



www.paralympic.org Snowboard taking off > RECAP: Five winter sport World Championships > REVIEW: Deciding the Tokyo 2020 Sports Programme

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE THE PARALYMPIAN 01|2015 3



Ilham Zakiyev believes that disability is a state of mind. As one of Azerbaijan's most successful athletes, with nine gold medals at major championships, his ability is helping to break stereotypes and inspire Azerbaijanis to achieve their own goals.





International Partner

Supporting those who strive for better "The final decision on which sports were included in 2020 was not taken lightly and followed an extensive process that started in October 2013."

# Dear Readers

Welcome to the first edition of The Paralympian in 2015, a year that has already seen so much happen within the Paralympic Movement.

This issue features on the climax of a major longterm project which will have an impact on the future growth of the Paralympic Games.

In January the IPC Governing Board decided that the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will feature 22 sports. Whilst I would like to pass on my warm congratulations to all the successful sports, I want to give a special mention to badminton and taekwondo who were included for the first time.

Both sports submitted strong bids for inclusion, displaying a real desire to be part of the Paralympic programme and I look forward to watching both as a spectator in the Japanese capital in 2020.

I must stress the final decision on which sports were included in 2020 was not taken lightly and followed an extensive process that started in October 2013.

As with any decision of this magnitude there was always going to be some disappointment – 24 sports do not fit into a maximum of 23 places but what I would like to say is that I have 100 per cent confidence in the procedures that were followed and how the Board reached our final democratic decision.

By the time of Tokyo 2020, the IPC will have already Sir Philip Craven, MBE implemented its Strategic Plan 2015-2019 which IPC President

will be launched later this year. The new plan builds on the previous four-year planning cycle and is a public outline of the IPC's strategic direction.

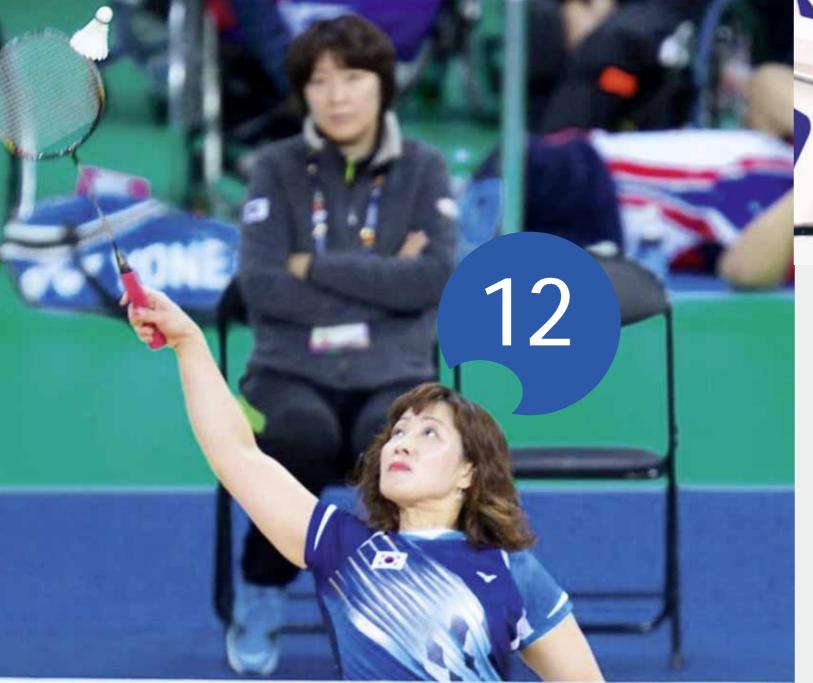
Much of what was discussed at last October's Membership Gathering is included in the plan in some form or other and I hope the document when published proves beneficial to the IPC and the wider Paralympic Movement.

As with all editions of The Paralympian, this issue reviews the main sporting events that have taken place in the first part of 2015 and looks ahead to an extremely busy summer of sport, the highlight of which will be the Toronto 2015 Parapan American

August's event marks the start of a vitally important period for the Paralympic Movement in the Americas and I am delighted that Americas Paralympic Committee President Jose Luis Campo and IPC Vice President Andrew Parsons share their views on what can be achieved in the Issue of the Season feature.

Happy reading.











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# **Editor** Craig Spence







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#### IMAGES

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# Allianz and NEC announce sponsorship extensions

Athletics sponsorship through to the end of Masters and as official partner of the UNIQLO Germany. Wheelchair Tennis Tour through to 2017.

