

NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Northern Marianas Sports Association welcomed 2021 with renewed hope and anticipated big challenges ahead. After the cancelation of many sports events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NMSA was pleased to see its member-federations resuming their respective programs. Local competitions, interscholastic leagues, and other sports-related activities were back, allowing are athletes to do the things they enjoy the most—playing sports.



With sports events returning, it also meant that facilities must be available to accommodate our athletes and other members of the NMI sports community. Repair works at Oleai Sports Complex had already started in 2020, but the FEMA-funded major transformation was scheduled in 2021. Lighting fixtures at the track and field oval were installed, providing our community a much safer and more accessible facility. The track facility was also scheduled to undergo resurfacing, while the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium were also set to get the needed facelift. However, delays in these improvement projects presented the NMSA and our athletes challenges, prompting us to find alternatives to host training sessions. Baseball had to practice at the smaller Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan softball field, while athletics utilized open fields at the various villages.

Baseball, athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting are the nine sports getting ready for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and are pressed to catch up with training to make up for the time they lost due to the pandemic. The NMSA salutes the athletes, their coaches, and the sports federations for facing these challenges and doing their best to be battle ready for the Mini Games.

While the NMSA shares our athletes' excitement over the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, we are also looking beyond the Games and its legacy. New equipment, such as canoes, had arrived for the Mini Games and more will come in 2022. This equipment will be used not only for next year's competition, but in the coming years, as it is NMSA's priority to take care of these investments to allow more programs to benefit from these acquisitions for a long time.

The NMSA is also thrilled with the approval of the $21.2 million grant from Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce for the Oleai Sports Complex makeover and creation of an adjacent cultural events site.

These major facilities transportations, equipment acquisitions, and resumption of sports competitions and related activities will continue to inspire the NMSA to work on supporting our athletes and officials and encouraging our community to live a healthier lifestyle through involvement in sports. These goals, NMSA believes, will be accomplished with the help of the business and government sectors and other stakeholders in NMI sports.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilisow. Thank you.



JERRY TAN
President, NMSA Board

SUMMARY

NMI sports is back in 2021. Majority of national sports federations held their usual local competitions, the interscholastic programs are active again, and some athletes even managed to participate in off-island tournaments.

What was once an idle sports community crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic, is thriving again, and getting ready for the biggest sports competition ever to be hosted in the NMI—the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. Athletes doubled their efforts to catch up with the lost time and opportunities to prepare for the Mini Games by attending tryouts and training sessions for the NMI national team.

Athletics utilized the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility to train and also used various local running events for national team trials. Badminton and beach volleyball also had their tryout sessions on Saipan, while baseball's search for potential national players was extended to Rota and Tinian. Golf was the first group to kick off trials and announce its 14-player pool. Tennis counted on their off-island players to give the NMI the same lift as what happened in Samoa during the 2019 Pacific Games, while triathlon went for athletes based on island. Va'a drew a lot of national team hopefuls both from the men's and women's sides as more than 50 athletes joined the trials, while weightlifting saw familiar names on its list.

As athletes stepped up, sports officials also took the initiative to gain knowledge in their respective fields as they attended, for the first time, the Oceania Sports Education Programme through the partnership of the Northern Marianas Sports Association and the Oceania National Olympic Committees.

As the NMI welcomed the resumption of sports and related activities on the island, the long-awaited repair work at the Oleai Sports Complex and its facilities slowly started to take place. Lighting fixtures at the Oleai track oval were installed and were operational in July, while scope of work for the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium were mapped out.

More major transformations at the Oleai Sports Complex will happen following the Economic Development Administration's awarding of a $21.2-million grant to islands for the CNMI Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project.







ATHLETICS

After settling for virtual races in the majority of 2020, Northern Marianas Athletics was able to bring back its regular athletics events, including the much-awaited return of the 2021 McDonald's Public School System All Schools Track and Field Championships. The NMA also had its All Schools Cross Country Championships and both interscholastic meets brought together more than a thousand student-athletes from the public and private schools NMI wide. The NMA also brought back its signature road races in 2021, such as the Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trut Run and the Christmas Island Relay and teamed up with other community and sports groups that hosted various races. On the regional field, the Northern Marianas Athletics was named one of Oceania Area Finalists for the World Athletics Awards 2021, while Team Run Saipan wins 'ticket' to World Athletics Championships 2022 in Oregon. With NMA back to holding local events, it also gave the association the opportunity to start try outs for Team NMI that will be competing in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.













