NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INTRODUCTION

It was a year to remember for NMI sports, as 2023 did not only bring out the best in our athletes and coaches' skills but as well as their character, and the outpouring support from our stakeholders.

The highlight of the year was Team Marianas' historic campaign in the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands. NMI athletes won five gold medals—the most it collected in the history of the islands' participation in the Pacific Games—one silver and seven bronzes. NMI had 102 delegates in the 2023 Pacific Games, also the most since it competed in the 1999 Pacific Games in Guam. Tania Tan won a pair of gold medals in athletics—another historic feat as the NMI has never won a single gold medal in track and field events in the Pacific Games. The same thing goes for bodybuilding, with Christina Tudela striking gold in the model physique category. The two other golds came from veteran weightlifter Raymond Santos and young swimmer Isaiah Aleksenko.

But more than these medals and the historic achievements, what made Team Marianas' success story in the 2023 Pacific Games special was the show of commitment, resiliency, and teamwork from all individuals and groups involved before, during, and after the grueling competitions in Honiara.

Before the Pacific Games, Team Marianas had to struggle for funds to make it to the event. Athletes and coaches put in their contributions through the help of their family members and friends, the Northern Marianas Sports Association provided subsidy, while nine companies/organizations from the private sector stepped in and assisted Team Marianas financially. These significant contributions allowed Team Marianas to arrange a charter flight for the first time and the delegation traveled directly to Honiara, avoiding what could have been a long, arduous journey to the Solomons. Several Guam delegates and some from American Samoa were also able to travel directly to Honiara by joining Team Marianas' charter flight.

With Team Marianas on a charter, it meant staying in Honiara for more than two weeks with student-athletes taking a long absence from school and working people filing extended leaves. Schools and companies in the NMI, thankfully, were gracious to excuse the delegates and acknowledge the importance of our athletes and officials representing the islands in the Pacific Games.



Once in Honiara, the challenges continued—transportation delays, sickness, adjustment to the weather, and others. Despite all these trials, Team Marianas survived and put on one of their best shows, if not the best, in the Pacific Games. Students did well in their competitions while doing school work on the side. Teams waiting for the second week of the competition were present and supported squads having their events in the first week and vice versa. Others bring food and water for fellow athletes and coaches still in competition or unable to make it to the cafeteria. Team NMI delegates took care of each other in the face of the many challenges presented to them on and off the competition venues.

Outside the Team Marianas' success story in the 2023 Pacific Games, there are also other achievements from our sports federations worth mentioning. NMI Tennis Association was promoted to International Tennis Federation Class B, allowing NMI to send an independent team in the Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup. Northern Marianas Athletics hosted both the Oceania Cup and Oceania Masters Championships, bringing to Saipan more than 100 athletes from the Pacific and Oceania regions. Northern Marianas Badminton Association hosted not just one, but two qualifying tournaments for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation was represented by various outrigger canoe clubs in the Micronesian Cup and brought home 16 medals, while NMI Swimming Federations compete in world championships in Japan and Israel and set several age groups and national records. The NMI Football Association and its U23 Men's and Women's National Team swept Guam in the Marianas Cup, while the NMI Basketball Association and Saipan Baseball League managed to bring back their major local competitions and drum up interest to their respective sports anew.



With the host of achievements in the 2023, the NMSA hopes these will inspire the NMI sports community to remain active and provide programs to athletes and coaches and encourage both the public and private sectors to rally behind the continued efforts for sports development and health and wellness initiatives on the island.

The four gold medalists from Team Marianas, from left, Tania Tan, Chistina Tudela, Isaia Aleksenko, and Raymond Santos. Right photo shows flag bearer Isaiah Aleksenko.



Team Marianas during the opening ceremony for the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands.

