



# QBVT 2021/22 Season Review



## Overview

At the completion of the 2012/13 QBVT season, VQ Events Coordinator, Damien Searle, was tasked with reviewing the season at the request of the VQ Board, following mixed feedback from QBVT participants. The results of the review led to significant changes in the Tour structure.

This same survey has been completed at the end of each subsequent season, including the 2021/22 season. This report looks at the various elements of the Tour and makes comments for consideration.

## QBVT Dates

- 2012/13: 9 tournaments across 4 geographic areas, 1 promoter
- 2013/14: 12 tournaments across 6 geographic areas, 7 promoters
- 2014/15: 14 tournaments across 8 geographic areas, 9 promoters
- 2015/16: 15 tournaments (14 QBVT, 1 Special) across 8 geographic areas, 9 promoters
- 2016/17: 12 tournaments (+QJBVC) across 6 geographic areas, 6 promoters
- 2017/18: 12 tournaments (+QJBVC & Mixed Pairs) across 6 geographic areas, 7 promoters
- 2018/19: 12 tournaments (+QJBVC & Qld 4-a-side) across 6 geographic areas, 7 promoters
- 2019/20: 10 tournaments (+ Qld Masters) across 5 geographic areas, 5 promoters
- 2020/21: 11 tournaments (+ Qld Masters) across 4 geographic areas, 5 promoters
- 2021/22: 15 tournaments (+ Coolangatta cancelled) across 7 geographic areas, 7 promoters

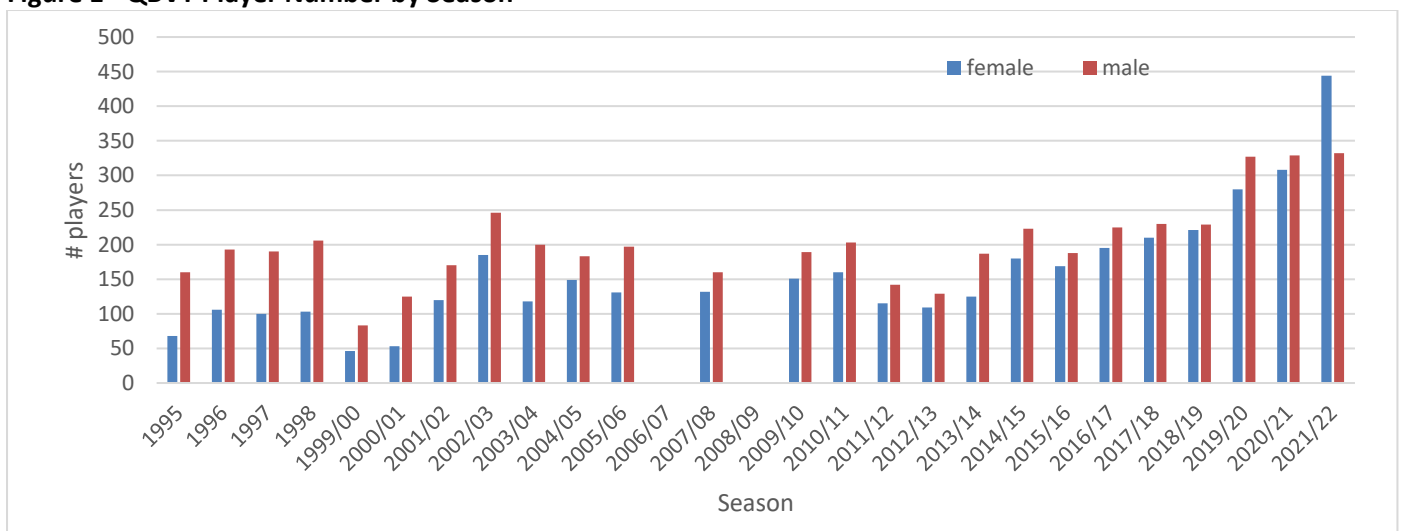
The dates of each tournament and the number of entries are shown in figure #2 (following page).

## Participation Numbers

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
# Tournament entries	438	497	557	571	569	649	796	902	1663
# Individual players	312	403	357	417	418	450	607	647	776

These participation numbers are compared to known previous seasons in figure #1, below.