BADMINTON

The Northern Marianas Badminton Association, after having only one event in 2020, came back strong in 2021 as it managed to hold all four competitions under its calendar. The NMBA kicked off the season with the TanHoldings Badminton Team Tournament, followed by the IT&E Team Tournament and the inaugural TakeCare Badminton Open that featured the first junior competition in the history of NMI badminton. Another first for the NMBA is the NMI Badminton National Championships, which also served as a tryout for athletes hoping to represent the islands in the 2022 Pacific Mini Games. While the NMBA resumed competition last year, it also boosted its grassroots program by going to schools and holding Shuttle Time sessions. NMBA officials and players offered free badminton lessons and equipment to schools, from the elementary level down to the high school category. The NMBA also took an important step toward building a strong interscholastic program after signing a memorandum of agreement with the CNMI Public School System for the establishment of an interscholastic league for middle and high school students.













BASKETBALL

The NMI Basketball Federation underwent a new leadership in 2021 and marked the significant change with a variety of programs and partnerships with the sport's stakeholders. The NMIBF reconnected with FIBA Oceania and received grants for programs, such as Basketball For Good and Rising Coaches Program. The NMIBF was also featured in the FIBA Oceania Mid-Term Congress for 2019-2023 Cycle, as it discussed its journey toward the rebuilding of NMI basketball after a long lull due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Locally, the NMIBF was able to host several tournaments in 2021 and also revived its partnership with the CNMI Public Schools System to hold the interscholastic basketball league in all levels across the three islands. For the first time in history of international basketball, the NMIBF managed in have a private company—IT&E—sponsored the program. On the national team level, the NMIBF created the NMI National Team Program that pools together players who wish to represent the NMI in various regional and international competitions and have them undergone regular training sessions.













BASEBALL

The Saipan Baseball League had its new set of officers in 2021 and left without a field to hold competitions since the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios was still scheduled for repair work, the SBL's focus was on the formation of the NMI National Team that will be playing in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. Tryouts were held on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian with over 40 players showing up to battle for the honor to don the NMI colors in the highly-anticipated baseball competition in the Mini Games. Soon, the pool went down to 30 and then to 25 and players had to train at the smaller Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Softball Field to prepare for the competition.











CYCLING

The NMI Cycling Federation had to cancel its biggest race for the 2021 season due to the spike in COVID-19 cases late in the year. However, several races were hosted in the first three quarters of 2021, keeping our ever-thriving cycling community busy. In April, the NMICF worked with Saipan Lions Club for the Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Mountain and Road Bike Race. The NMICF also had the three-leg Hell of Marianas Race Series and the Bike For Her, while NMI cyclist managed to go off-island and raced at the Tour de Guahan.







GOLF

The CNMI Federation of Golf Associations was the first group to announce its pool of players who were battling for slots in the NMI National Team that will be competing in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. The CNMI Golf Association selected 7 male and 7 female players to make up the national team pool and all of them had to undergo a series of tryouts that started mid 2021. Included on the pool are six junior players, as the golf competition in the Mini Games encouraged youth participation in the event. The golfers in the pool then used the several local tournaments hosted at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort and Coral Ocean Point courses to prepare for the Mini Games.






FOOTBALL

Soccer leagues resumed in 2021 after the suspension of the action at the pitch in 2020. The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association held competitions in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 and M-League Spring 2021, which later in the fall was renamed to Marianas Soccer League. Games for elementary and middle school students also returned via the NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League with Koblerville Elementary School and Hopwood Middle School ruling their respective division. As the NMIFA gradually resumed competition in 2021, it also marked two milestones that year. One was securing a lease agreement with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Lands for the construction of the new facility adjacent to the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville. The second one was the record-number of NMI players that earned opportunities to play in the collegiate level. Six national team pool players, including four female, were recruited to play in the collegiate leagues in the U.S. They are Dev Bachani, Kohtaro Gato. Katrina Costales, Stephanie Flores, Lilian Podziewski, and Stella McCallion.










SWIMMING

Left without an appropriate pool to train and compete locally for nearly four years, NMI swimmers were just pretty determined to move forward and keep honing their skills. They continued to train in private pools and open water and finally joined an official swim race since the COVID-19 pandemic struck via the first leg of the Saipan Swim Club Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series. The Triple Crown also served as trials for the 2021 FINA World Championships, which was scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi in December. The NMI ended up sending four swimmers in the world meet with Jinnosuke Suzuki, Juhn Tenorio, and sisters Asaka and Shoko Litulumar racing at the Etihad Arena.









