

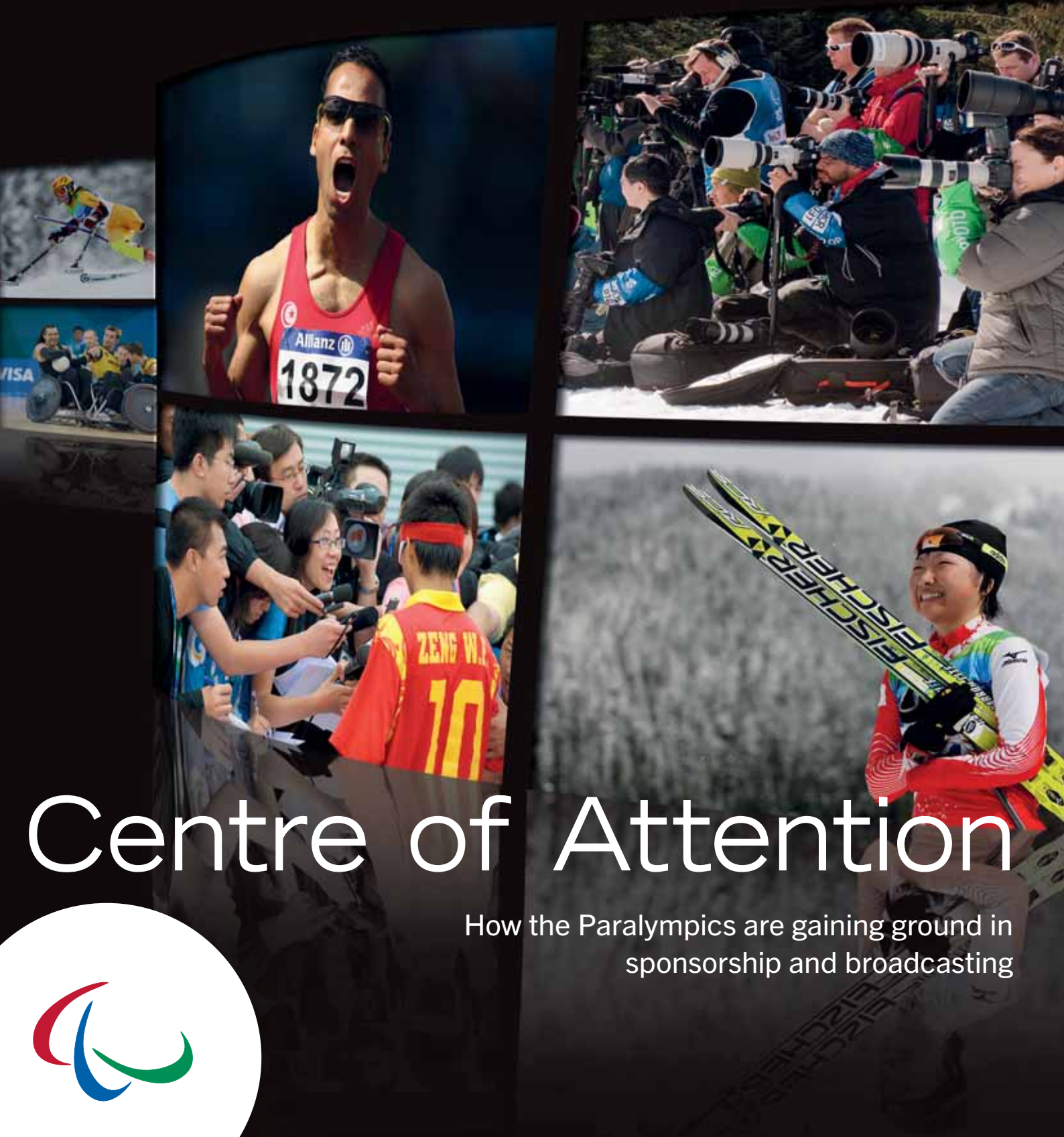
THE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

ISSUE NO. 1 | 2012

# PARALYMPIAN

[www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)



## Centre of Attention

How the Paralympics are gaining ground in sponsorship and broadcasting







89  
skiers competed in  
this season’s IPC Alpine  
Skiing World Cup

Switzerland’s Christoph Kunz won three gold and two silver medals in the men’s Giant Slalom Sitting to take the overall World Cup trophy

“A cumulative TV audience in excess of 4 billion people is set to watch the London 2012 Paralympic Games, and this edition looks closely at the growing appeal of Paralympic Sport to broadcasters and the benefits this has in terms of commercial revenue.”

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of The Paralympian of 2012, a year that promises so much for the Paralympic Movement with the London Games fast approaching.

A cumulative TV audience in excess of 4 billion people is set to watch the London 2012 Paralympic Games, and this edition looks closely at the growing appeal of Paralympic Sport to broadcasters and the benefits this has in terms of commercial revenue.

IPC Governing Board member Andrew Parsons gives us an insight into the success of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee’s proactive media strategy which has led to more TV coverage than ever before for Paralympic Sport in Brazil. As a result, sponsorship income has increased by 1,000 per cent in the last eight years. Armed with extra money to invest in athlete development programmes, Brazil has started to rise up the medal tables, an encouraging sign for them ahead of Rio 2016.

It is not just the larger National Paralympic Committees that are implementing successful media strategies, however. NPC Namibia also tells us about the success it has had in increasing media exposure.

With London 2012 very much on the agenda, this and the next edition of The Paralympian, look closely at all 20 sports that will be played in the British capital. We will inform you about the sport, ticket availability and which athletes and teams are the ones to watch between 29 August and 9 September.

Ones to Watch is also one of the many new features on the new look IPC website [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org) which was launched around the time of 200 days to go until London 2012. Designed and developed by IPC worldwide partner Atos, the new site aims to

give visitors more videos, photos and news about their favourite athletes, and this issue we take a look at some of the new pages.

IPC International Partner, Allianz, also tells us about its ‘Believe in Yourself’ section on the new website, whilst Ottobock reveals details about an exciting schools project they have launched.

NPC Hungary, which hosted an IPC Governing Board in Budapest last year, is our NPC Profile this edition whilst the USA women’s Sitting Volleyball team feature in our Team Profile.

The winter in the northern hemisphere has seen a lot of snow sport competition and we look back at the best events in our Sport Review section. We also look ahead to May’s London 2012 Test Events, the BT Paralympic World Cup and June’s IPC Athletics European Championships.

Looking even further ahead we report on the progress for London, Sochi and Rio, the host cities of the next three Paralympic Games.

In the Medical and Science section anti-doping is explained with the help of world champion Irish para-cyclist Colin Lynch and IPC Athletes’ Council member Kate Rogowicz.

Finally, we bring you all the latest news from around the world and pick out the key points from last December’s IPC General Assembly in Beijing, China. Enjoy the magazine.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE  
IPC President







Enjoy this edition of “The Paralympian” – the official award-winning magazine of the Paralympic Movement!

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# Out of the Shadows and into the Limelight

Media coverage of Paralympic Sport in recent years has grown significantly. The London 2012 Paralympics are expected to accumulate four billion TV viewers from around the world. In addition, 6,000 media representatives will be reporting on the Games from the British capital.

Increased media coverage makes the Paralympic brand more attractive to sponsors and many National Paralympic Committees are developing their own media strategies to capitalize on this interest.

Daniel Dias arriving from Beijing in 2008 to be greeted by Brazil's media





Terezinha Guilhermina (fastest visually impaired athlete in the world) in a press conference at the 2011 IPC Athletics World Championships in New Zealand 2011

Prior to the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games, the work of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee was “completely ignored by society” according to its President Andrew Parsons, leading to problems in attracting and activating sponsors.

The Brazilian NPC decided the best way to change this and raise the profile of Paralympic Sport in Brazil was to get on TV.

“Media strategy is fundamental. In the end, we need revenue and funding for our sport programmes – whether high level or development. If you’re not in the media, if people are not aware of what you do, the sponsors will have no interest in associating themselves with the NPC,” explained Parsons, who was convinced that as soon as people saw Paralympic Sport on television, they would begin to recognize it as elite sport.



However, getting broadcasters to agree to show Paralympic athletes on TV was not easy.

After seeing footage, Brazilian broadcasters showed some interest, but were not too keen on paying money for broadcasting rights or

sending their journalists to Athens. In fact they did not want to pay for anything.

In response, the Brazilian NPC bought TV rights to the Athens Games, hired a production company, and gave 13 Brazilian TV stations everything for free. They even paid for all journalists’ expenses to fly to Greece to cover the Games.

Sounds expensive, doesn’t it?

At first the NPC’s membership was skeptical at such a radical approach.

“We were 100 per cent sure this was the way to go, but it was hard to convince people. Some of our members said, you’re taking money out of the sports side to invest in this,” said Parsons.

“No one had done this in the past. There were a lot of concerns, so we really had to stick to our strategy.”

To finance the project the NPC called upon the support of an existing sponsor Loterias Caixa, the Brazilian National Lottery.

“We convinced them in order to maximize their return on investment they should team up with us in this strategy. They paid for part of the operation and then we paid for the remaining amount,” said Parsons.

Out of the shadows

Thanks to the strategy, Brazilian TV broadcast 168 hours of live coverage and news from the Athens Games, where the team won six gold and one silver medal.

“Because of initiatives like this, people recognized the Brazilian NPC as a very young, dynamic, fun and creative organization, delivering high quality services to the athletes and achieving sporting excellence,” stated Parsons.

By raising the NPC’s profile and drawing attention to Paralympic success, the NPC increased sponsorship revenue from one million Reals (US\$ 340,000) in 2004 to R\$ 3.4 million (US\$ 1.46 million) the following year. In 2011, sponsorship had increased to ten million Reals (US\$ 5.37 million).

Year	NPC Brazil’s Sponsorship
2004	R\$ 1 million
2005	R\$ 3.4 million
2006	R\$ 3.8 million
2007	R\$ 4.6 million
2008	R\$ 6.4 million
2009	R\$ 7 million
2010	R\$ 9 million
2011	R\$ 10 million
2012	R\$ 10 million



Tiago Barbosa leading the race at one of Brazil’s most important national events, with sponsor Loterias Caixa in the backdrop

BRAZIL			
	Sydney 2000	Athens 2004	Beijing 2008
Gold	6	14	16
Silver	10	12	14
Bronze	6	7	17
Final position	24	14	9
Sports entered	9	12	17
Athletes competing	64	98	188

“We’re finally getting to where we wanted to be at the beginning. The TV channels are buying the rights because they see the value in the Paralympic Games.”

Full circle

The Brazilian team’s performances at Paralympic Games and other major Championships has also improved dramatically in recent years, a consequence of athletes benefiting from greater investment from the NPC and Federations, who in turn are receiving greater financial support from sponsors.

TV Globo, one of Brazil’s most popular TV channels, has also recently purchased the broadcasting rights to show the London 2012 Games.

“We’re finally getting to where we wanted to be at the beginning. The TV channels are buying the rights because they see the value in the Paralympic Games,” said a clearly delighted Parsons whose team is tipped for a top-six finish in London after coming 14th in Athens eight years ago.