OUTCOMES IN 2023

With the NMI hosting one regional and two international events, these tournaments provided more local athletes opportunities to participate in high-level tournaments and build local capacity for coaches and technical officials that have experienced managing competitions. More than 30 NMI athletes and 10 officials took part in the Oceania Cup and Masters Championships. Nine NMI players, including a couple of juniors competed both in the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open and TakeCare Saipan International, while over 40 line judges were certified and two local umpires had the opportunity to official the Badminton World Federation-sanctioned events. The three tournaments hosted in the NMI also provided a boost to the islands' economy that is heavily reliant on tourism as nearly 400 visitors attended these events with athletes and officials in the badminton competitions staying on Saipan for two weeks.



Another notable outcome in 2023 was the full calendar of events for interscholastic program, which serves as the grassroots program of majority, if not all of the national sports federations in the NMI. For the first time since the pandemic, all six interscholastic sports programs were completed with the national federations of athletics, badminton, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and va'a running these events with the CNMI Public School System's Athletic Department. All six programs recorded growth in number of students participation for 2023.







MILESTONES AND BEST PRACTICES

It was a year of historic feats for NMI sports. Team Marianas earned its most gold medals (5) in the Pacific Games; runner Tania Tan broke the Pacific Games record in the 5K and became the first female athlete in NMI to win a pair of gold medals; the NMI Men's U23 National Football Team defeated Guam for the first time in the Marianas Cup and the NMI Women's won against Guam for the third straight time; and The NMI Men's National Football Team also recorded its first victory in the Pacific Games (against American Samoa). Still Pacific Games related, Team Marianas chartered a flight for the first time to compete off-island. The Northern Marianas Sports Association took the "shared responsibility" approach in making the charter flight possible, as it chipped in a significant amount of money for the flight. Athletes, officials, and their respective national federations also contributed, while private companies and non-profit organizations also provided financial assistance. It took a village as they say to help Team Marianas succeed in the 2023 Pacific Games.





NATIONAL FEDERATION REPORTS

The Northern Marianas Sports Association and its member-national federations finally were able to have their regular major local, regional, and international sports competitions and resumed other related activities that have been hampered by the pandemic for nearly two years. These were on top of the nine sports featured in the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games and interscholastic programs ran by the different national federations for the CNMI Public School System.



Northern Marianas Athletics

The Northern Marianas Athletics was one of the busiest national federations in 2023, as it hosted two regional competitions, participated in a pair of world championship events, and sent a team to the 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games. These were on top of various local races it held in partnership with other organizations as well as its All-Schools cross country and track and field competitions. The NMA brought the 2023 Oceania Cup to Saipan as well as the Oceania Masters Championships, was represented in the 2023 World Cross Country Championship in Australia and 2023 World Athletics Championships in Hungary, and won two gold medals (courtesy of Tania Tan) in the 2023 Solomon Islands Pacific Games in Honiara.







Saipan Baseball League

After years of absence, the Saipan Baseball League has final brought back competitions at the baseball field. SBL managed to host tournaments in the open/adult division (majors), masters, and U12 age group. The Cardinals ruled the 2023 TanHoldings-SBL Major League Season with an unbeaten record, while the Braves took the SBL U12 title, also with an undefeated mark. The Pirates reigned supreme in the Masters division after outclassing the Dodgers in the best-of-3 finale, 2-1.







NATIONAL FEDERATION REPORTS

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation

The Yer 2023 was a remarkable one for the Northern Marianas Badminton Association. For the first time in the history of the Northern Mariana Islands badminton, we hosted not just one, but two Badminton World Federation-sanctioned tournaments—the CROWNE PLAZA Northern Marianas Open and the TAKECARE Saipan International. These tournaments made NMBA and NMI the first association and country to have hosted back-to-back Grade 3 International Challenge events in the Oceania region. To top it all, the two competitions served as qualifiers to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games. Another historic first for NMBA was the participation of its national teams in Badminton Oceania's events. The NMI U15 Junior National Team competed in the Inaugural Pacific Under 15 Invitation Team Challenge in New Zealand, while the NMI Senior National Team participated in the Victory Oceania Championships 2023. Another highlight in NMI badminton for 2023 was the interscholastic program that caters to both public and private schools on the island. Badminton registered the highest growth rate among the 6 sports offered under the CNMI Public School System Athletic Department.