As part of its continued support of para- chair Tennis Tour since its inception in athletics, Allianz will be an official partner 1992, and recently celebrated 22 years offering USD 2 million in prize money. of October's World Championships in Doha, as title sponsor of the NEC Wheelchair

Grosseto, Italy, and will support at least three

Allianz has announced an extension of its IPC Qatar, next year's European Championships in Tennis Masters, the year-end wheelchair championship which until 2016 will be held 2016, whilst NEC has confirmed it will remain Grand Prix in 2015 and 2016 in Brisbane, at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in as title sponsor of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Australia; Nottwil, Switzerland; and Berlin, London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park,

> NEC has been a sponsor of the ITF Wheel- The ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour now has over 160 tournaments in more than 40 countries







# **Classification improvements**

The IPC has adopted a "zero classification policy" in an effort to minimise the number of athletes who need to be classified in the final days leading up to or during a Paralympic Games.

By working with each International Federation to invest in and implement a comprehensive pre-Games classification programme spread over the entire qualification period, the IPC hopes to meet its objective by the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

On 4 February, the IPC also released the second draft of the revised Classification Code marking the launch of the third and final round of consultation.

The revised Code, due for publication in 2017, was developed from two periods of consultation during 2013 and 2014 which gathered responses from around the Paralympic Movement on the existing version of

The deadline for feedback was 10 April and the IPC Classification Committee will now further refine the draft 2017 Code before the final version is presented to the IPC Governing Board in June 2015.

### **Turkish NPC/NOC**



The Turkish Olympic and Paralympic committees have signed a historic agreement aimed at sharing knowledge and best practice with a view to providing new impetus to Turkish sport on the international stage.

The objective of the agreement, which was signed by NOC President Professor

Dr. Ugur Erdener and NPC President Yavuz Kocaomer, is to open new means of communication and co-operation between the two organisations.

President Professor Dr. Ugur Erdener said "I consider it very important for Turkish sports that with this collaboration we shall walk with TNPC hand-in-hand towards assimilation and promotion of Olympic values. Both committees have agreed in mutual goodwill, confidence and serving sports.

"Henceforward, we shall jointly be involved in and contribute to the organisation of major international sporting events in Turkey and together toil for sporting achievements sharing our knowledge and experiences."

#### + + NEWS IN-BRIEF + +

IRAN: NPC Iran showcased its recent achievements to Iranian politicians during a week-long exhibition at the Parliament Headquarters in Tehran.

IRELAND: Paralympics Ireland has appointed the President of Cycling Ireland Denis Toomey as its Chef de Mission for the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

FEI: Belgian Ingmar De Vos has succeeded HRH Princess Hava as President of the FEI. De Vos had been FEI Secretary General since May 2011 and was elected in the first round of voting, earning 98 votes out of a possible 131.

WCF: The World Curling Federation has announced that Lucerne, Switzerland, and Stirling, Great Britain, will stage the 2016 and 2019 World Wheelchair Curling Championships.

**BRAZIL: NPC Brazil celebrated its 20th** anniversary in January by launching a commemorative logo and extending a special thanks to all those who have helped build the organisation over the last 20 years.

**GERMANY: NPC Germany has** named 46 athletes who will be part of their Top Team to Rio 2016 and PyeongChang 2018. The medal hopefuls will receive support thanks to funding from Allianz and Deutsche Telekom which will enable them to better focus on their training.

**GREAT BRITAIN:** National Paralympic Day will take place in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on Sunday 26 July and will feature swimming and athletics.

SOCHI 2014: In its annual Top 50 Moments poll, the IPC announced the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games as its number one moment of 2014.

ITTF: Spain's Alvaro Valera and Croatia's Sandra Paovic were named the respective male and female award winners for para-table tennis at January's ITTF Star Awards in Dubai, UAE.

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#### + + NEWS IN-BRIEF + +

WORLD PARA VOLLEY: World Para-Volley have launched a new website - www.worldparavolley.org - which features news, features, calendar of upcoming events and world rankings, plus all important documents regarding getting started in the sport, classification and anti-doping.

EPC: NPC Portugal have been awarded the hosting of the 2015 EPC General Assembly and Conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, 2-3 October 2015.

AUSTRALIA: The Seven Network, Australia's most-watched broadcast television platform, will create and deliver the most comprehensive, technologically advanced, multi-platform coverage of the Paralympic Games in Rio to all Australians on any communications device. Seven will deliver 14 hours a day of live coverage on broadcast television across the network's digital broadcast platform.

IWRF: In March, the IWRF launched its third strategic plan which will direct the future growth of wheelchair rugby though to 2018. The plan was drafted following IWRF Educational and Planning meetings held in London, Great Britain, in February.