Smaller scale works too

The key to a successful media strategy according to Parsons, is understanding and tackling the obstacles in the way.



Kids from social programmes invited by Brazil’s sponsor to cheer for athletes

“It’s important you talk to the media and understand their problems – not your problems – about why they are not covering Paralympic Sport. By understanding what they want and their challenges, you can create your own strategy to match your resources and the event you wish the media to cover.”

One NPC that has enjoyed success on a smaller scale is Namibia. For the 2011 IPC Athletics World Championships in

New Zealand, it paid for journalists to attend and cover the event, covering all expenses.

“At first it was quite a difficult exercise, because our media had a different perception of Paralympic Sport. They never thought it was an elite sport,” said NPC Namibia’s Michael Hamukwaya.

“We came to see that the only way we could

get them involved, was to invite some of them to the international competitions we were attending. This helped us very much.”

Hamukwaya said once journalists saw how serious the training was and how professionally the sports were run, they started covering the sport more.

“When they went back to our country they made sure this information was published.”

Andrew Parsons’s risky strategy paid off





The Canadian public became aware of Paralympic sport through media coverage and experiencing the sporting excellence of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics

Home Games advantage

Holding a home Paralympic Games has the potential to leave behind a legacy as the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) found after the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

CPC’s coverage increased from approximately 25 million media impressions during the year before the Games, to 13 to 27 million media impressions every day during the Games.

CPC is on pace to total 300 million media impressions this year.

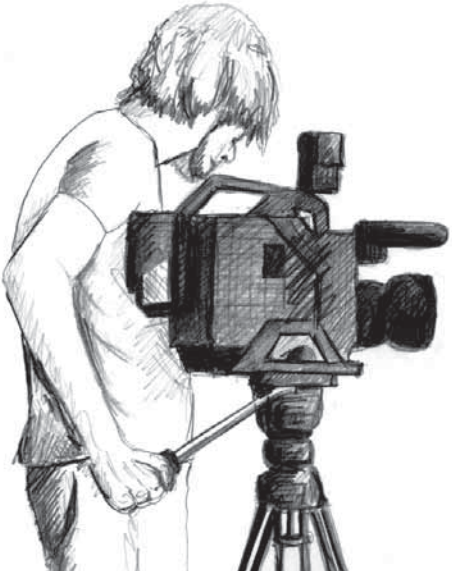
“Vancouver was a catalyst in getting Paralympic Sport on the map in Canada,” said Henry Storgaard, CEO & Secretary General, Canadian Paralympic Committee, which is working hard to get broadcasters to cover London 2012 in a similar way.

As well as allowing CPC to secure some additional corporate partners, media coverage of the Vancouver Games has also changed the perceptions of Paralympic athletes.

CPC is hoping to continue this momentum with a new marketing campaign featuring vignette videos of its “super-athletes” which will be shown online.

“We’re trying to emulate the overall sports model where the Wayne Gretzky’s of the world really increase viewership, participation, social media numbers, all of those kind of things,” said Storgaard, referring to one of the greatest hockey players of all time.

BROADCASTING TIME (H:MM.SS)



Media hype

The essence of the Paralympics and the spirit of Paralympians are what draws audiences and broadcasters to the Games according to Gina Lundby, Sports Rights Manager for London 2012 at the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which serves 85 national media organizations in 56 countries in and around Europe.

“Paralympic athletes do not perform for money but for recognition of the efforts they put in their training.

“For many of them competing has changed their lives, provided them with a goal. Viewers are becoming familiar with these exceptional performances and over time relate to these athletes which we can all only admire,” Lundby said.

Part of the reason that audiences are engaging more with the Paralympics is the higher production standards.

“Only a few editions ago ... production was limited to highlights and, given the number of competitions included in each edition of the Games, viewers did not have the opportunity to understand these sports,” continued Lundby.

For the first time, London 2012 will offer live feeds for 11 sports and news and highlights packages for every other sport, meaning that coverage has the potential to be more extensive than ever.

Interest from broadcasters has been impressive. London 2012 is set to sign agreements with the majority of territories around the world and, in each case, broadcasters have guaranteed record levels of coverage for London 2012 compared to previous Paralympics.

“It’s fantastic that millions of people around the world will have the opportunity to watch the London 2012 Paralympic Games,” said Nick Hockley, Head of Commercial Negotiations for LOCOG.

In the UK, Channel 4 acquired the broadcast rights and is already broadcasting weekly programmes profiling Paralympic athletes and their journeys to compete at London 2012.

Chicken and egg

Greater visibility of the Paralympics has made it an even more attractive proposition for sponsors to invest in, especially in the lead-up to London 2012.

“In Vancouver all sponsors from the Olympics also crossed over to the Paralympics for the first time,” said Alexis Schäfer, IPC Marketing and Commercial Director.

“Pleasingly this has been repeated in London. However, what we’re now seeing is more sponsors activating their Paralympic sponsorship and using para-athletes to front their campaigns.”

Whilst supermarket chain Sainsbury’s has produced a series of 90-second films for screening on Channel 4 featuring British Paralympians. Visa is using a number of London 2012 hopefuls in its promotional work and Ottobock has erected huge banners of German athlete Heinrich Popow in Berlin’s main train station which handles more than 300,000 people per day.

“For a long time, the Paralympics was in the shadows and was partly pushed out of sports coverage and into the “Health” category,” said Professor Hans Georg Naeder, Chairman and Managing Director of Ottobock, an IPC Worldwide Partner since 2005.

“In light of a rapid increase in recent years of public interest in the Paralympics, Ottobock’s involvement in disability sport has markedly increased awareness for the company,” Naeder added.

Allianz is also pleased to be associated with the Paralympic Movement, having first got involved with the IPC in 2006. Today it is the IPC’s first International Partner and a National Supporter of nine NPCs on a local level, a partnership that it sees as ongoing.

“Together with the IPC and the NPCs, Allianz will continue to foster public awareness, generate a greater interest in Paralympic Sport and bring the Paralympic Community forward,” said Eike Bürgel, Global Brand Manager at Allianz SE.

Should the Paralympic Movement come out of London 2012 with the same momentum it has going into it, then it can only mean great things and great viewing.



Marcel Hug is one of the faces of Allianz’s airport campaign

CUMULATED AUDIENCE (MILLIONS)





# IPC Launches New-Look Website

To mark 200 days to go until London 2012, the IPC launched its new-look website on 13 February, which aims to be the world’s leading source of information about the Paralympic Movement, including the Games, its athletes and sports.

Designed and built by international IT services company and IPC Worldwide Partner Atos, [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org) integrates the latest news, features and blogs with thousands of images of athletes in action and hundreds of hours of video footage from previous Paralympic Games.

With everything located in one central location, visitors can now read about their favourite sport or athlete with just one click of the mouse and can view related videos, images, biographies, results and social media feeds.

Allianz, the IPC’s trusted international partner, has a new section on the website entitled “Believe in Yourself” that is committed to fostering public awareness and generating further public interest in Paralympic Sport through promotional videos, information graphics and athlete interviews.

CARROUSEL:

The latest news, videos and photo galleries will immediately draw users’ attention to the Paralympic Movement when they land on [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org).

SPORTS:

All 28 Paralympic sports have their own pages, which include the latest news, photos and video, as well as historical results and essential contact information.

ATHLETES:

Fans can take a look at biographies and news for para-athletes around the world, and this section includes a new “Ones to Watch” feature, highlighting top athletes and teams the IPC believes you should keep your eye on heading into London 2012.

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH:

Users can now vote for the IPC’s Athlete of the Month via a poll on its homepage, and the winner will appear here.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

The IPC’s official Paralympic Games Facebook page and @Paralympic Twitter account are now directly linked with the website, to make all Paralympic fans feel like they’re in the first row.



Devoted readers of the IPC’s award-winning magazine can now easily scroll through editions from the past decade and preview highlights from the most recent issue in the media centre.



With a very user-friendly scrollbar, fans can make their way through past Paralympic Games pages to find out information regarding the competitions, ceremonies, Torch Relay and attendance and coverage of each Games edition. They can also view photos and videos, in addition to medals tables and a news archive.



All NPCs now have their own page on the IPC website, and all include the latest news, photos and video for their respective nations. These sections also incorporate tables that display nations’ medal achievements from the latest Paralympic Summer and Winter Games, as well as their NPC social media feeds, athlete biographies and contact information. The final feature is a pictograph that illustrates participants by year in the last few editions of the Paralympics, including the breakdown of men and women.



In the lead-up to the London 2012 Games, the IPC is working closely with Facebook to create official pages for all of its “Ones to Watch” athletes and teams. This will give fans easy access to follow top competitors as they train for the Paralympics and will give them an opportunity to learn more about the athletes on a personal level.





Jerome Singleton's image will travel the USA on the side of BP trucks

## BP America Sponsoring Four Team USA Athletes

In the lead-up to the London 2012 Games, BP, one of the world's largest energy companies with operations in more than 100 countries, will sponsor four Paralympians from Team USA.

American swimmer Rudy Garcia-Tolson, archer Matt Stutzman, sprinter Jerome Singleton and wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden will all receive financial support.

"These athletes personify courage and dedication. Many have had to overcome tremendous adversity, which we find inspirational as individuals and as a company," said Steve Williams, Head of U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Programmes for BP America.

In 2012, the company will support charities related to the athletes' personal causes, as well as local sports clubs to nurture the next generation of Paralympians.

BP America unveiled a series of innovative, interactive trading cards through an "augmented reality" platform this winter. Held up to a computer screen or mobile phone camera, the printed cards come to life as the athletes digitally appear in front of the user with exclusive training tips and information about themselves and their sports.

The company has created several videos telling fans why they should support these athletes, held meet-and-greet sessions and even revealed new BP trucks with large images of the Paralympians displayed along the side.

Garcia-Tolson, who won gold and bronze medals at the Beijing 2008 Games, said the sponsorship is simply helping him achieve his dreams.

"BP's impact on my life is huge," Garcia-Tolson said. "I've always wanted to be the best, and they are able to help me in that pursuit. I've always believed you can do anything you want to do, and BP is helping me make this a reality."

## Schools get Hands-On with Paralympic Equipment

Ottobock, a partner of the Paralympic Games since 1988 and IPC Worldwide Partner, will soon distribute resource kits to science and physical education teachers to help build excitement for London 2012 by educating children about the equipment para-athletes use to compete.

The resource pack is full of useful facts, images and instructions on how to build a carbon-fibre running blade, and contains useful content for lesson planning and group work.

**The kit contains:**

- Paralympic running blade: Description of the blade, including how it works, how it is made and how it differs from an everyday prosthesis.
- Build a Paralympic running blade: A cut-out mould and instructions on how to make a Paralympic running blade using papier-mâché.
- Paralympic athlete information: Meet Kelly Cartwright from Australia and Heinrich Popow from Germany, two competitors the IPC has deemed "Ones to Watch" at London 2012.
- Facts and figures – With over 20 years' experience spanning the globe as a Paralympic partner, Ottobock shares its knowledge of the Paralympics.
- Images – Access to images of how a Paralympic running blade is made and what it looks like in detail.