Figure 1 - QBVT Player Number by Season



Figure#2 QBVT 2021/22 Tournaments and Entries

				Entries - M			Entries - W			Entries - Jnr Boys	Entries - Jnr Girls	Entries - Jnr Boys	Entries - Jnr Girls		
				Prem	Chall	Asp	Prem	Chall	Asp	U17	U17	U15	U15	Total	
Date	Rd	Tournament Name	Promoter	Prem	Chall	Asp	Prem	Chall	Asp	U17	U17	U15	U15	Total	
2021	25+26 Sept	1	Kurrawa	V'Ball In Paradise	24	33		24	19		16	13			129
	9+10 Oct	2	Sandstorm	Sandstorm	24	24	10	24	24	12	31	24	13	6	192
	23+24 Oct	3	Townsville	V'Ball In Paradise	16	10		8	9		2				45
	6+7 Nov	4	Kurrawa	BVGC	32	32	14	31	24	11	21	20	18	9	212
	20+21 Nov	5	Mackay	Citibeach	10	6		8							24
	27+28 Nov	6	Sandstorm	Sandstorm	24	45		24	26		23	16	15	8	181
	18+19 Dec	7	Mooloolaba	Easts	24	24	24	24	28		17	12	9	5	167
2022	8+9 Jan	8	Bracken Ridge	Bracken Ridge	29	19		13	8						69
	22+23 Jan	9	Qld Open	VQ	78			63			17	13	16	9	196
	29+30 Jan	10	Surfers	V'Ball In Paradise	24	19		24	23		8	14	6	7	125
	12+13 Feb	11	Sandstorm	Sandstorm	24	18		24	29		10	10	11	8	134
	19+20 Feb	12	Bundaberg	V'Ball In Paradise	16	12		12	7						47
	5 Mar	13	Coolanagatta	VQ		Cancelled									0
	12+13 Mar	14	Great Keppel	V'Ball In Paradise	16	24		12	11						63
	9+10 Apr	15	QLD Championships	V'Ball In Paradise	36			28				6	4	5	79
				<b>377</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1663</b>	

## **Player Demographics**

Male – 444 Players (57%)

Female – 332 players (43%)

2020/21 Total entries = 902 (of which 215 were u15/u17 teams)

2021/22 Total entries = 1663 (of which 422 were u15/u17 teams)

84% increase in total teams / 96% increase in Junior teams

## **Player Feedback**

Player's views on the Tour were sought after in order to gather a picture of the 'customers view'. This was achieved via an email to all players from VQ asking them to complete the Player Survey on-line (via Jot Form).

### The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was comprised of two sections

- a) 10 closed questions (the same questions have been used since 2012/13) - where responses were provided as one of 5 options, 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'.
- b) 2 open questions – where respondents were free to answer as they chose.
- c) In the 2021/22 a new question was added about the Player Awards

### Responses

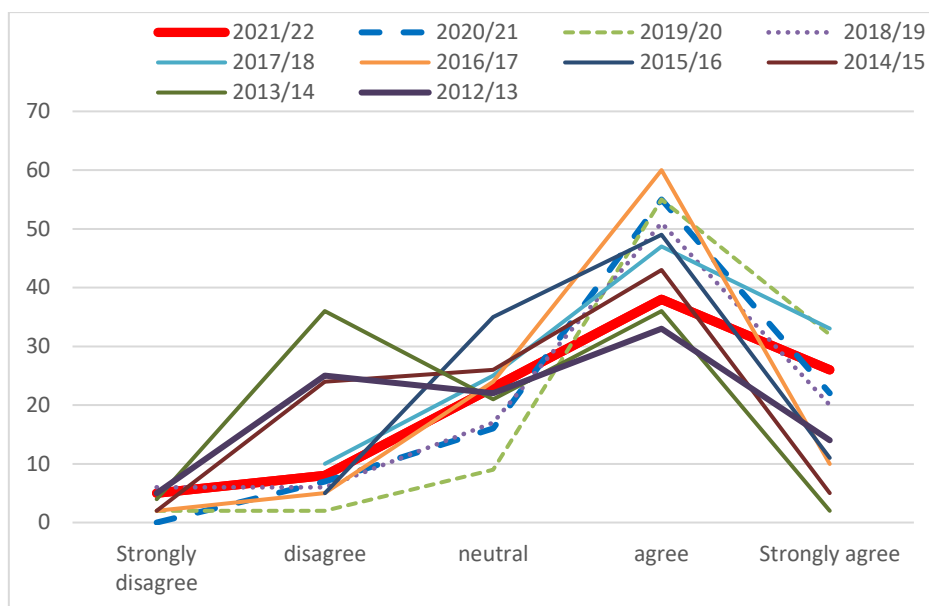
In 2020/21, 56 responses were submitted on-line via Jotform.

This response rate (7%) is below that of previous seasons (8%-20% response rate).

## Analysis of Player Feedback

The following graphs compare the feedback gathered at the end of this season (2021/22) with that from the previous seasons.

### Q1. Information on tournaments was easily accessible and timely



#### Analysis:

Responses continue to be very positive.