AGITOS AWARD: The Agitos Foundation won the Best Disability Sports Contributor at January's Ghana Sports Excellence Awards.

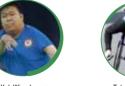
**GEORGIA:** Powerlifter lago Gorgodze has been suspended for four years and fined EUR 1,500 for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

IBSA: Finland's Kari Räsänen has been named Chair of IBSA Goalball succeeding Sweden's Kari Marklund who retired last year.

**TENNIS:** Former wheelchair tennis player David Hall was inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame during January's Australian Open in Melbourne

## **Laureus Sport Awards**













The winner of the Laureus Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award will be announced on 15 April 2015 at a glittering awards ceremony in Shanghai, China, from a shortlist of six athletes.

Russia's Roman Petushkov and Germany's Anna Schaffelhuber, two athletes who won 11 gold medals between them at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, are amongst the nominees.

Joining them for the award, which recognises sporting achievements during 2014, are the USA's track and field and crosscountry skiing star Tatvana McFadden. Great Britain's multi-medal winning paracyclist Sarah Storey, Hong Kong's boccia world champion Yuk Wing Leung and Canada's para-cycling world champion Shelly Gauthier.



# Women's Day Award winner

Canada's Chantal Petitclerc has been awarded the IPC's International Women's Day Recognition Award for 2015.

The 45-year-old, who won 21 Paralympic medals, including 14 gold, during a glittering career spanning five Paralympic Games, has continued to raise the visibility of parasport since retiring from the track.

She was Chef de Mission of Team Canada at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and will assume the same position for the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

A highly sought public speaker, Petitclerc was also named to the "Most Influential Women" list by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and



## Speakers announced for VISTA 2015

The first speakers have been announced for VISTA 2015 which will take place in Girona, Spain from 7-10 October.

The theme for this year's conference is "securing the future of young para-athletes" and hundreds of experts and sports specialists from around the world are expected to attend.

Federal University and Raymond

health and performance during their invited symposium.

Luxembourg Institute of Health; Osnat Fliess-Douer of the Zinman College of Physical Education and Sport Sciences at the Wingate



Institute in Netanya, Israel; and Argentine para-athlete Daniela Luchina, will deliver a symposium on "Athletes' and Coaches' Education - Strategies and Tools to Improve Athletic Performance".

The subject of conceptual applications of evidence-based classification will be presented by Viola Altmann of the Sint Maartenskliniek rehabilitation centre in Nijmegen, the Nether-

lands, and Debbie Van Biesen of Leuven University, Belgium.

Until 15 June, attendees can take advantage of a special early-bird offer with registration fees discounted to EUR 300.







# Ahead of July's IPC Swimming World Championships in Glasgow, Great Britain, Canada's Benoît Huot and Brazil's Andre Brasil, talk about their rivalry in the \$10 class.

### **Andre Brasil** @andrebrasils10





**Benoît Huot** 

Glasgow will be the first step en-route to my biggest goal, the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. It is going to be the first time I will be focusing just on short-distance races. I intend to be in all these races and I will fight to win four gold medals.

What are your ambitions for Glasgow 2015?

I would like to compete in three events and try to get as close as I can or go under my personal best times. My main objective is really to enjoy every moment and have fun doing it. If I manage to do that. I will swim fast. A happy swimmer is a fast swimmer.

Aside from my parents, Ayrton Senna, Alexander Popov and Clodoaldo Silva. Senna is a hero for Brazilians, Popov was a genius of swimming and Silva was the one who promoted the sport for people with disabilities and showed Brazilians the adapted sport.

Who are your three heroes?

Philippe Gagnon is the reason why I am doing this today. He inspired me and I wanted to become a para-athlete like him one day. Roger Federer. I never had the privilege to meet him but he seems like a gentleman. Finally, Nelson Mandela, a true inspiration.

First of all, the birth of my son, Leonardo, who is two-years-old, and my family. Watching him growing up is perhaps my biggest accomplishment

What's your greatest achievement to date? There are a lot of things that make me happy about the last 15 years but I believe what makes me the most proud is how I was capable of coming back at London 2012 after a disappointing Paralympics in Beijing 2008. The way I managed and approached the four years between Beijing and London is by far what makes me the proudest. I overcame the adversity and this made me a better individual and athlete.

I don't hide that I feel butterflies in my stomach before every single race. It happens to everybody and I'm not an exception. Getting prepared day in and day out is the secret, though.

When you are training, you can simulate the situations that can happen during competitions.

How do you cope with nerves before a major event?