Throughout the London 2012 Games, 80 Ottobock prosthetists, orthotists and wheelchair technicians will operate out of three repair centres in the Athletes' Village, the Olympic Park and Weymouth Sailing Village. They will oversee as many as 2,000 repairs for athletes, co-ordinate 15,000 spare parts and replace 2,000 wheelchair tyres.

Germany's Heinrich Popow educates students about the Paralympic Movement and his training as an athlete

web >> [www.ottobock.com](http://www.ottobock.com)

Students in London learn how a Paralympic running blade works

### Information Graphic Wheelchair Racing

**Marcel Hug**  
Wheelchair Racing, Switzerland  
"In Paralympic Athletics, there are the same sprint, middle and long-distance races as in the Olympics. Personally, I prefer distances longer than 400m. Doing long distances, you need anaerobic strength as well as endurance and tactical understanding."  
<http://sponsoring.allianz.com>

#### Sitting Position

Athletes with high lesion and decreased corporal stability typically sit deep in the chair with their knees against the chest to have a stable position.

Athletes with (partial) abdominal muscular activity sit in a more inclined position. This allows for a wheelchair propulsion with muscular activity from upper limb and body.

Other athletes have their feet on a footplate due to safety comfort, limited range of motion, training practice, etc.

#### The Racing Wheelchair

With their individual, light-weight racing wheelchairs, athletes are able to compete with speeds up to 36km/h. The weight of such a wheelchair is only 8-10kg, the length 170-185cm.

**Wheel:** Back wheels are typically made out of carbon with a gradient of about 12°

**Steering:** Allows driving a curve with preset radius

**Push Rim:** Rubberized part of the wheel being pushed to increase the speed

**Frame:** Made of titanium with an aluminium base alloy





The Hungarian Team won four gold, one silver and one bronze at the 2011 Wheelchair Fencing World Cup in Eger, Hungary



# Hungarian Paralympic Committee


Passionate about sport and ambitious for the future

**ZSOLT GÖMÖRI, PRESIDENT OF NPC HUNGARY**



Zsolt Gömöri founded the Hungarian Wheelchair Fencing movement in 1991, together with fencing legend Pál Szekeres. After that, Gömöri got more involved in Paralympic Sport, becoming Vice President of the Hungarian Sport Federation for the Disabled and later the Vice President of the Hungarian Paralympic Committee (HPC). Since 2007 he has been the President.

 Budapest

 The Hungarian Paralympic Committee was established in 1997, though the Hungarian Sport Federation for the Disabled had existed before that.

Hungary first participated in the Rome 1960 Paralympic Games, but did not win a medal until Fejes András won bronze in a 60m wheelchair race in Heidelberg in 1972. To date, Hungarian Paralympians have won 29 gold, 34 silver and 50 bronze medals.

In 2000 the Hungarian Sport Ministry was established under the leadership of Pál Szekeres, a Wheelchair Fencing Paralympic champion and one to watch at London 2012. As a result, in 2004 the Hungarian NPC became an umbrella organization for disabled sports organizations and able-bodied sports federations with disability sports like table tennis and fencing.



Hungarian medal contenders: Tamas Sors (left), S9 swimming world record holder, Pál Szekeres (centre), a multi-Paralympic medalist in Wheelchair Fencing, and Zsuzsanna Krajnyak (right), a world champion wheelchair fencer



**ROAD TO INTEGRATION**

The process of integration with able-bodied sports is something Hungarian NPC President Zsolt Gömöri sees as the future of sport for persons with a disability.

“The biggest challenge for us is integration of disabled sport and able-bodied sport.

“For the last two years we have been a member of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and this relationship is getting stronger. We expect next year to integrate even more with the Olympic Committee, so that in Hungary the two organizations will work together,” said Gömöri.

Gömöri is passionate about sport and believes it is only through integration that athletes of all physical abilities can achieve sporting excellence.

“The most important point we would like to emphasize is that this is about sport and not a social issue.

“It is very important that the same professional sporting leaders also train disabled athletes with the same sporting venues and on the same level as able-bodied athletes,” Gömöri said.

**BIG AMBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

Though the NPC has a small office of just four people, Gömöri believes its enthusiasm and desire to seize communication opportunities, will help to launch it to the next stage.

In 2011 it hosted a Table Tennis International World Ranking Championship, Fencing World Cup, Powerlifting European Cup and an IPC Governing Board meeting.

“We would like to have a bigger team than in Beijing and we would like to win more medals than in Beijing. At the moment, this seems possible.”

“It was a great challenge for us to be able to organize such an important IPC event as the Governing Board meeting,” said Gömöri, who believes the meeting was a great success, both on a wider political level and for launching the NPC into the media spotlight.

“The President of Hungary received Sir Philip Craven and they had a very nice long conversation in his residence. It was a good opportunity to be in the media and show that the Hungarian Paralympic Committee is important in Hungarian sport life. We wanted to show the IPC that we can organize events in the future.”

The NPC has high ambitions. One event that Gömöri is particularly keen to organize is a conference for sport medicine and research workshops for scientists.

“I don’t think we’re strong enough in these fields, so they need to be developed,” Gömöri said.

**SPONSORSHIP STRATEGY**

Gömöri hopes the NPC’s new sponsorship strategy will help make it financially stronger.

“We are trying to introduce ourselves to the sponsors of the IPC. We’ve managed to make a relationship with Allianz, which is the official insurance company of the Hungarian Paralympic Team and we signed a special contract with them for the Paralympic Games.

“For us a very good example is to see how the IPC is communicating with its sponsors and marketing. We would like to follow this example and use the sponsors that the IPC already uses,” Gömöri said. “I see a lot of open possibilities for us that I’ve been working on recently.”

**LONDON MEDAL GOALS**

In 2008, 33 athletes represented Hungary at the Paralympic Games, winning one gold and five bronze medals. Gömöri hopes to improve both figures this year.

“We would like to have a bigger team than in Beijing and we would like to win more medals than in Beijing. At the moment, this seems possible.”

**HUNGARIAN LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC TEAM**

- Para-Table Tennis**  
Péter Pálos, Dezső Berecki, András Csonka
- Judo**  
Nikolett Szabó
- Wheelchair Fencing**  
Pál Szekeres  
Richárd Osváth  
Zsuzsanna Krajnyák,  
Gyöngyi Dani
- Shooting**  
Gyula Gurisatti,  
Krisztina Dávid
- Swimming**  
Tamás Sors,  
Zsolt Vereckei

András Csonka (front) is training for the London 2012 Paralympic Games





# Light up the Future



## London 2012

### Paralympic Torch to Visit All Regions of United Kingdom

The London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay will begin in London on 24 August with the lighting of England's flame in Trafalgar Square.

The United Kingdom's other three capital cities – Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh – will then light a flame on each of the following days, at special events, and each city will develop its own unique method of lighting.

Once the Paralympic Torch (pictured) has been lit, it will visit local community groups and key locations in and around the city. In addition to the lighting events there will be a series of evening celebrations called Flame Festivals, which will include plenty of activities and entertainment. Each flame will then be taken to Stoke Mandeville, spiritual home of the Paralympic Movement, where the four flames will be combined at a Paralympic Flame Lighting Ceremony on 28 August to create the London 2012 Paralympic Flame.

A 24-hour Torch Relay, involving 580 torchbearers running in teams of five, will then take the flame from Stoke Mandeville to the Olympic Stadium to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Paralympic-only sponsor Sainsbury's has produced 10 stirring 90-second films featuring a number of British athletes. Screened on Channel 4, the Games' official host broadcaster, the clips tell the incredible stories of the athletes.

In addition, LOCOG announced that China Central Television (CCTV) will be the Chinese Rights Holding Broadcaster for the Paralympic Games this summer. CCTV will broadcast a minimum of five hours per day during the Paralympic Games to a potential audience of one billion viewers in 140 countries and regions.



web >> [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)

Tickets for London 2012 can still be purchased through the IPC's official ticket reseller at:

web >> [www.paralympictickets.com](http://www.paralympictickets.com)



## Sochi 2014

### Sochi Volunteers to Learn From London



Two years before the start of the Games, the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee has announced its volunteer recruitment programme.

Anyone between the ages of 18-80 as of 2014 will be eligible to volunteer.

Prior to the Games, volunteer events will be held all over Russia, with the biggest one being organized in Sochi at the Rosa Khutor Alpine Centre in Krasnaya Polyana. In the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak, volunteers will set on fire a giant heart that has already become a symbol of the Sochi 2014 volunteer movement. The London 2012 Organizing Committee, meanwhile, has selected around 100 members of the Sochi 2014 volunteer team to travel to Great Britain this year and become part of the London 2012 Games Makers volunteering initiative.

The rigorous selection process whittled down the shortlist of 250 hopefuls drawn from the 26 Sochi 2014 Volunteer Centres in Russia. The lucky few

will work at the London 2012 Paralympic Games to gain experience they can bring back to their colleagues in Sochi.

"Sochi 2014 Volunteer Centres have started massive recruitment of volunteers in February 2012 – two years prior to the Games," said Dmitry Chernyshenko, President of the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee.

"We will be the first Organizing Committee in the history of Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to provide a large scale games-time test to our volunteers' performance prior to their exposure at Sochi 2014."

An estimated 25,000 volunteers will work at the Games in Sochi in more than 20 areas, including meeting and greeting delegates at the airport and organizing the Closing Ceremony. After Russia, Canada has the highest number of people interested in volunteering.

web >> [www.sochi2014.com](http://www.sochi2014.com)



## Rio 2016

### First Venue Opens to Public

The Sambodromo became the first Rio 2016 Paralympic Games venue to be opened to the public in February.

Nearly 1,000 athletes and carnival revelers took part in a 5.5km race to mark the reopening of the venue, which will host Archery events.

After the race, veteran ladies from several samba schools performed a traditional floor-washing ceremony for good luck.

The Brazilian government spent R\$35 million to renovate the venue four years ahead of the Games.

Close to 600 construction workers took turns to guarantee a 24-hour workflow. Four new grandstands were built on one side of the Sambodromo similar to those located on the opposite side, increasing its capacity.



web >> [www.rio2016.com](http://www.rio2016.com)



# London 2012 Sports Profile

In the next two issues of The Paralympian, all 20 London 2012 sports will be profiled, including quick facts, ones to watch, which teams have qualified and how the medal standings looked for Beijing 2008.

We also have a handy ticket availability colour coding:

Green (Good availability)

Amber (Some availability)

Red (Limited availability)

web >> [www.paralympictickets.com](http://www.paralympictickets.com)

## Boccia

Athletes with severe disabilities showing incredible abilities



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:**

**Venue:** ExCeL

**Dates:** 2-8 September

**Medal Events:** 7

**Classification:**

- BC1** - Players with Cerebral Palsy (CP) who are able to use their hands or feet to propel a ball into play.
- BC2** - Players with CP with a greater functional ability than BC1 players.
- BC3** - Players with CP or other disability who use a ramp to propel the ball into play and are supported by a sport assistant or 'rampers'.
- BC4** - Players who do not have CP but have another disability with similar functional ability to BC2 athletes.