Jinnosuke Suzuki in action in the men's 100m freestyle of the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships last Monday in the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



Asaka Litulumar prepares to swim in the women's 50m freestyle of the 15th FINA World Swimming Championships last Monday in the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

TENNIS

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association was back to its busy schedule in 2021, a welcome sight for the very active tennis community after tournaments were called off in 2020 due to the pandemic. The NMITA kicked off the 2021 season with the White Coconut Tennis Classic and also held the Saipan International School Tennis Tournament, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation CNMI Junior Tennis Championships and the Bridge Capital Tennis Classic before concluding the year with the 11th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic. In the off-island scene, NMI players also made their mark with Colin Sinclair, Carol Lee, and Robbie Schorr having their respective competitions. Lee played for Georgia Tech tennis team in the NCAA Division I, was named as one of Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athletes, and advanced to the finals of the UTR Pro Tennis Series Miami Women Tennis League. Sinclair, on the other hand, got his International Tennis Federation Men's World Tennis Tour and steered Pacific Oceania to a finals win and Group II promotion in the Davis Cup. Not to be outdone was Schorr, who had an outstanding first season with William Woods University. He finished his rookie season with a11-2 mark in singles for the best percentage (84.6%) among the 10 players of William Woods. In doubles, Schorr and his teammates' 10-2 mark, was also the best record on the squad. The 19-year-old also helped the Owls shut down Missouri Valley College, 4-0, in the finals of the AMC/Heart/Sooner Unaffiliated Conference Championship.















TRIATHLON

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI was among the first sports groups to return to action early in 2021 when it hosted the 6th Saipan Aquathlon and & 10K Run in February. TRAC followed it up with the Paupau 5150 Taga Triathlon, while the group also hosted a series of qualifying events for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and brought back Taga Kids. TRAC in the latter part of the year gained associate membership to World Triathlon after getting 73 yes votes at the virtual World Triathlon Congress. The membership would provide the NMI triathlon group access to technical and financial support from the world body.







Runners begin the course in the 6th Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Run last Saturday at PauPau Beach, Marpi.







VA'A

The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation's highlight for the 2021 season was the CNMI Public School System Interscholastic High School Canoe Series. Kagman High School ruled the men's co-ed competition, while Marianas High School topped the women's division for the third straight season. The federation also held sprint and long-distance races in the open division and these events served qualifiers for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. The Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation's preparations for the Mini Games got the needed boost when it received its first batch of new V-1 and V-6 canoes, courtesy of the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee.















VOLLEYBALL

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association kicked off the 2021 season with the staging of the Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball High School League, which Mt. Carmel School (boys) and Grace Christian Academy (girls) eventually ruled. More beach volleyball competitions were hosted in the coming months, as the NMIVA searched for male and female players that would represent the NMI to the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games. As part of its preparations for the Mini Games, the NMIVA brought FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago for a coaching clinic and players camps. When the new school year started, the NMIVA then brought volleyball indoor via the Public School System Girls High and Middle School Volleyball Tournament.







WEIGHTLIFTING

The CNMI Weightlifting athletes had opportunities to compete in online events as well as in person and capitalized on both, as the islands lifters won several tournaments. In March, during the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup Weightlifting Championships, Leo Apelo was named best overall lifter in the competition after sweeping the three categories in the 89-kg class. In the same competition, Antonette Labausa topped her 81-kg category. Labausa also joined the Oceania Weightlifting Championships held online in September and got a gold medal with her best snatch at 66kg (145.2lbs) and clean and jerk at 91kg (200.2lbs) for a total of 157kg (345.4lbs). David Barnhouse participated in the Oceania tournament, too, and notched a silver medal in the 109+ kilogram category. Barnhouse, Labausa, and Apelo are all part of the pool training for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.