I really try to come back to the basics of why I love my sport. We are very lucky to be able to practice our passion every day and this should be fun. It's not always easy but my objective is to always try and put this back in to perspective and enjoy every day of the process.

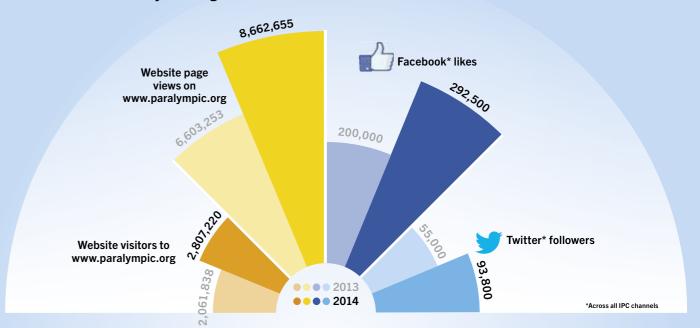
#### 2015 IPC Swimming **World Championships** Dates: 13-19 July Location: Glasgow, **Great Britain** www.glasgow2015.com





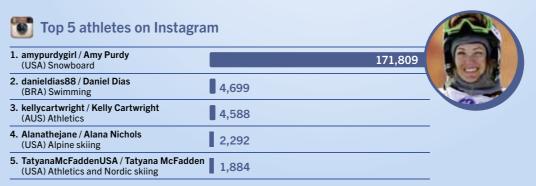
# Online growth in 2014

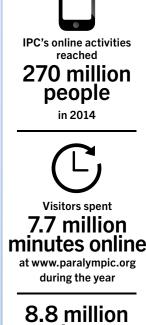
During 2014, the whole Paralympic Movement enjoyed phenomenal online growth, here are a few facts for you to digest.











views

on the IPC's

YouTube Channel

You Tube

**FAST FACTS** 

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# BADMINTON AND TAEKWONDO BREAK NEW GROUND

"Following the phenomenal success of London 2012 a variety of stakeholders from inside and outside the Paralympic Movement contributed to the **Paralympic Games** Strategic Review."

away, but in January the final sports their place on the Paralympic programme. programme for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was decided.

The announcement that they will feature 22 sports brought to an end the IPC's most extensive review of the Paralympic programme, a process that started in October

The final decision brought joy for the supporters of badminton and taekwondo which were included in the Games for the first time. whilst there was disappointment from football 7-a-side and sailing, the two sports that were not included in the final programme.

### Starting with a blank canvas

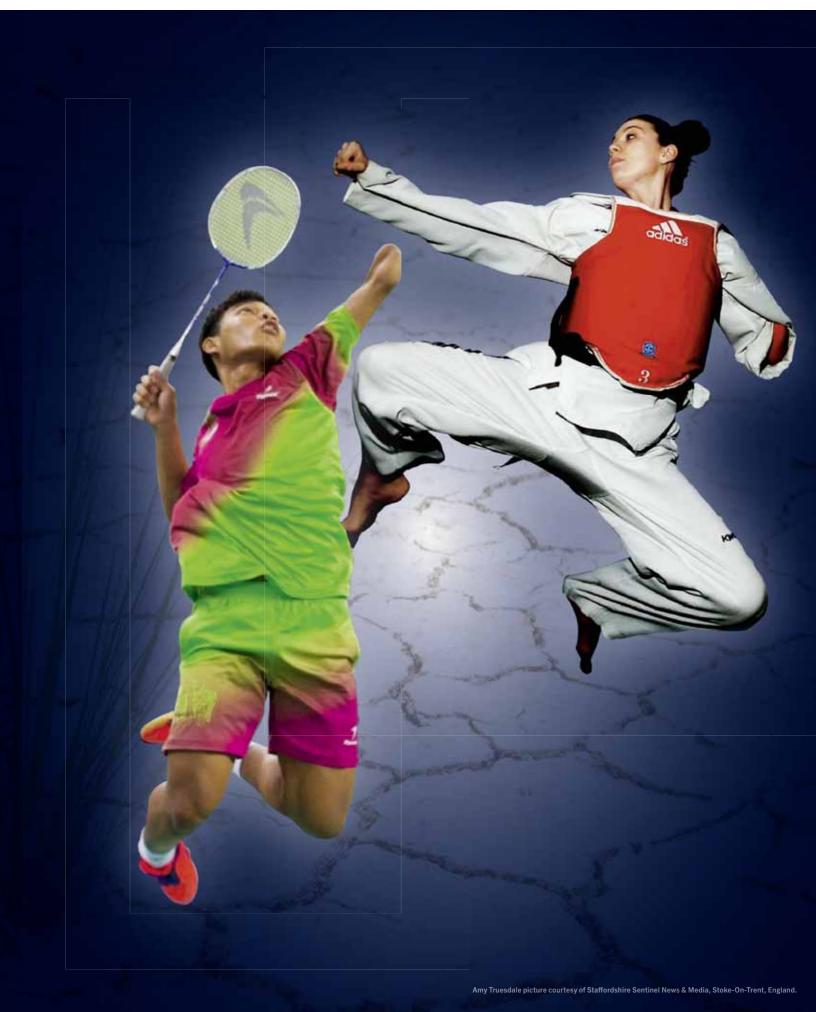
For the first time ever in the history of the Games, the IPC decided to start with a blank canvas for Tokyo 2020, which meant that all