**Paralympic Games debut:** Stoke Mandeville 1984

**Athletes expected to compete:** 104

Boccia is a game of skill, accuracy and mental cunning where players with cerebral palsy and other physical impairments try to aim coloured balls as close to a jack ball as possible.

Athletes play against the clock. There are four Ends in each match and during each End, each individual or pair throws six ball. Although it is a physical game, above all, Boccia is a game of strategy.

"When players are sitting there looking at the game, you wonder what's going on in their mind? How are they going to play this one out? For them to nail the jack right on is totally amazing," Leslie Halicki, Chair of the CPISRA Boccia Committee explained.

After new qualification rules were introduced, London 2012 will be the first time individual players can qualify without being part of a team.

"It's the first time we're going to be highlighting the very best players in each class," said Halicki.

web >> [www.CPISRA.org](http://www.CPISRA.org)

### Ones to watch



**Greg Polychronidis (Greece)**

The Beijing silver medallist will be looking to do one better in the BC3 category in London.



**Nigel Murray (Great Britain)**

The world number one BC2 player will hope to take advantage of being on home soil to play for gold.



**Marco Dispaltra (Canada)**


The former rugby player has come out of nowhere to become a real medal contender in the BC4 class.

BEIJING 2008			
Brazil	2	—	1
Korea	2	—	1
Portugal	1	3	1



## Para-Equestrian

... is going home



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:**

**Venue:** Greenwich Park

**Dates:** 30 August - 4 September

**Medal Events:** 11

**Classification:**

Based on the riders' disability, which influences their ability to ride, they compete in one of five grades (1a, 1b, II, III and IV). Riders in 1a have the least functional ability and riders in IV have the most functional ability.

**Paralympic Games debut:** Stoke Mandeville 1984

**Athletes expected to compete:** 78

Interest in Para-Equestrian has never been as strong as at the London 2012 Paralympics with organizers doubling the number of tickets available.

Trond Asmyr, Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) Director of Para-Equestrian Dressage says this is down to the superb Greenwich Park venue and the British love of the sport.

"Great Britain has always been one of the leading nations in Paralympic Equestrian, which means the interest around Para-dressage in London is huge," said Asmyr.

At the Paralympic Games, athletes compete in three Dressage tests: a Team Test (with three to four riders per team), an Individual Championship Test, which is also the second round of the team competition, and a Freestyle Test, for which athletes choose their own choreography and music.

There is only one gold for the Team Test, making it very prestigious.

"It's a fantastic event when you have a mix of different grades which work together to obtain the best possible result," said Asmyr.

BEIJING 2008			
Great Britain	5	5	—
Germany	3	1	2
South Africa	2	—	—

Each test is divided into between 20 and 40 movements. Five judges sit around the arena to mark the movements from 0 to 10 and the marks are added to give the final result.

Para-Equestrian is unique in that it involves a special co-operation between an animal and a human being, something Asmyr says will transfix the crowds.

"That is the most fascinating both for those involved in the sport and also for those who are watching," he said.

Riders are able to adapt their riding style, depending on their disability, such as carrying the reins in their mouth or carrying extra equipment, like a second whip.

web >> [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

### Ones to watch




**Lee Pearson (Great Britain)**

The Paralympic legend is bouncing back from an injury to compete for home crowds.



**Stinna Tange Kaastrup (Denmark)**

The 17-year-old new talent hopes to challenge Pearson's dominance.



**Pepo Puch (Austria)**

Is currently the highest ranked rider on the FEI Paralympic Athletes Individual Ranking List going into London 2012.





# Football 5-a-Side

One of world’s hottest sports to rock Riverbank Arena



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** 

**Venue:** Riverbank Arena

**Dates:** 31 August - 8 September

**Medal Events:** 1

**Classification:** Visually impaired athletes

**Teams Qualified:** France, Spain, China, Iran, Brazil, Argentina, Great Britain, Turkey

**Paralympic Games Debut:** Athens 2004

**Athletes expected to compete:** 64

Since its Paralympic debut at the Athens 2004 Games, Football 5-a-side has expanded to 44 countries and four continents.

At London 2012, the competition will use the World Cup format, with two groups of four teams squaring off on the blue-coloured field at Riverbank Arena.

The pitch will be surrounded with a rebound wall, and each squad – made up of visually impaired athletes – will field four outfield players and a goalkeeper. They will play using a ball with a bell fitted inside.

To ensure fairness, all outfield players wear eyeshades, though the goalkeeper may be fully or partially sighted.

Ones to watch



**Brazil**

As the only team to ever win Paralympic gold, Brazil boasts a Paralympic Pele in star striker Jefferson da Conceicao Goncalves.



**Argentina**

The 2004 runners-up will look to seek revenge on rival Brazil in London.



**Spain**

The squad fell just short of a world title in 2010, losing to Brazil in the gold-medal contest.

During matches, which consist of two 25-minute halves, each team will be allowed one guide for each third of the pitch to call out instructions.




Brazil is the only country to have ever won Football 5-a-Side gold, beating Argentina and China in the past two Paralympics. It also won the 2010 World Cup and the 2011 Parapan American Games.

“We’ve seen similar levels of development and growth in all the continents over the past few years,” said IBSA’s Football 5-a-Side Chair-man Carlos Campos Lopez.

“Having said that, it’s difficult to ignore the sport’s roots and traditions, so Brazil and Argentina, countries synonymous with blind futsal, will be up there battling for the gold medals.”

Spain could also fight its way into the medal round, as could China, which has come on leaps and bounds as of late. Host Great Britain has also benefitted from training with former England captain David Beckham.


“It’s a special sport,” Lopez said. “It’s exciting and passionate, and the public can easily relate to it.”

BEIJING 2008			
			
Brazil	China	Argentina	




# Para-Table Tennis

All-inclusive sport promises an array of entertainment



BEIJING 2008			
Brazil	2	–	1
Korea	2	–	1
Portugal	1	3	1



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** 

**Venue:** ExCeL

**Dates:** 30 August - 8 September

**Medal Events:** 29

**Classification:** Athletes are grouped into 11 different classes based on their functional ability. Five classes are devoted to wheelchair athletes, five to standing athletes and one to those with an intellectual disability.

**Paralympic Games Debut:** Rome 1960

**Athletes Expected to Compete:** 276 (174 men, 102 women)

web  >> [www.ITTF.com](http://www.ITTF.com)

Paralympic Sport is already unique in itself, but Para-Table Tennis is even more distinct in that it integrates a variety of disabilities.

For the first time since 2000 athletes with an intellectual disability will be allowed to compete in the Paralympics.

“We’re able to offer the full spectrum,” said Alison Burchell, Deputy Director of the ITTF Para Table-Tennis division. “In each class, there is a level of excitement.”

Para-Table Tennis is similar to the able-bodied game, though wheelchair players must serve over the end line so that their opponents do not have difficulty reaching the ball.

Players will compete in singles, doubles and team events in London.

All-day passes are still available to see Para-Table Tennis at ExCeL, and there is bound to be an equal representation of competitors from around the globe in London, insists Burchell.

“Table tennis is a fairly accessible sport for all people with disabilities,” she said. “I think that particularly in developing areas like Africa, South America and some parts of Asia and Oceania, there’s been a huge growth.”

Para-Table Tennis was handed over from the IPC to the ITTF in 2007, and since then, the sport’s number of national associations has increased to 215.

Ones to watch



**Natalia Partyka (Poland)**

The Polish Olympic and Para-lympic star has claimed the last two Paralympic golds in the women’s Class 10 competition.



**Will Bayley (Great Britain)**

The British 24-year-old has jumped to the top of the stand-ings after winning gold at the 2011 European Championships.



**Mateja Pintar (Slovenia)**


The Slovenian Paralympic champion always promises surprises once she hits the international stage.





# Goalball

Putting your body on the line in front of a 80km/h ball



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** ●

**Venue:** Copper Box

**Dates:** 30 August - 7 September

**Medal events:** 2

**Classification:** For visually impaired athletes

**Paralympic Games debut:** 1984

**Teams qualified:**

- **Men's:** Great Britain, Lithuania, China, Iran, South Korea, Finland, Brazil, Algeria, Turkey, Canada, Belgium, Sweden
- **Women:** Great Britain, China, USA, Sweden, Japan, Denmark, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Finland

**Athletes expected to compete:** 132  
(12 men's teams and 10 women's teams)

Goalball is a game for visually impaired athletes. The aim is to throw the ball into the opponents' net. But there is one catch – all players wear eye masks, so cannot see anything.

Teams consist of six players, with only three on the court at any one time.

When a team throws, the other team has to listen to the bell in the ball to identify where it is and defend their net. Players make reactions within split seconds.

“When the men play, the ball speed is 70 - 80km per hour. It's fast and the ball is rather heavy, so it's a big effort for your body to stop it, so you have to be brave,” Kari Marklund, IBSA Goalball Manager, said.

has grown to become one of the most popular Paralympic sports in the world with over 100 countries playing it.

In London, there will be a new, longer, much tougher match format, with teams thrashing it out for 12 minutes per half as opposed to the normal 10.


“Players have to be more prepared. And I tell you after playing 24 minutes, the players' heads are completely empty because all their effort goes on concentrating on where the ball is,” said Marklund.

It is a game of mental toughness as much as tactics and physical strength, says Marklund.

“Goalball requires much mental strength, but it is about technique.”


The sport originally started in Austria to rehabilitate visually impaired soldiers from World War II, and


The draw for Goalball at the London 2012 Parlympics will take place on 27 April 2012.


web 

>> [www.IBSA.es](http://www.IBSA.es)

### Ones to watch

- 

**Denmark (women)**  
The team won European qualification tournament and are destined to make waves in London.
- 

**Lithuania (men)**  
A strong team at the 2010 World Championships, they will hope to bounce back after a disappointing 2011 European Championship.
- 

**China (women)**  
With a great technique and tendency not to throw balls straight on, but rather bend or bounce them, China is difficult to beat.

BEIJING 2008			
MEN	China	Lithuania	Sweden
WOMEN	USA	China	Denmark

# Football 7-a-Side

Exciting end-to-end action guaranteed



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** ●

**Venue:** Riverbank Arena

**Dates:** 1-9 September

**Medal Events:** 1

**Classification:** Athletes with cerebral palsy are classified as either C5, C6, C7 or C8, with C8 having the most functional ability. Each team must field at least one class C5 or C6 player at all times, and they can have a maximum of two C8 players on the field at once.

**Teams Qualified:** Ukraine, Iran, Brazil, Great Britain, Russia, the Netherlands, Argentina, USA

**Paralympic Games Debut:** New York and Stoke Mandeville 1984 Games

**Athletes Expected to Compete:** 96

The field is a little smaller, the goals are a bit tighter and there are no offsides, but Football 7-a-Side is still a rendition of football, one of the world's most entertaining sports.