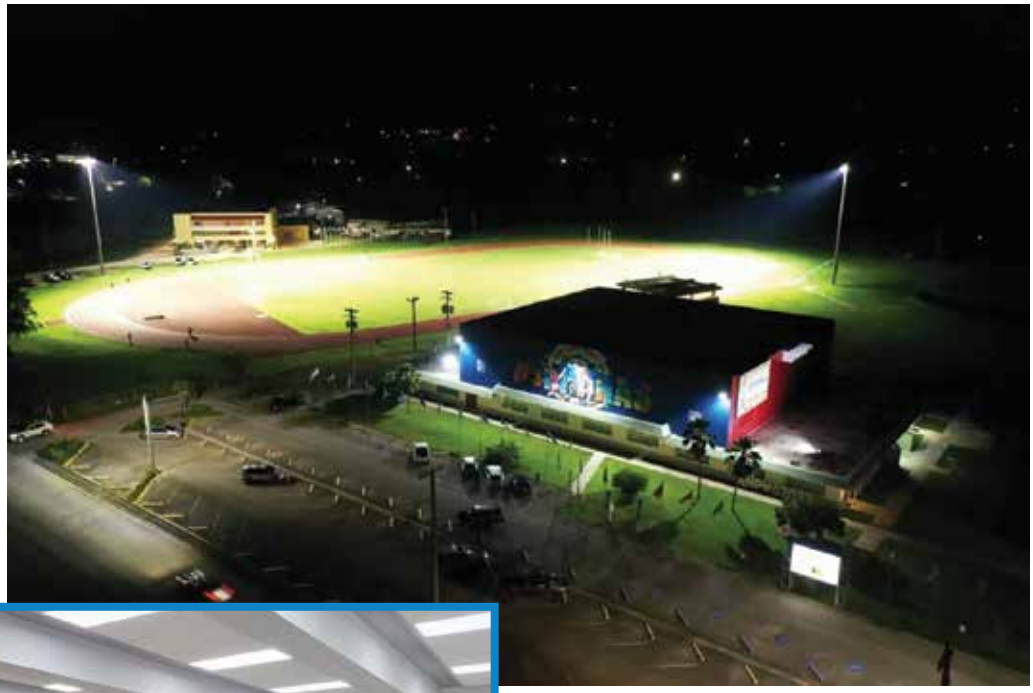

FACILITIES REPORT

Stadium floodlights were installed at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval and they were operational by mid July, providing the community a much safer and more accessible facility for sports competitions and health and wellness activities. The track oval was also scheduled for resurfacing late in 2021, but shipping issues had delayed the Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded project.



Other projects—installation of HVAC system, replacement of window and flooring, and repair of lower roof concrete at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium also had hiccups and are expected to be complete early 2022 along with the repair work at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios ballfield.

Existing facilities at the Olea Sports Complex, such as the conference room, remained to be the most utilized venue for meetings of not just sports groups, but as well as other organizations in the community. The adjacent multipurpose room had been designated as office of the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee, while the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan served as alternative training venue for baseball, and the weightlifting room has been utilized by both national team athletes and community members.





2022 NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES

As of December 16, 2021 over 800 athletes and nearly 200 officials from 20 countries have confirmed participation in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games, which will be held from June 17 to 25, 2022.

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is working with the nine federations that will be fielding teams in the Mini Games and is also coordinating with the Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee to deliver a successful Games.



Last June 17, the NMSA joined the PMGOC and our athletes and officials in launching the one-year countdown to the Pacific Mini Games. The NMSA has also launched its search for the NMI chef de mission and has continuously sought the guidance of the Pacific Games Council on athletes eligibility rules and other requirements for the Mini Games.

The NMSA is looking to have a maximum number of athletes for each of the nine sports—athletics, badminton, baseball, beach volleyball, golf, tennis, triathlon, va'a, and weightlifting—to form a big NMI Team and put on a strong performance in front of the home crowd.



FINANCIAL REPORT

NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION (NMSA)
(A Nonprofit Corporation)

Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	Without Donor Restriction		With Donor Restriction	Total
	Expendable	Non-expendable		
Revenues:				
In-Kind contributions	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Other revenue and support	12,743			12,743
Grants and restricted contributions	121,950		35,991	157,941
Net Assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions				-
Total revenues and other supports	134,693	-	35,991	170,683
Expenses				
Program services				
Utilities	17,873			17,873
Depreciation		6,739		6,739
Travel	5,042			5,042
Training	3,856			3,856
Print and Ads	1,710			1,710
Repairs and maintenane	1,084			1,084
Insurance	754			754
Members support	410			410
Other expense	72			72
Bank charge	52			52
Total expenses and losses	39,998	6,739	-	46,687
Other changes in net assets				
Acquisition of equipment	-	-	-	-
Total other changes in net assels	-	-	-	-
Change in net assets	94,694	(6,739)	35,991	123,946
Net assets at beginning of year	(47,467)	22,944	37,652	13,129
Net assets at end of year	**$ 47,227**	**$ 16,205**	**$ 73,643**	**$ 137,075**

NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION (NMSA)
(A Nonprofit Corporation)

Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets:		
Cash		$ 164,907
Total current assets		164,907
Property and equipment:		
Machinery and equipment	10,892	
Office equipment	2,894	
Furnitures and fixtures	899	
Transportation equipment	8,500	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(23,185)	
Property and equipment - net		-
Other Assets:		
Refunddable deposits		-
Total assets		**164,907**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable		8,159
Payroll taxes payable		19,673
Total current liabilities		27,832
Net assets:		
Net assets without donor restriction		
Expendible	47,227	
Non-expendible	16,205	
Net assets with donor restriction	73,643	
Total net assets		137,075
Total liabilities and net assets		**164,907**

NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT