

Volleyball New Zealand

New Zealand Men's Team 2007

The 2007 New Zealand Men's Team is a "new look" men's team with a new head coach, Tony Natapu, and many players making their senior debut.

Tony Natapu is an ex New Zealand Senior Men's player from the 1980's and early 1990's and achieved considerable success with the Pioneer Men's Volleyball Club winning New Zealand Club Championships in 1987, 1988, 1989.

Tony has selected a very young and inexperienced side with an eye to develop and foster a larger group of athletes through to a potential Commonwealth Games and greater success at future Asian Championships.

Volleyball New Zealand is currently undergoing a restructure of its high performance programmes, with a goal of developing a larger pool of younger players and providing greater opportunities at the elite competitive level. Most of the players have come through the New Zealand Junior Mens' programme and have competed well against the Australian Junior programme.

The most experienced player in the team is libero Mark Norton at 31 years of age. Mark has represented New Zealand at the Asian Championship, and also several Oceania Championships. Mark's experience will help to guide this young team through some of the expected tough matches at the 2007 Commonwealth Championship.