The Paralympic Sport for ambulant athletes with cerebral palsy will be played at Riverbank Arena at the London 2012 Games, where eight teams will play a 20-match tournament culminating in the gold-medal match on 9 September.

“The game is very exciting because the top teams are very equal and a lot of goals are scored and that's what the people want to see,” said CPISRA Football 7-a-Side Chair Tom Langen.


Since Football 7-a-Side began in 1978, Brazil has been an obvious pick as a powerhouse in the sport, but in recent years, Russia, Ukraine and Iran have risen to the top.

BEIJING 2008			
	Ukraine	Russia	Iran



The point system in Football 7-a-Side, based on the severity of an athlete's disability, makes the coach's job that much more interesting in deciding which players to put on the field together.

Many times the matches are extended an extra 20 minutes if the score is tied at the end of full-time, and matches are decided by a penalty shootout if still tied after extra time.

web 

>> [www.CPISRA.org](http://www.CPISRA.org)

### Ones to watch

- 

**Russia**  
The squad reached the podium at the last four Paralympic Games and won the 2011 CPISRA World Championships.
- 

**Ukraine**  
The team could win its third Paralympic gold in London.
- 

**Iran**  
The bronze medallists from Beijing 2008 have made vast improvements since winning their first Paralympic medal.






# Sailing

A sport in full bloom

### QUICK FACTS



**Ticket availability:** FREE

**Venue:** Weymouth and Portland

**Dates:** 1-6 September

**Medal events:** 3

**Classification:** Sailors are classified from 1-7 points depending on their functional ability, with 1 point being the least functionally able.

2.4mR is open to all athletes with a disability

**SKUD –** In the two-person team, one athlete has to be female and one must be a 1 or 2 pointer.

**Sonar –** the total classification points have to add up to 14 or less.

**Paralympic Games debut:** Atlanta 1996

**Teams qualified**

- **Single-Person Keelboat, 2.4mR**  
Great Britain, France, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Norway, Greece, Denmark, United States of America, New Zealand, Finland, Argentina, Australia, Italy
- **Two-Person Keelboat, SKUD18**  
Great Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand, United States of America, Singapore, Canada, Australia, Italy, Israel, Spain, Brazil, France
- **Three-Person Keelboat, Sonar**  
Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Greece, France, United States of America, Ireland, Australia, Canada, Austria, Japan

**Athletes expected to compete:** 80

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will showcase Sailing like never before. In the four years since Beijing 2008, sailors have had more opportunities than ever before to race.

“ISAF opened up the World Cup competitions to Paralympic classes. A lot of the boats have been taking advantage of those events to improve their skill level and it’s really made a huge difference,” said Linda Merkel, President of the International Disabled Sailing Federation (IFDS), adding that it is not uncommon for Paralympic sailors to beat their able-bodied counterparts.

The Paralympic Sailing competition consists of three boats: single-person keelboat (2.4mR), two-person keelboat (SKUD) and three-person keelboat (Sonar).

Boats will compete in 11 races. The boat that crosses the finish line first gets one point, second takes two points and so on. The boat that gets the least number of points in total wins.


Each boat can be adapted, for example with hand-holders, cushions, transfer chairs and bars to suit the disabilities of the crew.

“Once you get on the water, the wheelchairs are on the dock, and you cannot tell the difference between Paralympic and able bodied sailors. To me it is the real beauty of the sport. We’re all just sailors,” said Merkel


This year’s Paralympic Sailing is free of charge for spectators and takes place in a large enclosed bay in Weymouth, Dorset.

web >> [www.Sailing.org/Disabled](http://www.Sailing.org/Disabled)


### Ones to watch



**Damien Seguin (France)**  
He stormed ahead to win the 2.4mR competition at the 2012 IFDS World Championships.



**SKUD-18 (Great Britain)**  
Alexandra Rickham (helm) and Niki Birrell (crew) have won three SKUD-18 world titles in a row.



**Sonar (Israel)**  
The team sailed to gold at the 2011 World Championships in Weymouth where the London 2012 event will also be held.

BEIJING 2008			
Canada	1	–	1
USA	1	–	1
Germany	1	–	–

# Wheelchair Rugby

AKA ‘Murderball’ ... need we say more?

### QUICK FACTS



**Ticket availability:** ●

**Venue:** Basketball Arena

**Dates:** 5-9 September

**Medal Events:** 1

**Classification:** All players have an impairment affecting the upper and lower limbs and are classified from 0.5 to 3.5 (most physical function). The total point value has to be 8 or less with a maximum of four players on the field of play

**Paralympic Games debut:** Atlanta 1996

**Teams qualified:** USA, Australia, Japan, Sweden, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, France

**Number of teams expected to take part:** 8 (96 athletes)

Wheelchair Rugby is a brutal team contact sport for both men and women who have upper and lower-limb impairments.

The aim of the sport sounds simple – to carry a volleyball across the goal line like in rugby – however, you have to do so whilst avoiding collisions that are so hard that they can bend the metal of wheelchair frames.

“It’s not a game for the faint of heart,” said Eron Main, Secretary General International Wheelchair Rugby Federation.


“It’s a full contact sport with wheelchair on wheelchair. The strength, the skill and the speed of the players is incredible. It will suck you in within the first 30 seconds and you will want to see every match.”

Wheelchair Rugby was invented in 1977 in Canada, and is still affectionately known by its original name, ‘Murderball’. By 2011, there were 26 countries playing the sport and Main is predicting fierce competition in London.


BEIJING 2008			
USA	Australia	Canada	

web >> [www.iwfr.com](http://www.iwfr.com)


### Ones to watch



**USA**  
They are the world champions and traditionally the most dominant team.



**Great Britain**  
The team has been fourth place more times than can be remembered and will hope to gain its first Paralympic podium finish.



**Japan**  
The team recently broke into the top three at the World Championships. At the Paralympic Games, it will want to prove that was not a fluke.





# Wheelchair Basketball

A Paralympic tradition just got a bit more exciting



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** 

**Venue:** North Greenwich Arena; Basketball Arena

**Dates:** 30 August - 8 September

**Medal Events:** 2

**Classification:** Each athlete is assigned a classification between 1-5 points, and could be classified as a 1.5, 2.5, etc. The more functional ability an athlete has, the higher the number of points he or she is awarded. For instance, a 1 is a high-level paraplegic and a 5 is typically an injury to a lower limb. A team may not play with more than 14 points on the floor at one time.

**Paralympic Games Debut:** Rome 1960

**Teams Qualified:**

- **Men:**  
Group A: Australia, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, USA  
Group B: Canada, Colombia, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Poland
- **Women:**  
Group A: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands  
Group B: China, France, Germany, Mexico, USA

**Athletes expected to compete:** 264

web  >> [www.iwbf.org](http://www.iwbf.org)

Ones to watch

- 

**Australia (men)**  
The defending world and Paralympic champions will be the ones to beat with experienced players on its squad.
- 

**Canada (men)**  
Arguably the world's best player, Patrick Anderson, will lead the team to better its bronze from the 2011 Parapans.
- 

**USA (women)**  
After winning gold at the last two Paralympics and 2010 World Championships, the Americans head to London as favourites.

Already one of the most dynamic Paralympic sports, Wheelchair Basketball will be more exciting than ever before at London 2012 thanks to tilting.

Allowing players to “tilt” and get up on one wheel to shoot or guard their opponents will make for an even more athletic game.

“We show athleticism,” said IWBF President Maureen Orchard. “We show a level of team sport that’s hard to show in some other para-sports.

“To think that an athlete can shoot a 3-point play sitting in a chair is exciting.”



BEIJING 2008			
MEN	Australia	Canada	Great Britain
WOMEN	USA	Germany	Australia

Wheelchair Basketball is played with similar rules to able-bodied basketball, and players are required to throw or bounce the ball after every two pushes of the wheels on their chairs.

“You don’t walk, you roll,” Orchard said. “I’ve often said to people, ‘It’s like ballet on the floor.’ What they can do in terms of moving the chair with their hips and getting down the floor is great to watch.”

Practiced in nearly 100 countries many players and coaches in the sport are now paid professional salaries in Europe.

In London, 12 men’s and 10 women’s teams will be divided into two groups each. The top four teams in each group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

With some surprise teams qualifying from Europe, and Colombia’s men joining the field for the first time, the traditional powerhouses of Australia, Canada and USA will face stiff competition this year.

“The competition in London on the men’s side will absolutely be closer between all of the 12 teams than it’s ever been before, and I think you’ll see the top six women’s teams be close as well,” Orchard said. “The bottom four women’s teams are still coming up to the level of the top, but the men were like that two Games ago.”

“I would not want to bet who is going to be in the gold-medal game.”

# Sitting Volleyball

Veteran squads aim to keep momentum rolling



**QUICK FACTS**

**Ticket availability:** 

**Venue:** ExCeL

**Dates:** 30 August - 8 September

**Medal Events:** 2

**Classification:** Open to any athlete with a physical disability. Athletes are assigned a classification of “D” for disability or “MD” for minimal disability.

**Paralympic Games Debut:** Arnhem 1980 (men); Athens 2004 (women)

**Teams Qualified:**

- **Men:** Iran, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Great Britain, Russia, Brazil, Rwanda, Germany, Morocco and China
- **Women:** China, USA, Ukraine, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Sloveni, Brazil and Japan

**Athletes expected to compete:** 198



Four countries have established themselves as perennial powerhouses in Sitting Volleyball heading into London 2012.

Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina are the dominant teams on the men’s side, and China and USA are consistent contenders on the women’s end.

The competition in London will take place inside ExCeL, along with five other sports. However, the Sitting Volleyball schedule has been arranged so that matches take place during the downtime for many other sports.

“We’re the only team sport in there, so we’ll be trying to make as much noise as possible and getting as many people to come to us as possible,” WOVD Sport Director Dennis Le Breuilly said.

“People should buy tickets for Sitting Volleyball because it’s an exciting game to watch. There are potentially some excellent matches, and it will be a show.”

Sitting Volleyball, which started in the Netherlands in the 1950’s, requires a smaller court and a lower net than the standing game, yet is often considerably faster. Because the players are not in wheelchairs, they rely entirely on their physical abilities and quickness, with six players per team on the court.

BEIJING 2008			
MEN	Iran	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Russia
WOMEN	China	USA	The Netherlands

Two minimal disability players – those without any amputations – are allowed on a roster, though only one can be on the court at a time.


Teams win points by landing the ball on the opposition’s half of the court. The game is the best out of five sets. Teams win the first four sets by reaching 25 points, and the fifth set by reaching 15 points.


In London, the 10 men’s and eight women’s teams will be divided into two groups each, and will play round-robin matches prior to a playoff.