NATIONAL FEDERATION REPORTS

NMI Basketball Federation

Basketball continued its strong comeback in 2023, offering programs to the community and opportunities for its officials and national players. The NMI Basketball Federation assembled its men's and women's national team to play in the 2nd Annual UOG Friendship Games in Guam in April and in the NMI-Pohnpei Goodwill Games hosted on Saipan in July. For local leagues, the NMIBF revived the men's island-wide league, while the federation continued its partnership with the CNM Public System for the interscholastic program for all levels—elementary, middle, and high schools.







NMI Football Association

The NMI soccer achieved several milestones in 2023. Highlights for 2023 also include the continued growth of our various programs and the many opportunities afforded to the national players and technical staff. The NMI men's and women's national teams swept Guam in the Marianas Cup 2023, while the men's national team also participated in the Pacific Games for the first time and earned its first win in the competition held in the Solomon Islands after beating American Samoa. The NMI Football Association sent national teams too in Asian Football Confederation-sanction events in Thailand and Palestine and in East Asian Football Federation competitions in China and Macau. Locally, the NMIFA continues to have its youth, men's, and women's leagues, as well as the interscholastic program that experienced increase in participation.





NATIONAL FEDERATION REPORTS

NMI Swimming Federation

NMI swimmers delivered medals and broke records in 2023. In the Pacific Games in Solomon Islands, NMI swimmers brought home one gold medal and three bronzes. Isaiah Aleksenko won a gold medal in the 200m butterfly and bronze in the 100m butterfly, while the NMI's two other bronzes came from NMISF's relay team. The NMI Swimming Federation also sent athletes to international competitions in Japan and Israel and through these off-island tournaments, NMI representatives established both national and age group records.







NMI Tennis Association

NMI tennis' success for decades led to its promotion to the International Tennis Federation Class B Status. This means that NMI is already eligible to field its own team to two prestigious tournaments—the Davis Cup and the Billie Jean King Cup. National senior players Colin Sinclair and Carol Lee continued to make strides in international and collegiate levels, respectively. The island's junior team, on the other hand, also had strong performances in the North Pacific Championships in Guam and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.





FINANCIALS

NORTHERN MARIANAS SPORTS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE MONTH OF December 31, 2023

