

This statement was sent to Play the Game in an email on 28 October 2014

Response to the FIVB statement from Chris Schacht

I have read the FIVB response to my letter of earlier this year regarding how I was removed from various international positions.

My response to the FIVB is to say that though technically it is true that the Board of Administration of a Continental Confederation can remove one of its representatives to the Board of the FIVB, they have not answered my comment that I was removed with no consultation with myself or anyone from the AVC or FIVB.

Their justification that the Australian Volleyball Federation and / or the Oceania Volleyball Zonal Association had withdrawn support for my position is absolutely incorrect.

As I stated in my letter of earlier this year neither the AFV or the OZVA ever carried a resolution or made a decision at any of their meetings to withdraw their support for my membership of the FIVB Board of Administration.

They also state that I resigned from the AVF. This is not correct. I resigned as president of the AVF, but remained a fully elected member of the AVF board. My letter clearly explains the background of why I stepped down as president of the OZVA and the AVC Board of Administration. Again I restate that the FIVB constitution does not prohibit any member of a national federation from holding any elected decision of any FIVB international organization.

It is true that I did not proceed with my appeal to the FIVB Appeals Panel because when I was asked to lodge a bond of \$2000 for my appeal to be heard, the FIVB informed me that even if I was successful in my appeal, they would not guarantee that my \$2000 bond would be refunded.

It is true that as a previous member of the FIVB Legal Commission, I supported improved governance to handle disputes within the FIVB. I never believed that a successful appeal could still mean that the successful applicant could be denied the refunding of the bond.

The attitude of the FIVB on this matter clearly indicates that the governance arrangements for handling disputes that there still is an attitudinal problem amongst the leadership of the FIVB.

It is true that after the election of Mr. Ary Graça as the new president, I declared my support to him. In doing so, I acknowledged that the result was very close in that Mr. Graça received 51 % of the votes and that I and Mr. Beal, between us, received 49% of the votes. I considered it very important that despite the close result, the FIVB had to show unity for the new president. Therefore I was very disappointed that Mr. Graça as the new president called a meeting of all the countries in the Oceania zone but refused to invite myself, the democratically elected president of the Oceania zone. It was clear in conversations within Oceania that Mr. Graça wanted to isolate myself from the rest of the Oceania countries. I know of no other example where a FIVB president has called a meeting of countries within a zone and specifically denied the democratically elected president of that zone the right to attend a meeting, which was to discuss development issues within that zone.

After reading the FIVB response to my letter, I find no evidence that anything I said in my letter dated 18. February 2014 is in any way incorrect or wrong in the describing of the way in which I was removed as a member of the FIVB Board of Administration.

Nevertheless, I wish the 221 national federations every success in developing our great sport.