With the top four squads playing at their best, and a Rwandan team being the first ever squad to represent the sub-saharan zone, the competition is bound to be at its best.

web  >> [www.wvod.info](http://www.wvod.info)

Ones to watch

- 

**USA (women)**  
After finishing second at Beijing 2008 and the 2010 World Championships, the Americans are hoping to upset China for gold.
- 

**Iran (men)**  
The Iranians have won gold at five of the last six Paralympic Games. Need anything more be said?
- 

**Bosnia and Herzegovina (men)**  
The team fell to Iran in the finals at the last Paralympics and World Championships, so the rivalry is bound to heat up.



# USA Women’s Sitting Volleyball Team Aiming to Become the World’s Best



USA will not settle for second best in London

USA’s women’s Sitting Volleyball team is tired of being the runners-up. Following a bronze medal at the Athens 2004 Paralympics, the squad improved with silvers at the Beijing 2008 Games and 2010 World Championships.

Their World Championships performance qualified the team for London 2012, but none of the athletes were completely satisfied with how they played. “While silver is great, it’s not the gold medal,” team captain Kendra Lancaster said.

### Rounding into form

The American squad has become known around the world for its deep bench and experienced outside hitters. Several players train together as part of a residency programme at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Head coach Bill Hamiter will officially name the London 2012 roster in May, selecting 11 players from the 16 who typically train together with the national squad.

Hamiter only took the national team reigns in June 2009, but his work has already shown on the court.

Team captain Katie Holloway insists the squad’s movement, shot selection and technique have noticeably improved under Hamiter, and that the team is peaking just in time for London.

“We’re more focused now than ever because we are training together and have a good dynamic,” Holloway said. “We have a lot more riding on this one. Going into Beijing, we weren’t expecting to win gold because many of us were still new. But now, we are.”

### LATEST TRIUMPHS

- Silver**  
2010 World Championships  
Beijing 2008 Paralympics
- Bronze**  
Athens 2004 Paralympics



Katie Holloway bumps the ball in the gold-medal match at the Beijing Paralympics. Her teammates Heather Erickson (left) and Allison Aldrich are at the ready

“Nobody has a perfect game every day. Not necessarily everybody lights up the stat board, but we have several emotional rocks on the team who keep us stable while playing.”

Holloway, who was born without a fibula in her right leg and had her foot amputated as a baby, has quickly established herself as a veteran setter in the face of her teammates, and has the numbers and awards to prove it.

The former college basketball star was named the Most Valuable Player at last year’s Continental Cup in Ukraine and at the Parapan American Zonal Championships in Brazil, where USA finished undefeated.

Fellow team captain Lancaster, born without a left arm, was out of action for nine months last year following a car accident.

But with team depth and Lancaster now back on board, fielding a top squad on the court should not be a problem for USA in 2012.

“Nobody has a perfect game every day. Not necessarily everybody lights up the stat board, but we have several emotional rocks on the team who keep us stable while playing.”

### Beating the competition

There has only been one nation standing in the way of USA’s Sitting Volleyball dominance: China.

The Chinese have never dropped a set in an international match against the Americans, beating them for gold at the last Paralympics and World Championships.

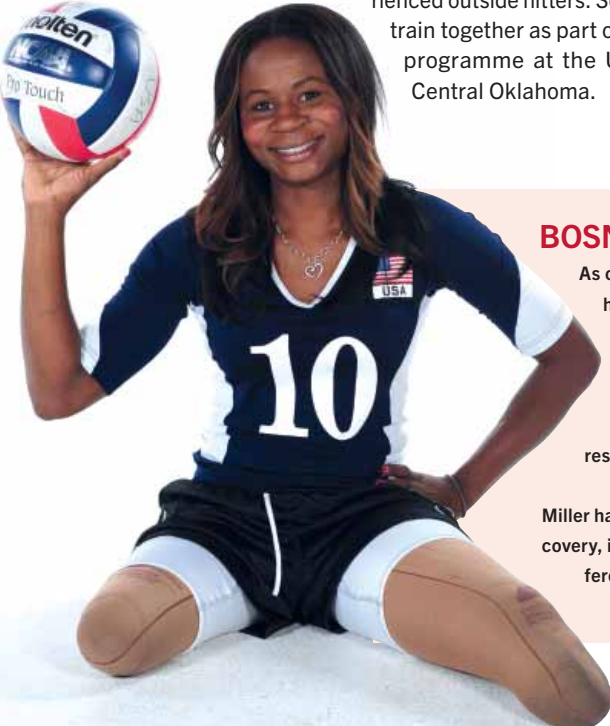
“The biggest thing this year is going to be being comfortable playing China and comfortable at beating them,” Holloway said. “I like

being the underdog because I think it’s better for us when we play the Chinese.”

While Team USA is known for high passes and a prolific offense, China is notorious for its great ball control, fast play and never getting rattled on the court.

In London, libero Kari Miller and server Heather Erickson will provide plenty of experienced support to their team captains, and the up-and-coming players will lean on an enthused Lancaster for help.

“You’ll still find me hanging out with the 18-year-olds a lot,” a now 25-year-old Lancaster joked, hungry for gold.



### BOSNIA TO BACKCOURT

As one of the best defensive specialists in the world, USA’s Kari Miller has held a strong place in the hearts of fans.

She served in the U.S. Army in Bosnia and Korea and had a promotion to officer awaiting her when she returned to the States in 1999 for the holidays. During her time off, she was hit by a drunk driver, resulting in the loss of both her legs and her friend in the car with her.

Miller has attracted numerous followers due to the way she handled her recovery, immediately getting involved in sports to serve her country in a different – yet equally honourable – way.



# Anti-Doping



## Maintaining the integrity of Paralympic Sport worldwide

Heading into London 2012, athletes are extremely conscious of complying with the IPC’s anti-doping measures to help promote fair and equal competition worldwide.

The latest anti-doping testing statistics, released for 2011, revealed that 646 urine and blood samples were collected, and seven athletes were sanctioned for not competing clean.

The IPC fully supports the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) view that the long-term solution to prevent doping is through education and a strong anti-doping culture.



## In the Know Kate Rogowiec Spreads Message to Fellow Athletes

Two-time Paralympic gold-medallist nordic skier Kate Rogowiec has become a persistent force in educating fellow athletes about anti-doping.

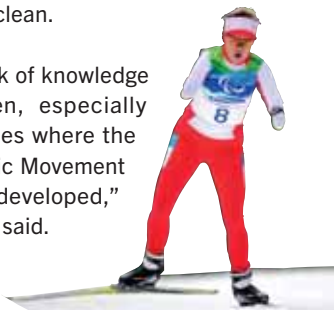
With nearly 10 years of education and athlete experience on the matter, Rogowiec actively assists with the establishment of anti-doping policies and procedures and advises the IPC and WADA on athlete-related issues as a member of the IPC Anti-Doping Committee and WADA Athlete Committee.

“It’s the only way to push people to understand cheating,” Rogowiec said. “It doesn’t taste good to win if you do it because of doping help.”

Rogowiec has been drug tested nearly 30 times in her athletic career, including multiple times in a single event.

With levels of education and medical developments differing by country, she believes it is always important for para-athletes to work closely with their team physicians and sport federations to ensure they compete clean.

“It’s a lack of knowledge very often, especially in countries where the Paralympic Movement is not so developed,” Rogowiec said.



## London 2012 Unveils Anti-Doping Laboratory

In January, the London Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) unveiled the Anti-Doping Laboratory that will be used during the London 2012 Games.

**6,250 samples** will be analyzed during the two London Games.

**7 tennis courts** can fit inside the London Anti-Doping Laboratory.

**24 hours a day, 7 days a week** – the testing in the lab will happen around the clock.

**1000 LOCOG staff** will work on the anti-doping process.

**150 scientists** will carry out the testing.

## Athlete Testimonials from members of the IPC Athlete’s Council



“For me and my body, sport should mean something healthy, which means keeping your hands off things that damage your joie de vivre and quality of life in the long term.”

Heinz Frei, Swiss wheelchair racer



“I feel very strongly that doping places an athlete’s health and safety at significant risk. There are so many financial and other incentives in sport today that push athletes to making the wrong decision regarding doping.”

Bob Balk, Chairperson IPC Athlete’s Council

## Knock, Knock Doping Control is Here



Halfway through an indoor home training session, Irish world champion para-cyclist Colin Lynch received a knock at his door.

“We are the Irish Sports Council here to administer out-of-competition testing,” said the pair stood on his doorstep.

Into the living room stepped the doping control officers, armed with their booklets of paperwork and specimen bottles. They took Lynch through the testing procedure step by step, asking to see his relevant identification forms and requesting his signature where need be.

After collecting a sample of Lynch’s urine through a much regimented process, the officers were out the door to send the sample to a laboratory for testing.

“The friendlier you are, the quicker you go through it and the quicker it’s done,” Lynch said.

Just like that – a fairly painless process to help further justify the elite level of Paralympic Sport.

“There’s a lot at stake for us as athletes,” Lynch said. “There’s just as much reason for us to be tested and make sure that we’re as clean as any other professional or Olympic athlete.

“I want the sport to be clean. I want my performances to be credible.

I don’t want to lose out to someone who’s cheating.”

Lynch was tested five times during 2011, both in and out of competition via blood and urine samples.

Any time he considers taking a new substance, he first consults with his team doctor, nutritionist or psychologist to ensure it is not banned or prohibited, or even suspect for that matter.

As an elite athlete Lynch is part of the Whereabouts Programme, meaning he must inform doping control officers of a specific location where he will be each day for one hour and available for testing.

He recommends that others speak with veteran teammates to educate themselves about anti-doping through their anecdotal stories.

“I would hope that even the fear of being tested and caught is enough to make some people think twice about using performance-enhancing drugs,” Lynch said.

When it comes to anti-doping, Lynch insists self-discipline and education are key components.

Read about Colin Lynch’s anti-doping testing experiences in his blog:

web >><http://637daystogo.blogspot.com>



“For athletes and coaches, we have no excuse to ignore the anti-doping code. Ignorance is not a reason to cheat.”

Yu Chui Yee Alison, Hong Kong wheelchair fencer

web >>[www.paralympic.org/TheIPC/WWD/Anti-Doping](http://www.paralympic.org/TheIPC/WWD/Anti-Doping)

## Win Clean



The IPC and UK Anti-Doping are joining forces on an education campaign called “Win Clean: Say No to Doping”. The campaign aims to make London 2012 the cleanest games ever by alerting international athletes coming to the UK in 2012 of their anti-doping rights and responsibilities in the form of education sessions and outreach stands.

“Every country and every athlete has a responsibility to help us prevent doping ahead of, and during the Paralympic Games,” said Andy Parkinson, Chief Executive of UK Anti-Doping.

“In the UK we have adopted intelligence-led sophisticated testing strategies to catch cheats. Win Clean - Say No to Doping underlines that there is a zero tolerance approach in the UK and that education is vital to avoid accidental doping. The IPC’s involvement and support is fundamental to our success. I’m delighted we are working together to support athletes coming to London this summer.”

Check out the site for more information and sign their wall to support clean games:

web >>[www.wincleanuk.com](http://www.wincleanuk.com)

## WADA Play True Quiz. True or False?

- 1 If a medication is OK to use in my home country, I can safely use the same brand purchased overseas.
- 2 A coach or doctor assisting or encouraging an athlete to take prohibited substances can be sanctioned if that athlete tests positive.
- 3 When requested, my coach can accompany me to the doping control station.

