

## First Female Representing Volleyball England Attends FIVB International Referee Candidate Course



This year the FIVB held an International Referee Candidate Course (IRCC) in Argentina from the 24<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October. For the first time in its history Volleyball England was represented at such an event by a female indoor volleyball referee, Katarina Cepinova.

Argentina Volleyball Federation President Juan Antonio Gutierrez opened the 8 day course which saw candidates from 10 different countries across Europe and South America. From the 18 participants only 3 women formed part of this group that also included the first female international referee candidates from Colombia and Paraguay.





The course consisted of a mixture of classroom teaching for the first 4 days with a further 3 days of practical assessments. The theoretical side of the course involved detailed review of Volleyball history, forming, development and current structure of FIVB as well as up to date FIVB indoor volleyball rules, case studies and guidelines.

On a more practical side of the course, each candidate had to, as part of the assessment, conduct duties of each of the official functions including line judging, scoring, assistant scoring, reserve referee, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> referee. These roles were conducted as part of an assigned team of officials working together across 3 days of men's and women's tournament matches. Individual performance was scored against official FIVB guidelines by the 3 international referee instructors Guillermo Enrique Paredes, Jose Ramon Perez Vento and Guy Bradbury.

On the penultimate day of the course a theoretical test had to be undertaken on the FIVB rules and regulations. To qualify as an international referee candidate each participant had to pass both theoretical as well as practical sections of the course.

On the last day everyone was excited to learn whether they had passed the course, thus expanding the number of FIVB international referee candidates in South America and Europe.



Despite the number of nationalities, the group of referees worked together very well providing a huge support and boost to each other during both the theoretical and practical assessments. The candidates formed a very closely knit group sharing experiences, knowledge and practical tips during the length of the course. The local



hospitality of the Argentinian Volleyball Association was also tremendous, making the stay very enjoyable and unforgettable for all.

*“It was a huge honour for me to be given the opportunity to participate at the FIVB IRCC in Argentina in September.” Says Katarina. “I am grateful to all who supported me through this journey and a big thank you to the Volleyball England Referee Commission for putting me forward for this course. I was extremely excited and happy to have passed and be able to represent Volleyball England not only in Argentina but at other future international volleyball events and tournaments.”*

Katarina’s next objective is to achieve the fully fledged FIVB International Referee status.



Katarina receiving her FIVB Attestation certificate from Course instructor Guillermo Enrique Paredes.