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YTD
INCOME													
Contribution -ETC	1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	3,939.13	1,450.00	-	1,711.15	500.00	17,000.00	(5,582.88)	5,232.72	1,895.00	3,250.00	31,395.12
SOLOMON ISLAND - ATHLETE SHARE									32,500.00	61,500.00	26,100.00	1,600.00	121,700.00
SOLOMON ISLAND - SPONSORSHIP										25,000.00	18,500.00	10,000.00	53,500.00
LOTTERY Development Fund	1,706.00	$ 1,828.56	1,837.44	2,002.88									7,374.88
Rental	152.00	$ 1,702.50	2,606.25	1,894.30	754.52	3,400.00	9,678.00	2,546.75	3,105.00	2,241.00	3,436.80	1,315.00	32,832.12
Membership	1,050.00	$ 1,300.00											2,350.00
Other Income - handling fee				125.00		125.00							250.00
Other Income - bike sales		$ 1,550.00		50.00	2,700.00								4,300.00
Total Income	3,908.00	7,381.06	8,382.82	5,522.18	3,454.52	5,236.15	10,178.00	19,546.75	30,022.12	93,973.72	49,931.80	16,165.00	**253,702.12**
OPERATING EXPENSES													
POWER, WATER AND SEWER	1,239.21	2,793.14	4,401.31	5,403.18	4,134.72	7,444.92	3,560.60	2,044.07	3,185.19	3,746.16	4,949.84	5,486.27	48,388.61
PROFESSIONAL FEE													-
EQUIPMENT RENTAL				225.00									225.00
TRAVEL EXPENSES	880.08	1,230.00											2,110.08
MEDALS & TROPHIES			2,979.25										2,979.25
OFFICE SUPPLIES	912.82	105.95	272.70	688.42	12.00	24.91	41.19	821.58	60.75	64.64	21.93	410.51	3,437.40
PRINT AND ADS													-
TELEPHONE AND COMMUNICATION	200.20	207.20	210.20	209.54	209.54	209.54	209.58	209.58	209.58	210.54	210.54	210.54	2,506.58
FACILITY MAINTENANCE	1,580.82	2,059.35	6,531.66	1,043.30	1,020.98	579.16	1,143.10	892.95	293.76	707.73	359.72	408.00	16,620.53
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE													-
INSURANCE EXPENSE				529.00									529.00
TAXES AND LICENSES	10.00		200.00										210.00
TRAININGS									80.00				80.00
GASOLINE EXPENSES													-
BANK CHARGES	10.00	10.00								13.00	75.00		108.00
CHARTER FEE									20,965.00		188,085.00		209,050.00
REPRESENTATION	119.05												119.05
SUBSCRIPTION		250.00	26.73						194.40			272.25	743.38
MEMBERSHIP DUE - PMG	1,000.00												1,000.00
MEMBERS SUPPORT - OFF ISLAND CO	13,000.00												13,000.00
Total Expenses	18,952.18	6,655.64	14,621.85	8,098.44	5,377.24	8,258.53	4,954.47	3,968.18	24,988.68	4,742.07	193,702.03	6,787.57	**301,106.88**
PROFIT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	**(15,044.18)**	**725.42**	**(6,239.03)**	**(2,576.26)**	**(1,922.72)**	**(3,022.38)**	**5,223.53**	**15,578.57**	**5,033.44**	**89,231.65**	**(143,770.23)**	**9,377.43**	**(47,404.76)**

CHALLENGES IN 2023

It's always been a challenge for the NMI or any country from the north side of the Pacific every time a competition is held in the south. And for the 2023 Pacific Games in Solomon Islands, the NMI was not only taking about bringing 20 athletes to Honiara, it's a loaded 100-plus delegation on a charter flight, for two weeks. Early negotiations with the Solomon Airlines and support from stakeholders helped Team Marianas survive the challenge and the generosity of the host country, which allowed our delegation to stay in Honiara for more than two weeks with free food and accommodations. Keeping everyone healthy for the two-week period was also another hurdle for Team Marianas in the 2023 Pacific Games plus securing permission from individuals and organizations to allow our athletes and officials to be away from school and work for weeks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Throughout the year, the NMSA and its member national federations managed to reach milestones and have a strong impact in the sports community, locally and regionally, because of the commitment and support of our following stakeholders:

- Joeten Daidai Foundation
- Triple J Enterprise
- IT&E and IP&E
- Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan
- Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Tan Holdings
- Mobil Oil Marianas
- McDonald's
- CNMI Public School System
- Northern Marianas College
- Pacific Games Council
- Games Organizing Committee (Solomon Islands)
- Oceania National Olympic Committee
- Guam National Olympic Committee
- Solomon Airlines
- Pacific Oriental Aviation
- Commonwealth Ports Authority
- American Red Cross-NMI Chapter

CONCLUSION

In 2022 after the NMI successfully hosted the Northern Marianas Pacific Games, this event brought a lot of promise to NMI sports. The opportunity to compete and confidence it gave to athletes and officials, the equipment gained by national federations, and the improvement and maintenance of our sports facilities and related amenities all have contributed to the achievements of Team Marianas in 2023, and to the implementations of various programs in our community. With the support we wish to receive from the business community, and hopefully more significant assistance from the government, and the continued commitment and dedications from our national federations, NMI athletes and officials will be inspired to continue its strong showing in off-island competitions.

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