Please see page 45 for answers.

Check out WADA’s free Prohibited List iPhone app





World Wheelchair Curling Championships



Russia won the gold medal at the World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Chuncheon, Korea (pictured), after defeating hosts Korea, 9-1, in the final.

It was the first time Russia has ever medalled at the World Championships, and the team is now gaining momentum heading into the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

The Koreans took the silver medal and China took the bronze medal, winning its game against Slovakia, 7-4.

web >> www.wwhcc2012.curlingevents.com

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Season Update



Canada arguably headed into March's World Championships in Norway as favourites after already winning two international tournaments this season.

In December, Greg Westlake smashed a hat trick on his home ice in Calgary, as Canada beat USA, 4-1, to take gold in the World Sledge Hockey Challenge, a tournament also featuring Japan and Norway.

The following month, Canada struck gold again, this time after a 5-1 victory over Norway at the Four Nations Tournament in Japan.

IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup

USA won the team title at the 2011-12 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup, with 4,657 points. France pushed its way into second place during the final races with 4,151 points, and Russia came third on 4,087 points.

The World Cup series has taken almost 100 skiers from 16 nations

to Arte Terme, Italy, La Molina, Spain, Winter Park, USA and Panorama, Canada.

Though USA clocked up the most points overall, it only claimed two individual race trophies. Here's a breakdown of the trophy winners:

WOMEN'S TROPHY								
Marie Bochet (France)								
WOMEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED			WOMEN'S STANDING			WOMEN'S SITTING		
Henrieta Farkasova (Slovakia)			Marie Bochet (France)			Anna Schaffelhuber (Germany)		
Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events
Henrieta Farkasova (Slovakia)	Alexandra Frantseva (Russia)	Henrieta Farkasova (Slovakia)	Marie Bochet (France)	Andrea Rothfuss (Germany)	Marie Bochet (France)	Anna Schaffelhuber (Germany)	Laurie Stephens (USA)	Alana Nichols (USA)

IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup

Russia continue to dominate Nordic Skiing with athletes leading in eight of 10 categories after December's event in Norway and two meetings in the USA which took place in late January and February.

The leaders going into the World Cup finals were:

**WOMEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
Elena Remizova (RUS) - Cross Country (CC) and Biathlon

**WOMEN'S STANDING**  
Katarzyna Rogowiec (POL) - CC  
Maija Jarvela (FIN) - Biathlon

**WOMEN'S SITTING**  
Svetlana Kononova (RUS) - Biathlon  
Mariann Marthinsen (NOR) - CC

**MEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
Stanislav Chokhlaev (RUS) - CC  
Nikolay Polukhin (RUS) - Biathlon

**MEN'S STANDING**  
Vladimir Kononov (RUS) - CC  
Nils-Erik Ulset (NOR) - Biathlon

**MEN'S SITTING**  
Roman Petushkov (RUS) - CC and Biathlon

web >> www.ipc-nordicskiing.org

The IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup Final will take place in Vuokatti, Finland, from 22 March - 1 April.

IPC Alpine Skiing European Cup

After five rounds of competition (a sixth in Austria was cancelled due to bad weather) the following skiers lead the rankings:

**WOMEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
Alexandra Frantseva (RUS)- Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super Combined, Super-G  
Kelly Gallagher (GBR) - Downhill

**WOMEN'S STANDING**  
Melania Corradini (ITA)- Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Combined Standing

Solene Jambaque (FRA) - Super-G  
Andrea Rothfuss (GER) - Downhill

**WOMEN'S SITTING**  
Anna Schaffelhuber (GER)- Slalom and Giant Slalom  
Laurie Stephens (USA) - Super Combined, Super-G and Downhill

**MEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED**  
Valery Redkozubov (RUS) – Slalom  
Jakub Krako (SVK)- Giant Slalom, Super Combined, Super-G and Downhill

**MEN'S STANDING**  
Markus Salcher (AUT) - Giant Slalom, Super-G and Downhill  
Alexey Bugaev (RUS) - Slalom  
Michael Bruegger (SUI) - Super Combined

**MEN'S SITTING**  
Thomas Nolte (GER) - Slalom  
Franz Hanfstingl (GER) - Giant Slalom  
Tyler Walker (USA) - Super Combined and Super-G  
Yohann Taberlet (FRA) - Downhill

The IPC Alpine Skiing European Cup Finals will take place in Auron, France from 26-30 March 2012.

TEAM TROPHY
USA

web >> www.ipc-alpineskiing.org

MEN'S TROPHY								
Valery Redkozubov (Russia)								
MEN'S VISUALLY IMPAIRED			MEN'S STANDING			MEN'S SITTING		
Valery Redkozubov (Russia)			Vincent Gauthier-Manuel (France)			Taiki Morii (Japan)		
Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Speed Events
Valery Redkozubov (Russia)	Valery Redkozubov (Russia)	Yon Santacana Maiztegui (Spain)	Alexandr Alyabyev (Russia)	Vincent Gauthier-Manuel (France)	Vincent Gauthier-Manuel (France)	Philip Bonadimann (Austria)	Christoph Kunz (Switzerland)	Taiki Morii (Japan)



Getting the Vote

web >>www.paralympic.org

Paralympic fans around the globe have flocked to Facebook in droves this winter to vote for the best performances from the world’s leading para-athletes. As of February, the Athlete of the Month poll has moved from Facebook to the IPC’s newly launched paralympic.org.

NOV

Colombia’s men’s Wheelchair Basketball



Colombia’s men’s Wheelchair Basketball team finished with a surprising silver medal after beating favourites Canada in the semi-finals of the Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. With the second-place finish, the squad qualified for its first ever Paralympic Games.

DEC

Alexandra Starker



At just 17 years old, Canadian alpine skier Alexandra Starker raced to first on both days of the Giant Slalom and Slalom Standing competitions at the NORAM Cup on Copper Mountain in Colorado, USA, from 12-15 December.

JAN

Roman Petushkov



Russian nordic skier Roman Petushkov medalled in every race at the IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup in Cable and Minneapolis in the USA at the end of January. At the time of publication, Petushkov had already racked up six Cross-Country golds and five Biathlon golds this season.

FEB

Oksana Slesarenko



Oksana Slesarenko of Russia’s Wheelchair Curling team led her squad to the 2012 World Championship title in Chuncheon, Korea. In honour of International Women’s Day on 8 March, all of the finalists for February’s award were women.

World Sport Round-up

December 2011

The **IWAS World Games 2011**, hosted in Sharjah, UAE saw teams from 49 nations compete in Athletics, Powerlifting, Swimming, Shooting, Table Tennis and Race Running. China topped the medals table winning 52 gold, 13 silver and four bronze medals, followed by the Iran, Poland and South Africa.

web >> www.iwasf.com

January 2012

France’s 2.4mR sailor Damien Seguin, Norway’s Sonar team of Aleksander Wang-Hanse, Marie Solberg/Per Eugen Kristiansen and Great Britain’s SKUD team featuring Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birrell all won gold at the **2012 International Association for Disabled Sailing (IFDS) World Championships**, held in Charlotte Harbour, USA.

web >> www.IFDS-Worlds2012.com

The **2011-2012 ISAF Sailing World Cup** Standings are starting to take shape after US Sailing’s Rolex Miami OCR.

In the Sonar, Netherlands’ Udo Hessels, Marcel Van de Veen and Mischa Rossen top the standings on 20 points, but the British and Norwegian teams are close behind.



Netherlands’ Thierry Schmitter won silver behind France’s Damien Seguin at the IFDS Worlds

In the SKUD Class, Australia’s Dan Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch are tied on 39 points with Great Britain’s Paralympic team of Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birrell.

Australia’s Matthew Bugg holds a strong lead in the 2.4mR class on 31 points.

The Netherlands’ Maikel Schepers and Esther Vergeer and Great Britain’s Peter Norfolk won the men’s, women’s and quad singles titles at the **Wheelchair Tennis Australian Open** at Melbourne Park.

It was Scheffers’ second-career Grand Slam, while Norfolk has started each of the last two Paralympic Games years by winning the Australian Open. Vergeer, meanwhile, only dropped four games on the way to her ninth Australian title.

February 2012

Great Britain dominated the **2012 UCI Para-Cycling Track World Championships** in Los Angeles,

USA, winning eight gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.

In Mark Colbourne’s first-ever international track competition, he cruised to gold in the 3km Pursuit C1 and picked up silver in the 1km Time Trial C1. Sarah Storey notched golds in both the 500m Time Trial and 3km Pursuit C5 events, setting a British record in the former. Jody Cundy rode to gold in the 1km Time Trial C4 and bronze in the 4km Pursuit C4.

Australia finished second in the medal standings with seven golds and three silvers. Host nation USA won six medals, including a gold, a pair of silvers and three bronze medals.



Spain’s Juan Jose Mendez finished second behind Great Britain’s Mark Colbourne in the 3km Pursuit C1



March 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## 2012 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships

**24 March to 1 April**  
In one of the winter's biggest events, the world's top eight Ice Sledge Hockey squads will trek to Hamar, Norway, to battle it out for the title. USA starts as the reigning Paralympic champions, but Canada, Norway and Japan will certainly give the Americans a run for their money.

web >> [www.icesledgehockeyworlds.com](http://www.icesledgehockeyworlds.com)

## ISAF Sailing World Cup Regattas

**Continues 31 March**  
The final five World Cup Regattas of the season will begin at the end of March in Palma de Majorca, Spain. The competition will head to France in April, the Netherlands in May and Germany and Great Britain in June. It will give fans a final look at how the sailors stack up before London 2012.

The Canadians head into the World Championships as a podium favourite

April 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

## London 2012 Test Events

**Begins 18 April**  
The Wheelchair Rugby competition from 18-19 April will be the first of five London 2012 test events held in the Paralympic Games venues this spring. The Wheelchair Rugby event will be followed by Wheelchair Tennis (3-6 May), Archery (3-6 May), Athletics (8 May) and Boccia (5-7 May).

May 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## BT Paralympic World Cup

**22 to 26 May**  
Nearly 100 days out from the London 2012 Paralympic Games the top international athletes will head to Manchester, Great Britain, to compete in Athletics, Football 7-a-Side and Wheelchair Basketball and international matches in Boccia and Sitting Volleyball.

Athletes will be split into four teams: Great Britain, Europe, the Americas and the Rest of the World. Great Britain won the event last year.

Channel 4, the host broadcaster of this year's Paralympics, will provide multi-platform coverage of the Cup for the second year in a row.

web >> [www.btparalympicworldcup.com](http://www.btparalympicworldcup.com)



Great Britain is defending champion of the BT Paralympic World Cup

## UCI Para-Cycling Road World Cup

**22 to 26 May**  
The 2012 edition of the World Cup begins in Rome, Italy, before heading to Spain in June and Canada in July. Last season, 13 different nations shared 22 World Cup titles.