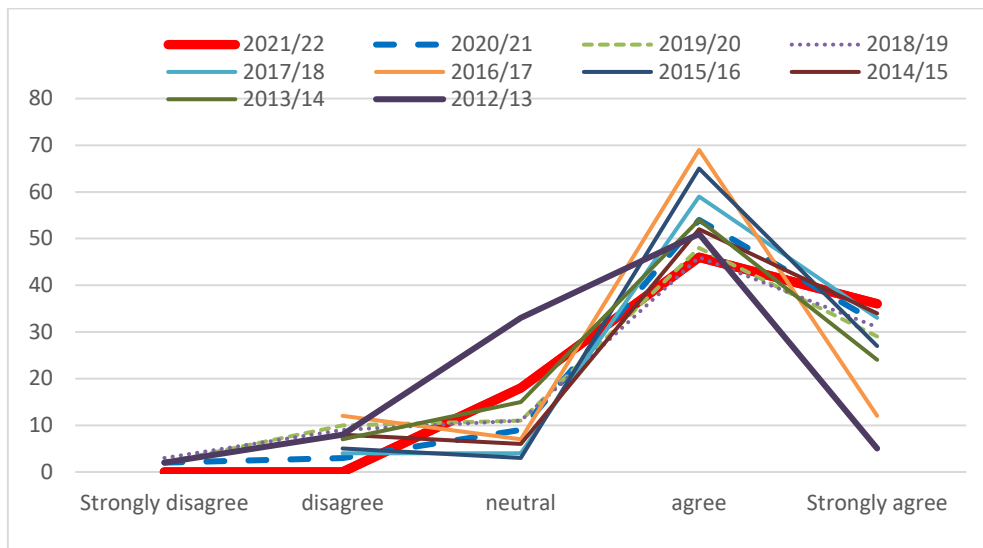
#### Player Feedback

- It is always VERY difficult to find tournament information. Too many different facebook pages etc. if all the different pages have to stay, at least provide a link to the exact place from the VQ tournament info site.
- Each promoter uses a different system to provide information. It is difficult to stay up to date with the variation of finding information, especially for new players. I spend a lot of time helping others (which I don't mind) and suspect there are many others who probably struggle with this
- It would be SO good to have the tournament calendar published much earlier in the year so that the northern teams are able to purchase cheap flights and attend more tournaments. It is much for expensive for us to accrue points than for the Brisbane/Gold Coast players which is frustrating.
- Potentially release draw earlier

#### Recommendation:

- Links to each tournaments info to be provided on QBVT webpage.

## Q2. QBVT offered a good geographic distribution of tournaments



### Analysis:

Townsville, Mackay and Great Keppel Island were reintroduced to the Tour.

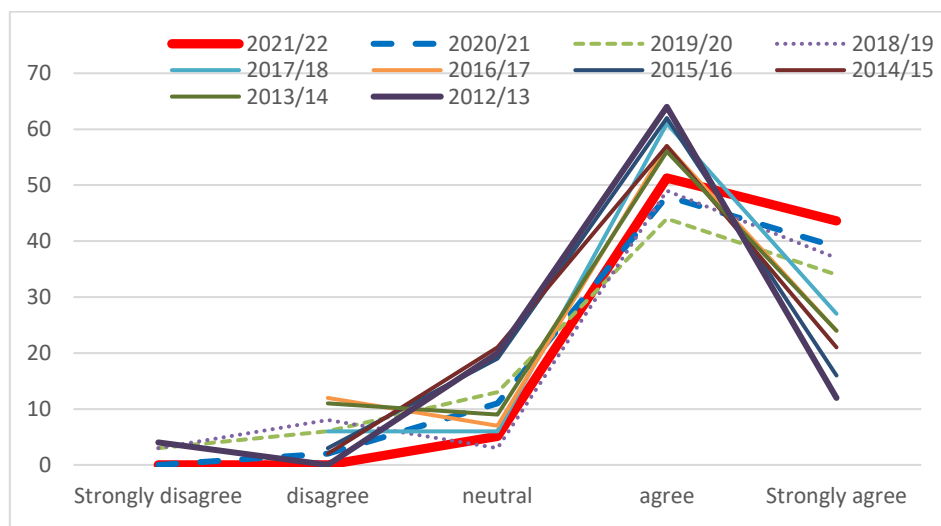
### Player Feedback

- more interesting locations like Keppel island. Maybe other islands e.g. Magnetic island, Hamilton Island, Fitzroy Island?

### Recommendation:

- Reintroduce events in North & Central Qld, adding new venues if appropriate

## Q3. There were an appropriate number of tournaments



### Analysis:

Very positive responses.

