

## New Zealand's Top Beach Volleyballers head to Samoa to start Olympic Bid

After a 13<sup>th</sup> and a 17<sup>th</sup> in the first two tournaments of 2011 season Jason Lochhead and Kirk Pitman are 13<sup>th</sup> on the Olympic qualifications ranking list.

They will continue their attempt to qualify directly into the Olympic games by finishing in the top 16 ranked teams in the on the Olympic rankings list. Points are earned Swatch FIVB World Tour between Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and 17th June 2012.

But this week will take a break from the World tour to compete in the first stage of the Continental Cup in Samoa next week. The Continental Cup the 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue for qualifying for the London Olympic Games.

Competition dates are 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The Continental Cup is a country versus country event in a "best of Five" format. In case of a tie a golden set is played until 15 points (with a 2 point lead).

The New Zealand Men's Team for the first stage of the Olympic qualification has been confirmed as Jason Lochhead, Kirk Pitman, Ben O'Dea & Sam O'Dea.  
Mike Dudson Manager / Coach.

The New Zealand Women's Team for the first stage of the Olympic qualification has been confirmed as Hannah Croad, Micah Lindsay Brown, Debbie Hill & Melissa Ruru

### Tournament Format.

Samoa is the sub-zonal event and will follow a round robin format.

### Countries competing in Sub Zone 3.

- New Zealand
- Samoa
- America Samoa
- Tonga
- Cook Island



Overall Olympic Continental Cup Qualification Structure.

Oceania Continental Cup Sub Zone	Samoa	23-27 May 2011
Oceania Continental Cup Zonal Tournament	New Zealand – men Australia - women	Feb 2012
AVC - Continental Cup Tournament 1 <sup>st</sup> team qualifies for Olympic games 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> teams attend the Final Olympic Qualification Tournament	China	18-24 June 2012
Plus World Beach Cup (1 <sup>st</sup> at Continental Tournament) <u>OR</u>	TBC	11-15 July 2012
Final Olympic Qualification Tournament (2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ Continental Tournament)	TBC	25-30 June 2012