June 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Wheelchair Tennis Roland Garros

**6 to 8 June**  
The world's top Wheelchair Tennis players will head to Paris, France, for what will be their biggest tournament before London 2012. The top eight men and women's singles players will compete, along with the top four tandems in doubles.



Aniek van Koot is ranked number two after Esther Vergeer in women's singles

## 2012 IPC Athletics European Championships

**24 to 27 June**  
The Dutch town of Stadskanaal will host the last major gathering of European athletes before London 2012.

Around 500 competitors from 40 countries are expected to take part, and many of them will look to meet qualifying times for the Paralympics Games.

The event is free of charge to the public.

web >> [www.ipcathleticseurochamps.org](http://www.ipcathleticseurochamps.org)



David Weir is one to watch in wheelchair racing





Volleyball, Goalball and Athletics were practiced at the Youth Workshop

Schoolchildren around the world are learning more about the Paralympics

## East African Youth Development

The 2012 Agitos Foundation Youth Workshop, held in Kigali, Rwanda, aimed to train participants to develop and implement a Paralympic Youth Sport Programme in their own countries

More than 50 athletes with different disabilities, 36 coaches for Goalball, Sitting Volleyball and Athletics and 12 youth co-ordinators from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda attended.

The programme has been organized by the Agitos Foundation, the IPC's development arm, in co-ordination with Play and Train and Playable, two European organizations that are facilitating workshops for young athletes and youth co-ordinators.

NPC Rwanda, which has acted as the Local Organizing Committee for the event, hopes the camp will kick-start a new wave of development in East Africa.

"Together with other East African Region NPCs, we expect further 'Sport for Change' projects to flow from this workshop and look forward to the development opportunities for our volunteers, further training for our in-country coaches and the extra capacity that will come from Youth Co-ordinators," said Elie Manirarora, Vice President of National Paralympic Committee of Rwanda.

## Get Set World Sport Day

With the 2012 Paralympic Games fast approaching, schools participating in the official London 2012 education programme, Get Set, are being encouraged to become official supporters of at least one Olympic and Paralympic team.

Over 21,000 UK schools are involved in Get Set, equating to about 68 per cent of the total. Through Support a Team it is hoped schools will throw their weight behind the many different nations competing for gold.

The London 2012 World Sport Day (Monday 25 June 2012) will build on the enthusiasm generated for teams around the world and is the final UK-wide Get Set event before the Games begin.

On World Sport Day schools are invited to: host their own Opening Ceremony; organize a Global Showcase - highlighting sports, languages, food, music and dance from around the world; and create the flag of their chosen Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Schools in the UK will receive activity ideas and branded materials to help them dress their celebration.

[web >> www.london2012.com/worldsportday](http://www.london2012.com/worldsportday)

For schools outside of the UK, there are free London 2012 Games multi-media resources available in English, French and Spanish.

[web >> www.london2012.com/schoolsfromaroundtheworld](http://www.london2012.com/schoolsfromaroundtheworld)



Raphael Botsyo Nkegbe of Ghana is aiming to compete in his third Paralympic Games



Alem Mumui won the 2011 Africa Para-Cycling Championships

## Four Ghanaians Express 'Right to Dream'

Ghana has not been awarded any qualification slots for the London 2012 Paralympic Games to this point.

Thus, four of the nation's top para-athletes have sought out support in their uphill battle to qualify. They have partnered with a programme called "Right to Dream," which provides training support and equipment to para-athletes with the aim of combating the misconceptions of persons with a disability in Ghana and to offer the nation new role models to help inspire and engage the next generation.

"With London 2012 coming up, there's really an opportunity there to help current athletes in Ghana to reach their true potential, but also to use the Paralympic Games as a platform from which we can raise awareness about those with a disability in general and also inspire the next generation of children in Ghana to believe that they can do it too," said Susie Daniel, head of the Right to Dream's Paralympic programme.

Rapahel Botsyo Nkegbe (Athletics), Alem Mumuni (Para-Cycling), Anita Fordjour (Athletics) and Charles Narh Teye (Powerlifting) have entered themselves in this programme with hopes of reaching their potential on the international sporting level.

## Sir Philip Craven, MBE, Receives 2012 GSD Humanitarian Award

It has been announced that IPC President Sir Philip Craven will receive the 2012 Foundation for Global Sports Development (GSD) Humanitarian Award, which includes a \$100,000 grant to use toward advancing youth sport development. GSD will present the award to Sir Philip at a ceremony held at London's Globe Theatre on 28 July, 2012.

Sir Philip Craven was delighted to receive the award, which recognizes and contributes to the exemplary work of individuals and organizations which use sport for development.

"We are seeing promising results from the youth development programs the IPC has launched in co-operation with GSD and others, and I continue to be excited about increasing our ability to reach out to and strengthen the grassroots of all Paralympic sports," said Sir Philip.



IPC President Sir Philip Craven plans to use the award for development projects like the Youth Workshop in Rwanda



### Honouring our Veterans

 [USA] The Rehabilitative Adaptive Sport Training Conference was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the end of January to build awareness and share best practices on how to provide adaptive sport opportunities for veterans with disabilities. Conference participants took part in Paralympic sports and mingled with U.S. Paralympians.



### Pondering the Parapans

 [Argentina] Four cities in Argentina have submitted applications to host the 2019 Pan and Parapan American Games. San Luis, La Plata, Rosario and Salta have all expressed interest in hosting the international event and recently met with Argentina's Olympic Committee and the Nomination Evaluation Committee to learn more about the selection process. The applicants must submit their final reports and forms to host the Games by 13 April 2012.

### Cashing Out

 [Canada] Thirty-three sports organizations representing 21 different sports received a total of CDN \$233,340 from the Para-Equipment Fund and the Canadian Paralympic Committee. The grants will aid local-level clubs to purchase adapted equipment, enabling more people with a disability to participate in sport.




### Making a Splash

 [Belgium] Swimmer Sven Decaesstecker won the National Trophy Victor Boin 2011 – the award for Belgium's para-athlete at the international level. Decaesstecker won gold in the 200m Individual Medley S10 and bronze medals in the 100m Backstroke S10 and 5-mile Open Water Swim at the 2011 IPC Swimming European Championships.



### Scrapping the Bid

 [Italy] Unfortunately, not all roads lead to Rome. The city withdrew its bid to host the 2020 Summer Games after the government refused to provide the financial guarantees during a time of economic crisis in Italy, leaving Istanbul, Tokyo, Baku, Doha and Madrid to battle it out.

### Best in the World

 [South Africa] South African "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius won the coveted Laureus World Sportsman of the Year with a Disability Award on 6 February. In 2011, Pistorius won three golds and a silver at the IPC Athletics World Championships and was the first athlete with a disability to medal at an able-bodied Athletics World Championships.



### Sponsors Rolling In

 [Great Britain] Standard Life signed a partnership with British Wheelchair Basketball to be official sponsor of its men's and women's teams and their home games. Both squads will compete at London 2012.




### Irish Stars Hit Newsstands

 [Ireland] In conjunction with Paralympics Ireland, the Irish Independent released a 24-page special supplement in January previewing the London 2012 Paralympic Games. It included interviews with top Irish athletes, as well as the delegation's medal history and tales of past Paralympians.



web >> [www.paralympics.ie](http://www.paralympics.ie)

### Moving On Up


 [Korea] Jin-Ho Son was appointed as the Secretary General of the Korean Paralympic Committee, effective from 3 January 2012. During his inauguration, he emphasized the importance of communication and harmony in the Paralympic Movement heading into London 2012.

### Peace Through Sport

 [Qatar] The UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace hosted a pilot Youth Leadership Camp in Doha from 9-19 January. The programme provided 30 young people from sub-sahara Africa and the Palestinian territory with the tools to inspire and invoke change in their respective communities and to overcome barriers to implementing sport programmes for development and peace in their own countries.



### From Wikipedia to London

 [Australia] Wikipedia contributors in Australia have the chance to travel to London for the 2012 Paralympics as part of a project to boost Wikipedia's coverage of Paralympic Sport. The competition remains open until 20 April 2012.

web >> [www.paralympic.org.au](http://www.paralympic.org.au)



## Recap of the 2011 IPC Conference and General Assembly in Beijing



LOCOG Chairman Seb Coe updated the General Assembly on progress for London 2012

The 15th IPC General Assembly, the supreme governing body of the IPC, was held in Beijing, China, from 10-11 December 2011. The General Assembly, which meets every two years, determines policy for, and sets the fundamental directions for the development of sports for athletes with an impairment.

and Dr. Robert Steadward, former IPC President, being granted Life Membership of the IPC.

IPC membership was granted to NPC Comoros, NPC Djibouti, NPC Democratic Republic of Congo, NPC Solomon Islands, NPC San Marino, NPC Malawi, the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation (IWRF), International Triathlon Union (ITU), and International Canoe Federation (ICF).

In the two days preceding the General Assembly a new format IPC Conference took place, which aimed to build organizational capabilities within the Paralympic Movement.

The programme was tailored to fit the needs of developed National Paralympic Committees (NPCs)/Regional Organizations (ROs), growing NPCs/ROs, establishing NPCs/ROs and International Organizations Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) / International Federations (IPSFs) The purpose of the Conference was to draw together all NPCs and IFs at similar stages of growth to take them to the next stage in their development.

Highlights of the conference included networking opportunities and group work that enabled ideas-sharing so that NPCs can develop their own strategic plans and move forward.

## The Paralympic Awards, proudly partnered by Allianz, were also presented in Beijing.

### Recipients of the 2011 Paralympic Order

**Matthias Berg**, seven-time Paralympian and active member of NPC Germany  
**Luca Pancalli**, President of NPC Italy  
**Nabil Salem**, former President of NPC Egypt and the African Paralympic Committee  
**Randy Snow**, four-time Paralympian and devoted member of the International Tennis Federation (ITF)

### Paralympic Sport Awards

**Best Male Athlete:** German Alpine Skier Gerd Schoenfelder  
**Best Female Athlete:** German Nordic Skier Verena Bentele  
**Best Team:** Japan's Ice Sledge Hockey Team  
**Best Paralympic Games Debut:** Ukraine's Olesksandra Kononova

### Paralympic Media Awards

**Best Photograph:** Jeff Crow of Australia's Sport the Library  
**Best Written:** Gary Kingston from Canada's Vancouver Sun  
**Best Broadcast:** Sky Sport New Zealand

German Alpine Skier Gerd Schoenfelder receiving the Paralympic Sport Award for Best Male Athlete from China's Hou Bin, winner of three Paralympic golds in high jump



#### Answers:

- 1. False.** Some medications have slightly different ingredients when bought in different countries. In some cases, these could be prohibited substances. You must check the ingredients carefully and seek advice from your doctor if you are unsure.
- 2. True.** Encouraging or assisting athletes to use prohibited substances or methods is considered a serious doping violation and a sanction will be imposed under the World Anti-Doping Code.
- 3. True.** Every athlete has the right to have a representative accompany them to the doping control station.

#### THE PARALYMPIAN



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Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World.”