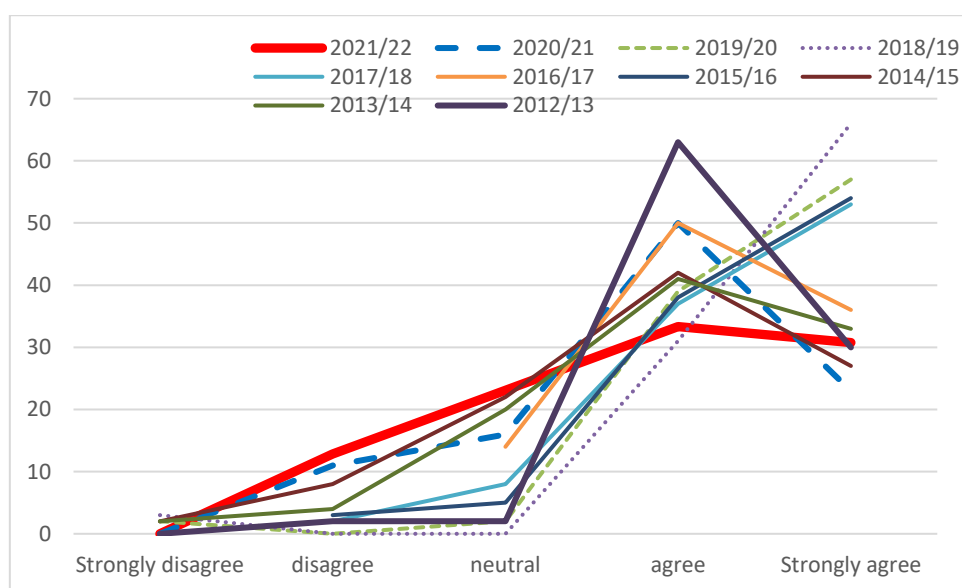
#### Player Feedback:

- Starting the tour earlier in the year, to allow additional competitions to be played
- I loved having some more regional events added to the mix this year - please keep doing that!
- Maybe try not to have the “away” events clashing with national tour events. It may help with numbers attending our regional QLD events?
- Back to back weekends for events are also a bit harsh on our ageing bodies lol... seriously though, I know this was a factor for a few injuries (not myself, but others I know), and why some have opted out of events.
- Tournaments held on local islands, would love to see a Sutton's Beach round instead of playing indoor venues eg bracken ridge, more north side or sunny coast if possible...loved touring events

#### Recommendation:

- Aim to keep current number tournaments whilst maintain quality and even spread of tournament through the summer

#### **Q4. The process for entering tournaments is easy and accessible**



#### Analysis:

New registration process was trialled at 2 events.  
Less positive responses than previous years

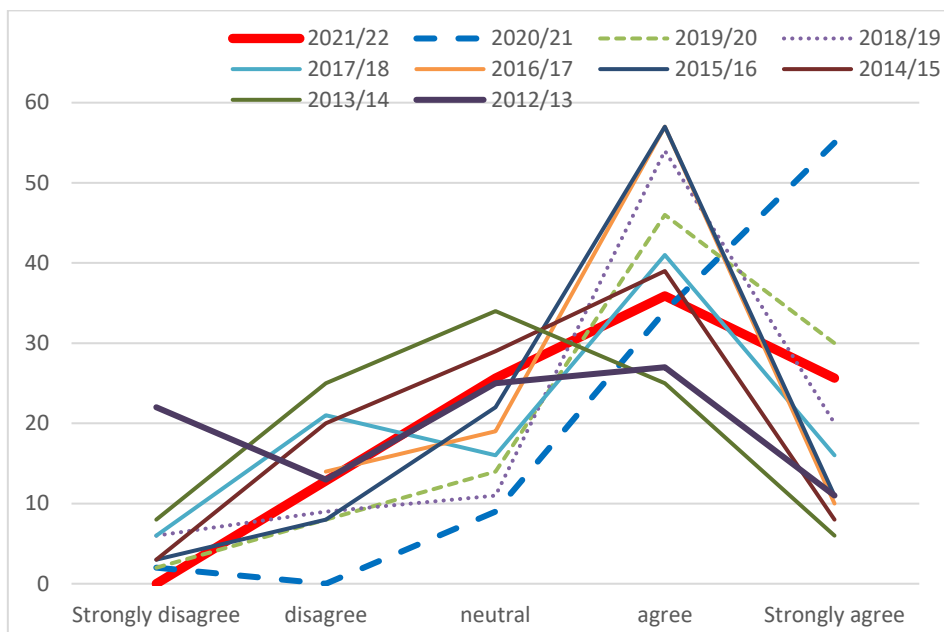
#### Player Feedback:

- having to fill in everyone's details with every rego is tiresome (x1)
- It would be great to be sent text msg notifications on Thursday that registrations are due by Monday. So many people don't play tournaments they want to play because they forget to register on time.
- The new entry system used for Qld Champs and one other (Mooloolaba?) was very cumbersome. I found the previous system much easier to use (x2)
- You have all of our details. It seems like it shouldn't be necessary to have to fill them in every time we register for a tournament. We should be able to search for/entre ONE field e.g. our name and just select it and we're registered.
- player to register and pay as individuals was a lot easier than paying as a team

#### Recommendation:

- Continue with online nomination portal, simplifying where possible

## Q5. Changes to tournaments (e.g. location, draws) were well communicated



### Analysis:

Qld Open format was changed to to major beach erosion

Coolangatta was cancelled due to flooding

Bracken Ridge & Sandstorm used 2<sup>nd</sup> venue due to high entry numbers

Sandstorm – Juniors date changed to increase capacity

Responses were less positive than last year.

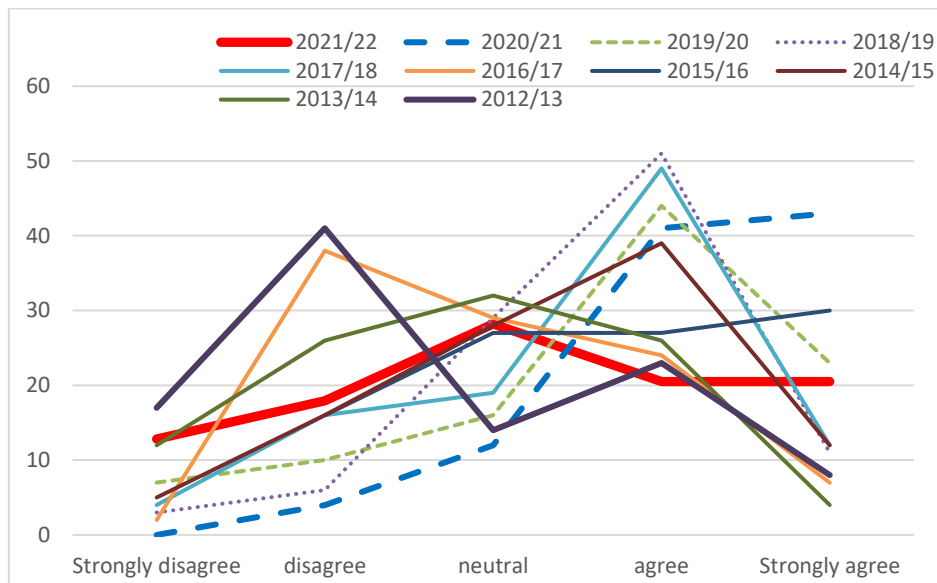
### Player Feedback:

- The online system used by VIP for updating results allows players to be up to speed on planning their day (when to grab lunch, who they're playing, which court). This is quite important (especially for parents), and would be good to see this implemented as a standard.
- Organisation could be far better honestly in terms of courts running on time. I know players can be useless but they can also be great. What was implemented at QLD open where players forfeit sets or matches was fantastic, I absolutely loved that.

### Recommendation:

- Keep current communication methods
- Look to introduce methods of keeping courts on time

**Q6. I am aware of the mechanism for athletes to provide QBVT feedback**



Analysis

Lack of Player’s Meeting before play means player reps have not been elected each tournament. Average responses.

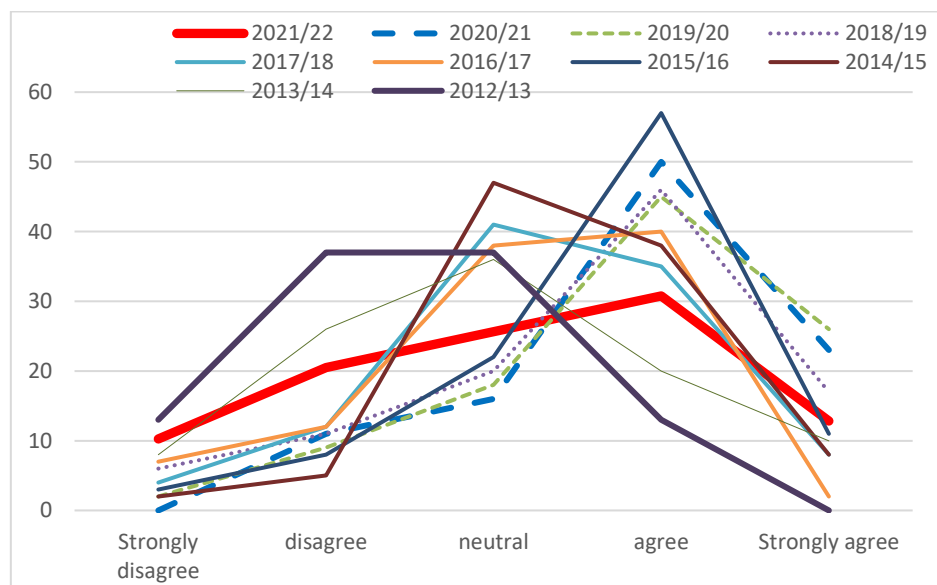
Player Feedback:

- None received

Recommendation:

- Continue to select Player Reps and advertise committee members.
- Continue to promote the Beach Committee

**Q7. QBVT provides athletes value for money**



Analysis:

Little change from last season in terms of entry fee or tournament delivery. Player responses poor.



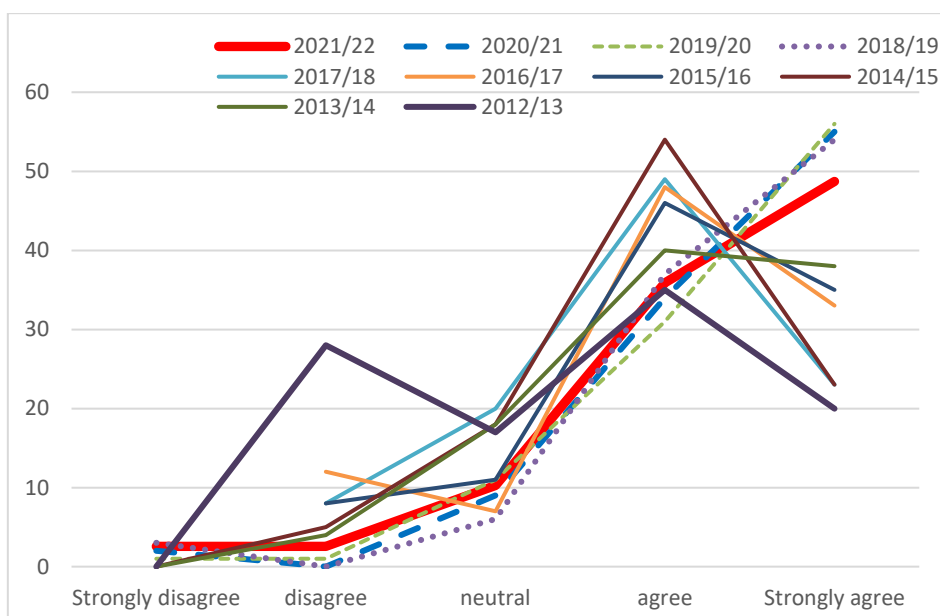
### Player Survey Feedback:

- often at larger tournaments due to abundance in points some people are placed in prem just because they have played loads of rounds but often get knocked out straight away after two or three games. Which isn't the best value for money.
- School Holiday tournaments at places like surfers etc are very expensive and can be difficult to get accommodation. I know several players who have struggled with those costs this season and many have opted to travel back home (up to 2+ hours) rather than pay the cost of accommodation during holiday periods. I think this detracts from the overall experience for those players. Maybe school holiday events could be held at places where accom and parking is a bit easier?

### Recommendation:

- 1) Continue policy of providing numerous games per team
- 2) Continue to advertise draw format in advance so expectations are set

## **Q8. Male and female players are treated equally**



### Analysis:

Very positive responses

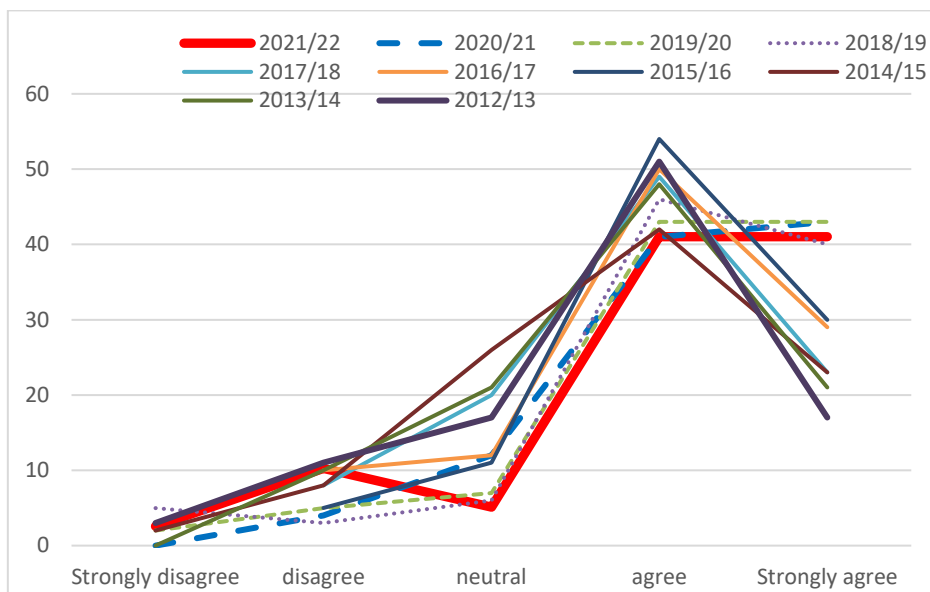
### Player Feedback:

- Don't always have junior girls on the last court

### Recommendation:

- Equality levels to be maintained

**Q9. The facilities and equipment at the tournaments were suitable for a State-level event**



Analysis:

Little change in responses from last season.

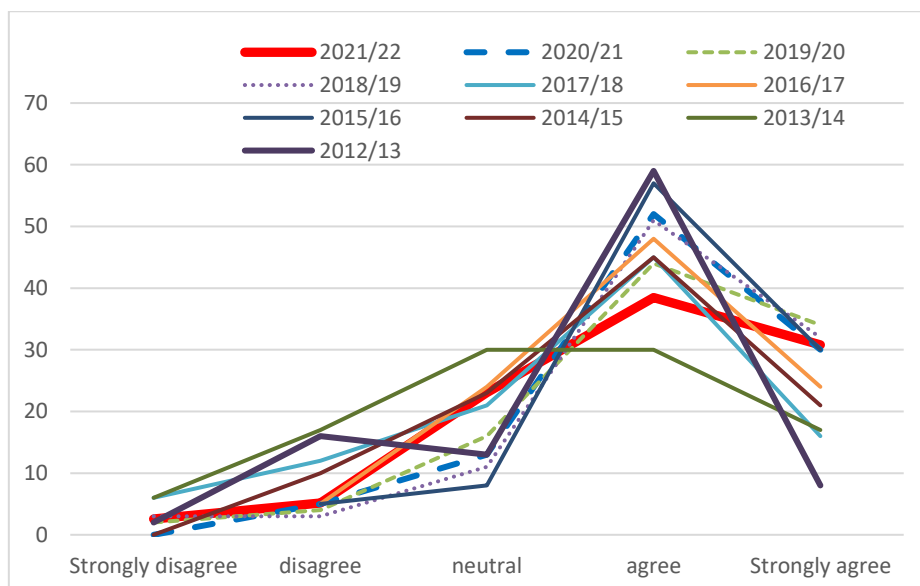
Player Feedback:

- Maybe just having a small umbrella for the dutying team to stand under and for the players in tech times/time outs
- provide sun/rain cover for all courts. At the champs on the weekend, there were no gazebos set up for court 4 onwards. Felt like second cousin playing on those courts
- I know it's not your fault but playing at surfers was annoying because the courts were so sloped and the nets were quite low (x2)
- Courts well levelled and nets with standard heights and tight don't believe Bracken Ridge is a suitable venue for State Tour events, unless it is a supplementary venue. Four courts, and average facilities.

Recommendation:

- Continue to ensure Promoter Handbook requirements are met

**Q10. Each tournament draw was easy to follow and transparent**



## Analysis

### Positive responses

#### Player Feedback:

- I believe most of the inconvenience this year were due to the high amount of players for certain venues and different draw formats. My idea is to put a cap in prem and challenger so we could keep the same format though out the year and full scoring, the remaining teams would be placed in aspiring (with a flexible format according to the numbers of teams who signed in). Venues who can not accommodate the avg of teams that we had this year, would have to adapt or could be replaced for bigger venues.
- A new division just below prem and above challenger.
- More divisions of smaller numbers. A good medium from this year would be divisions of 16. I can't think of a single time this year where a team ranked outside of the top 16 made a 1/4 final. This means the national ranking system is working and we can finally reduce division numbers and allow more divisions to keep the events more competitive. This is especially important as we continue to see massive numbers at some events. It also allows promoters to use a standardised draw and format to allow players to plan their weekends and events. Currently draws are not known until accommodation would need to be booked so you can't plan to stay anywhere with all the information on when the event will wrap up. This will also allow promoters to know what their event would be capped at (a great problem to have) let's say I run an event. I know I have 40 courts space/resource's/equipment/personnel etc I can work out how many games per day per division and then advertise that my event will allow X number of teams entry and it will be first in best dressed/entry accepted on points. We are approaching this problem and cutting scoring/format/number of games is not the right way to go about it.
- Tournament draws - we need to adopt the best system and then consistently use that across all promoters. Multiple systems for draws and live results each event are confusing and produces an inconsistent product. Ideally, the processes to run QBVT events should be consistent for all promoters and this could be achieved by deciding a best practice from amongst the approaches taken by the promoters.
- As a lot of the school age kids have GPS on a Saturday so an option for them to play on a Friday/Saturday night would be great.
- I love when organisers present the tournament info in a way that includes the format per court instead of just by pools or timeslots. It's so much easier to know when you're needed where.
- Friday night games if have lights
- Splitting prem/challenger courts between two locations wasn't ideal - though I understand the necessity
- National tour has made some of the seedings this year a little warped, which can make it very difficult for teams who have not played national tour to get out of pool play at times. I would like to see more of the top of pool going straight through, and 2nd/3rd in pool battling it out. Not sure if that's a logistical nightmare, just a thought; there were a couple of rounds where only the top seeds went through and a couple best seconds - if you have a very strong team in your pool it makes it very difficult to get your points for and against high enough to proceed through out of pool play.

