COURSE TO CLOSE 2025

In early December, Tashkent served as the hub for Asian volleyball officiating talent as it hosted the International Candidate Referee Course from November 30 to December 6. Organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) in collaboration with the Volleyball Federation of Uzbekistan, the week-long intensive program brought together 22 emerging referees from nine countries. The opening ceremony was attended by senior officials, including Uzbekistan Volleyball Federation Vice President Jamshid Fayziyev and AVC Referee Committee Member Shahmiri Mohammed, who emphasized that advanced referee education is crucial for supporting the evolving standards of international competition.



Participants underwent a rigorous curriculum led by experienced FIVB-level instructors, focusing on elevating both technical knowledge and practical skills. The sessions covered the latest updates to international rules, real-world application of regulations, and intense officiating simulations. By successfully hosting one of the final development programs of the year, Tashkent highlighted its role as a key venue for technical growth, underscoring that the continued progress of Asian volleyball relies as much on the quality and preparedness of its officials as it does on the athletes' performance.

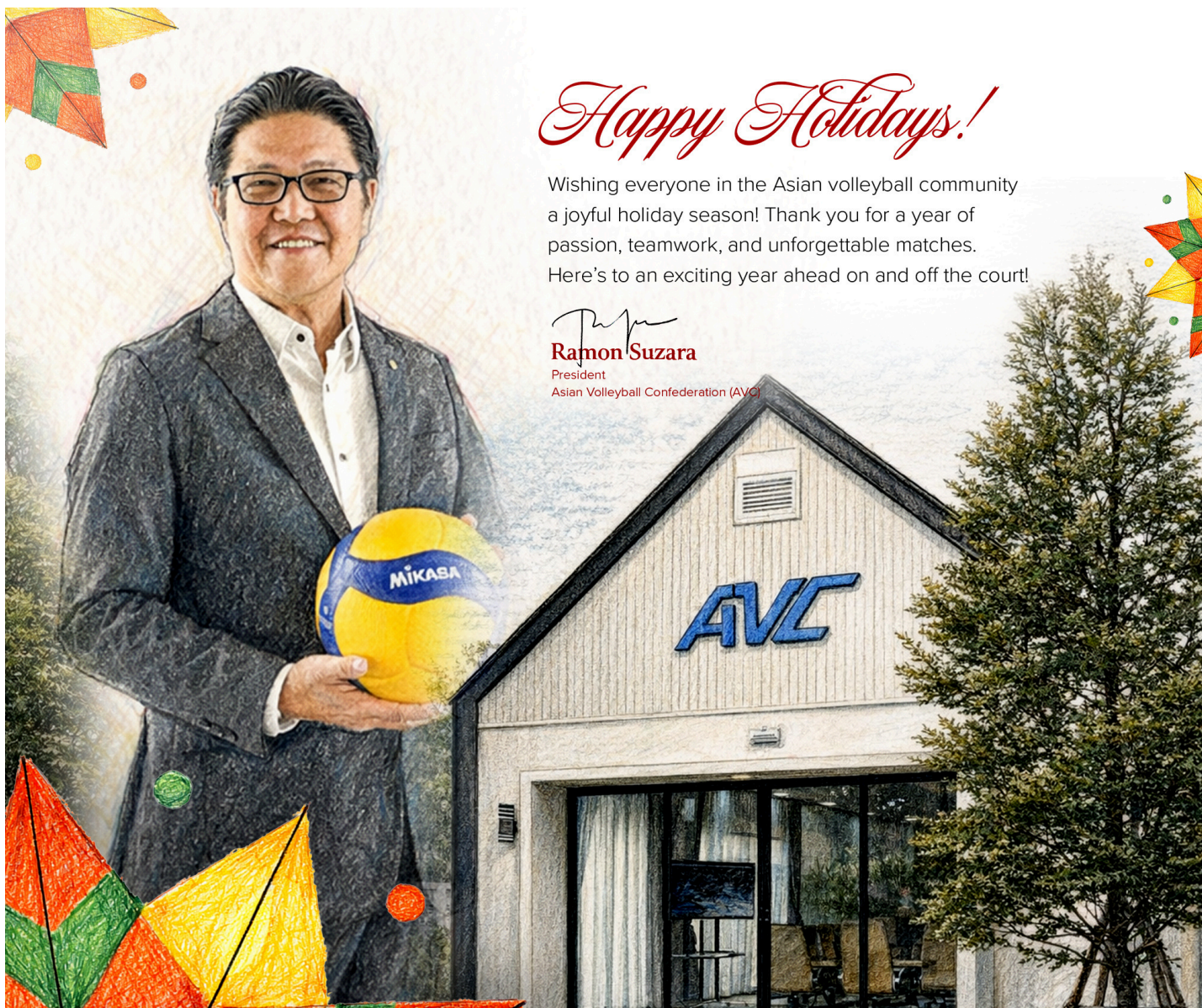


*Happy Holidays!*

Wishing everyone in the Asian volleyball community a joyful holiday season! Thank you for a year of passion, teamwork, and unforgettable matches. Here's to an exciting year ahead on and off the court!


**Ramon Suzara**

President  
Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC)

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