#### Recommendation:

- Keep standardised presentation of draws
- Ensure minimum of 3 games per team is maintained

## Additional Questions (Open Ended)

**Q1.** What did you like best about the tournaments you did play?

The following responses received multiple mentions:

- Good level of competition/play (x2)
- Atmosphere/community (x13)
- Tournaments were well organised with good set-up (x18 )
- Great locations (x12)
- Good value for money (x3)

**Q2.** What were the reasons for you choosing NOT to play certain tournaments?

The following responses received multiple mentions:

- Distance to travel; time and cost (x16)
- Work/ other commitments (x10)
- Location/don't like that venue (x4)
- Injury/COVID (x4)
- Didn't have a partner (x3)

## Additional Feedback

The following comments from the players were either reoccurring or are noteworthy and not covered above:

- Our events at the beaches can attract decent crowds. Perfect opportunity here to get them involved (a 5 min fun game between our games), or provide advertising, telling the crowd what the event is and how they can sign up to their nearest centre.
- The difficulty for challengers to find partners is immense - there is some space here for improvement
- A return from Maternity policy regarding seedings is required
- more emphasis on community events on the Saturday night would be great.
- Incentives for players attending remote locations
- We need a commentator at all state tour competitions. There are plenty of experienced people who would do it. Someone could be developed from scratch. Just for Finals would be fine.

## Referees

- More people to make sure reffing teams are being fair and responsible, instead sitting down and reffing.
- Consistency of refereeing is average. It is good to see finals with qualified referees. One year there was compulsory referee training, which was good. Perhaps this can be done again
- Also the official refs this season were really really unapproachable and out of touch with tournaments. I honestly feel VQ could spend the money ref's costs on other things. An MC for a big event for instance would be incredible. And the players do a fantastic job of doing duties and they are far more approachable and understanding.

## Players Awards

The following responses received multiple mentions or were noteworthy:

- Present on the day (x3)
  - During a lunch break in all games (x1)
- Have a stand-alone dinner (x12)
- I don't think the event is necessary or worth the effort (x1)
- wasn't aware they were on (x4)

## Voting system

- NSW has a system that the referee team for each game scores and also chooses per match an MVP, and best defender, etc. so they can create additional awards/recognition per tournament. Nice idea - could research exactly what they do or try something else, but this sort of recognition enhances the player experience. I know it's hard enough to get referees to fill in the team names, but worth mentioning.
- I think if the awards were fairer and more objective (eg points based or nominated by organisers or a panel) then people might see more value in them.
- Tournament organisers to also vote and count for more votes
- Feels like a popularity contest (x2)
- Need more awards – challenger (x1) , junior age groups (x2)

## Other

- I believe a best and fairest award should be added. Named the Joshua Slack medal or similar. Josh demonstrates every aspect that on court behavior should be like. its not every sport that has a 3 time Olympian involved. Perhaps a female version as well with Nat Cook.
- I feel like the awards voting is very restrictive and very few people vote. You can only vote for your gender and in your division, means the number of votes is super low and a small group of friends can band together and easily create a vote. Feel like the award voting is so closed, that it's almost a forgone conclusion.
- Maybe the idea of voting for each match (see above) or even a preliminary players vote to create a shortlist could work, then open up the voting via a promoted social media post with some video highlights so anyone can be part of a popular vote would be way more transparent and would involve more of the community. Then the awards night can recognise the finalists for each category and reveal the overall winner.
- Maybe also market the awards night as something else. By making it an 'awards night' it feels like it's only for those getting an award. If it was an annual players' ball or annual players' cocktail party, etc. then it isn't just about the awards. The awards can still be part of the night, but the focus is then more about celebrating the sport with friends.