hey may still be more than five years eligible sports had to apply and fully justify

According to IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez, the catalyst for such a move was the Paralympic Games Strategic Review. "Following the phenomenal success of London 2012 a variety of stakeholders from inside and outside the Paralympic Movement contributed to the Paralympic Games Strategic Review," he explained.

"One of its main findings was that for the Paralympic Games to continue to grow in size and scale, it was vital that the sport programme remained fresh and featured the best possible sports.

"We therefore decided to initiate a process whereby each sport had to apply for inclusion in the Games knowing that they would be judged on facts and figures and not purely reputation alone."



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#### How sports were judged

To determine which sports would be included, the IPC updated the minimum criteria for how sports would be assessed.

The core requirements (along with a broader review of each sport's situation) were:

- Compliance with and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code
- Compliance with and implementation of the IPC Classification Code
- A regular quadrennial competition programme, including a minimum of two world championships hosted within the last eight years
- Worldwide reach of at least 24 countries practising a team sport widely and regularly; OR:
- Worldwide reach of at least 32 countries practising an individual sport widely and regularly.
- A country shall be considered as widely and regularly practising a sport or discipline if:
- It has been holding recognised/ sanctioned national Championships within the last four years;
- It has been competing with a national delegation in internationally recognised/sanctioned competitions on a regular basis within the last four years.

The application had to include proof in the form of official results lists that the "widely and regularly practised criteria" was fulfilled.

Following submissions from the 24 eligible International Federations (IFs), the IPC management team spent two months reviewing all applications before reports





"We're well aware that the non-inclusion of both sports has caused some disappointment, especially among athletes, but the fact is neither met the worldwide participation criteria for inclusion."

were provided to the IPC Governing Board to make the decision.

Xavier Gonzalez said: "The review process was extremely extensive and the data supplied by each IF scrutinised in great detail. It needed to be too, as we found that some IFs could not provide us with the necessary credible data to back-up and justify their claims. This was disappointing.

"Other IFs used the process as an opportunity to spend time collating in-depth information, putting new systems in place and making necessary improvements. This will benefit them greatly in the future."

The IPC Governing Board reached its decision in two stages.

In October 2014 they approved 16 sports, whilst the remaining eight sports were informed that they were in danger of missing out if they did not improve their bids.

All eight were given written feedback and further time to improve their application.

In January 2015 at its meeting in Abu Dhabi, the IPC Governing Board reviewed each of the eight sports one final time before deciding that six of them should be included in the Games.

# THE 16 MONTH PROCESS

#### October 2013

The IPC invites recognised non-Paralympic International Federations (IFs) and existing Paralympic IFs to suggest sports and disciplines for inclusion in Tokyo 2020.

All current Paralympics IFs informed of the minimum criteria and conditions for inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games as outlined in the IPC Handbook – Chapter 3.

#### March 2014

After six sports and three disciplines reply to October's invitation, the IPC Governing Board decides badminton and taekwondo can apply for inclusion in Tokyo 2020, together with the existing 22 sports.

The IPC distributes application packages to all 24 eligible IFs.

#### June 2014

The IPC hosts representatives from most of the 24 sports at its headquarters in Bonn to further guide them in the application process.

#### July - August 2014

The IPC management team conducts an extensive review of all received applications, judging them against the criteria outlined in the IPC Handbook—Chanter 3.

#### September 2014

The IPC meets eight sports whose applications reveal shortcomings for face-to-face meetings during the IPC Sports Council. The eight sports are informed of where they need to improve their bids and are asked to rework their cultural results.

They are also invited to personally present their case to the IPC Governing Board.

#### October 2014

The IPC Governing Board approves the first 16 sports for inclusion and meets with the remaining eight sports in jeopardy of not being included in the Games

The IPC provides each sport with detailed feedback and instructions on how to improve their submission.

#### January 2015

Six of the remaining eight sports are approved for inclusion in the Games by the IPC Governing Board.

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#### **New sports and the future**

The IPC Governing Board's decision means that both badminton and taekwondo, who presented impressive bids, will make their Paralympic debuts in 2020.

"I'm delighted for all sports that have been included in Tokyo 2020, in particular the two new sports," said Gonzalez.

"Both showed great enthusiasm for inclusion in the Games and both delivered strong bids that met the criteria.

"I think the inclusion of both underlines that the IPC Governing Board is willing to reward good governance with a place in the Games."

Gonzalez also offered consolation for both football 7 and sailing that were not included in the Games.

"For these sports, amongst other issues we identified, the main reason for their non-inclusion was that both could not

"The review process was extremely extensive and the data supplied by each IF scrutinised in great detail."

provide us with data that supported the required global participation levels.

"Football 7 could only support 15 countries widely and regularly participating in the last four years, and sailing could only justify 27 countries, significantly below the 24 and 32 required for team sports and individual sports respectively.

"We're well aware that their non-inclusion has caused disappointment, especially among the athletes, but the fact is neither met the worldwide participation criteria for inclusion.

"To include either one or both in Tokyo 2020 after a 15 month process would have totally defeated the objective of the exercise.

"I would urge both football 7 and sailing to take encouragement from badminton and taekwondo. Both have shown that with a strong global development plan it is possible to increase global participation to the minimum level with no involvement in the Games."

Since January's decision the IPC has provided detailed reports to each IF offering feedback on areas they can improve on for next time, as according to the IPC CEO the process will certainly be repeated for the next Games.

"This process keeps sports on their toes and ensures they are constantly striving for improvement. We will repeat this initiative in 2018 ready for the 2024 Games."









COUNTRIES 36

REGIONS 5

#### THE SPORT

Athletes compete in the Kyorugi discipline (sparring)

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

FOUR SPORT CLASSES FOR UPPER LIMB IMPAIRMENT: K41, K42, K43, K44





COUNTRIES 39

REGIONS 4

#### **THE SPORT**

Players compete in singles (men / women), doubles (men/women) and mixed doubles.

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

SIX SPORT CLASSES: Wheelchair sport classes: WH1 and WH2 Standing sport classes: SL3, SL4 and SU5 Short stature sport class: SS6 18 THE PARALYMPIAN 01|2015 WORLD SPORT ROUNDUP WORLD SPORT ROUNDUP THE PARALYMPIAN 01/2015 19



Ukraine's Oleksandra Kononova left Cable 2015 as the most decorated athlete

**IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships** 

#### 23 January - 1 February

Ukraine's Oleksandra Kononova was the star of the show at the 2015 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships in Cable, USA, picking up six individual gold medals in the women's standing class.

The 24-year-old, who won just one Paralympic title at Sochi 2014, also picked up a silver in the team relay event to leave Cable as the most decorated athlete.

On home snow, Andrew Soule made history by winning the most ever medals for a US para-Nordic skier at a World Championships. His three silver and two bronze medals won him the Allianz Athlete of the Month award for January.

CABLET

Germany's Andrea Eskau completed a sweep of the women's cross-country sitting events as did Russia's Nikolay Polukhin and guide Andrey Tokarev in men's biathlon visually impaired.

The event proved a huge success; not only did it attract 120 athletes from 15 countries, but online www.cable2015.com drew nearly four times as many visitors as the website for the 2013 World Champion-



Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	24	16	14	54
Ukraine	9	11	10	30
Germany	3	0	3	6



# **IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup**

#### 8 January - 5 February

Anna Schaffelhuber secured her fifth successive overall World Cup title in women's sit ski following an impressive 2014/2015 season. At 22 years old the German was one of the oldest overall winners, with France's Marie Bochet (21), Canada's Mac Marcoux (17) and Russia's Alexey Bugaev (17) also securing titles, underlining the sport's emerging pool of young talent. The USA's Danelle Umstead and Japan's Takeshi Suzuki were the other winners.

www.ipc-alpineskiing.org

#### **OVERALL FINAL RANKINGS**

### Women's

- Visually impaired: Danelle Umstead (USA)
- Standing:

......

- Marie Bochet (FRA)
- Sitting: Anna Schaffelhuber (GER)

#### Men's

- Visually impaired: Mac Marcoux (CAN) Standing:
- Alexey Bugaev (RUS)
- Sitting: Takeshi Suzuki (JPN)

# **Australian Open**

28-31 January



After more than a decade trying, the Netherlands' Jiske Griffioen won her first Grand Slam singles title with victory over Japan's world No.1 Yui Kamiji in the final of January's Australian Open in Melbourne.

Japan's Shingo Kunieda won his 18th Grand Slam singles title by beating France's Stephane Houdet in the men's final, whilst home favourite Dylan Alcott won the quads title with a win over the USA's David Wagner.

In the doubles, Great Britain's Jordanne Whiley and Kamiji claimed the win, their fifth successive Grand Slam title, whilst there were also wins for Kunieda and Houdet in the men's and Great Britain's Andy Lapthorne and Wagner in the quads division.



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Paralympic silver medallists Russia claimed their second world title in three years in Finland

# **World Wheelchair Curling Championships**



"I think it will be a good chance to further develop wheelchair curling in Russia. We have a lot of new facilities opening and new people who are starting to play so we believe this will be good for the sport in our homeland," he said soon after winning gold.

A silver for the tournament's youngest team China was their highest ever finish at a World Championships, a remarkable achievement as the country only started playing the sport in 2007.

Hosts Finland secured bronze with a 8-5 win over Slovakia.

Paralympic champions Canada who had hoped to defend their world title finished sixth overall whilst Scotland, Sweden and Norway were all relegated to the World Wheelchair Curling Qualification event.

http://wwhcc2015.curlingevents.com



The Netherlands' 17-year-old Chris Vos cemented his position as a face for the future at La Molina 2015, winning both gold medals on offer

# **IPC Para-Snowboard World Championships**

#### 23-28 February

Dutch athletes dominated the IPC Para-Snowboard World Championships in La Molina, Spain, with Bibian Mentel-Spee and Chris Vos both winning double gold.

For Paralympic champion Mentel-Spee, two world titles ensured she went the 2014/2015 season unbeaten, whilst Vos, who turned 17 during the Championships, showed he is definitely a star for the future.

La Molina featured two new events following the sport's Paralympic debut in 2014. Snowboard-cross saw athletes go head-to-head down the slope whilst banked slalom saw boarders tackle a spectacular course.

In addition to the Dutch delight, there was also gold medal success in La Molina for Finland's Matti Suur-Hamari, Italy's Manuel Pozzerle and USA's Brenna Huckaby in snowboard cross head-to-head, whilst the world titles in banked slalom went to the USA's Mike Shea, Austria's Patrick Mayrhofer and France's Cecile Hernandez-Cervellon.

Twelve of the 18 participating countries won at least one medal, showing the geographical spread of talent now pracising the sport at the highest level.

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
The Netherlands	4	0	1	5
USA	2	4	3	9
Italy	1	1	1	3



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France's Marie Bochet became the first athlete to win five world titles at back-to-back World Championships

# IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships

#### 28 February - 10 March

France's Marie Bochet and Russia's Alexy Bugaev both completed a clean sweep of titles at March's IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships in Panorama, Canada.

In winning all five gold medals in the women's standing class, 21-yearold Bochet created history by becoming the first athlete ever to top the podium in all events at successive World Championships. She has now won a staggering 11 world titles in a row dating back to 2011.

Considering his age of just 17 years, Bugaev could soon follow in Bochet's footsteps after he also proved unbeatable in the men's standing class.

The biggest rivalry of the Championships was arguably between Austria's Claudia Loesch and Germany's Anna Schaffelhuber in the women's sitting. In Sochi Schaffelhuber won all five Paralympic titles but in Panorama had to settle for two gold medals, whilst rival Loesch claimed three.

On home snow Canada claimed one gold medal through Mac Marcoux and brother guide BJ in the men's visually impaired downhill.

www.panorama2015.com

# **Nordic Skiing World Cup 2015**

#### 10 December - 22 March

The IPC Nordic Skiing season came to a close on 22 March with the World Cup Finals in Surnadal, Norway.

After three World Cup events held between December 2014 and March 2015, Russian skiers took six of the 12 overall titles.

#### **BIATHLON**

#### Women's

- Visually impaired: Iuliia Budaleeva (RUS)
- Standing: Oleksandra Kononova (UKR)
- Sitting: Anja Wicker (GER)

#### Men's

- Visually impaired: Nikolay Polukhin (RUS)
- Standing: Vladislav Lekomtcev (RUS)
- Sitting: Alexey Bychenok (RUS)

#### **CROSS-COUNTRY**

#### Women's

Visually impaired: Iuliia Budaleeva (RUS)

- Standing: Brittany Hudak (CAN)
- Sitting: Oksana Masters (USA)

#### Men's

- Visually impaired: Eirike Bye (NOR)
- Standing: Vladislav Lekomtcev (RUS)
- Sitting: Andrew Soule (USA)



### **Ostersund 2015**

#### 15-21 March



### FINAL RANKINGS

South Korea
 Sweden
 Slovakia

4. Poland

5. Great Britain

6. Austria

South Korea and hosts Sweden both won promotion back to ice sledge hockey's A-Pool for 2017 by winning the gold and silver medals at March's IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships B-Pool.

Heading into the final game of the six team tournament in Ostersund, Sweden and South Korea were unbeaten and in the gold medal decider the PyeongChang 2018 host nation came out on top 4-2.

In addition to winning gold, South Korea also set a new record during the tournament for the biggest win at a World Championships, courtesy of their 15-0 thrashing of Poland.

South Korea's Seung-Hwan Jung was named

the tournament's Best Forward after netting 13 of his side's 47 goals, whilst Sweden Niklas Ingvarsson was named Best Defenceman.

Slovakia won bronze – their first-ever medal on the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey stage – after finishing the Championships with a 3-2 record and a goal differential of zero.

Despite his side being relegated back to the C-Pool, Austria's Michael Ossimitz was named the Best Goaltender of the tournament. He made an astounding 158 saves in five games and finished the week with an 86.34 save percentage.

www.ostersund2015.org

# Apeldoorn 2015

#### 26-29 March



In front of a Dutch home crowd, Alyda Norbruis had an event to remember at the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in Apeldoorn winning three world titles and

smashing one of her own world records.

The 26-year-old was the single biggest winner at the event which attracted 160 cyclists from 30 countries. She won gold in the time trial, pursuit and scratch races and also lowered her time trial world record by 0.043 seconds.

Despite her success for the home team, Great Britain topped the medals table with seven golds overall. Sarah Storey, Sophie Thornhill (pilot Helen Scott) and Neil Fachie (pilot Peter Mitchell) led the way, each winning two rainbow jerseys.

Other double gold medal winners included the USA's Joseph Berenyi and the Chinese duo of Jieli Li and Zhangyu Li.

 Country
 Gold
 Silver
 Bronze
 Total

 Great Britain
 7
 1
 1
 9

 China
 6
 3
 1
 10

 USA
 4
 4
 4
 12

#### + + NEWS IN-BRIEF + +

SAILING: Norway's Bjørnar Erikstad claimed his second ISAF Sailing World Cup gold in the 2.4mR class in Miami, USA in late January. The SKUD-18 class was won by Australia's Paralympic champion Dan Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch whilst the Norwegian team of Aleksander Wang-Hansen, Per Eugen Kristiansen and Marie Solberg won the three-person Sonar Class

JUDO: Uzbekistan dominated the biggest para-sport event ever to take place in Hungary, winning four out of 13 events to top the medals table at the IBSA Judo World Cup in Eger.

TABLE TENNIS: Ukraine's players won six gold medals to top the medals table at March's Lignano Masters Open 2015 in Italy.

FOOTBALL 7: European champions Ukraine warmed-up for June's World Championships by going undefeated at the five-team 2015 Footie 7 International Tournament in Portugal.

ROWING: The indoor season saw
Canada's Curtis Halladay break the
world record in the para LTA men's
1,000m race while Cameron Sinclair did
the same in the para TA men's 1,000m.
France's Perle Bouge broke her own
para TA women's 1,000m world record and Great Britain's Grace Clough
followed suit with a LTA women's
1,000m world record.

ATHLETICS: Ten world and 54 regional records were broken during four days of action at the first IPC Athletics Grand Prix of the season in Dubai, UAE. At the third Grand Prix of the season in Tunis, Tunisia there were two world records in the field.

GOALBALL: Great Britain, Russia and Portugal won promotion to the IBSA Men's European Championships B Group following February's C-Group Championships in Malmo, Sweden. Great Britain beat Russia 6-5 in the gold medal match, whilst Portugal took bronze with a 9-4 win over Italy.

# **Rio 2016**

#### **Selecting the volunteers begins**

After nearly a quarter of a million people are women. Applicant from 192 countries applied to be a Rio 2016 volunteer, the Organising Committee has started the process of selecting the 70,000 they need to stage the Games.

To find the right people, applicants are taking part in an online exercise and language assessment. Interviews will then take place throughout this year before letters of invitation to successful candidates are posted from November

Brazilians accounted for 60 per cent of the applicants, with the USA, Russia, China and Great Britain providing the most foreign applications.

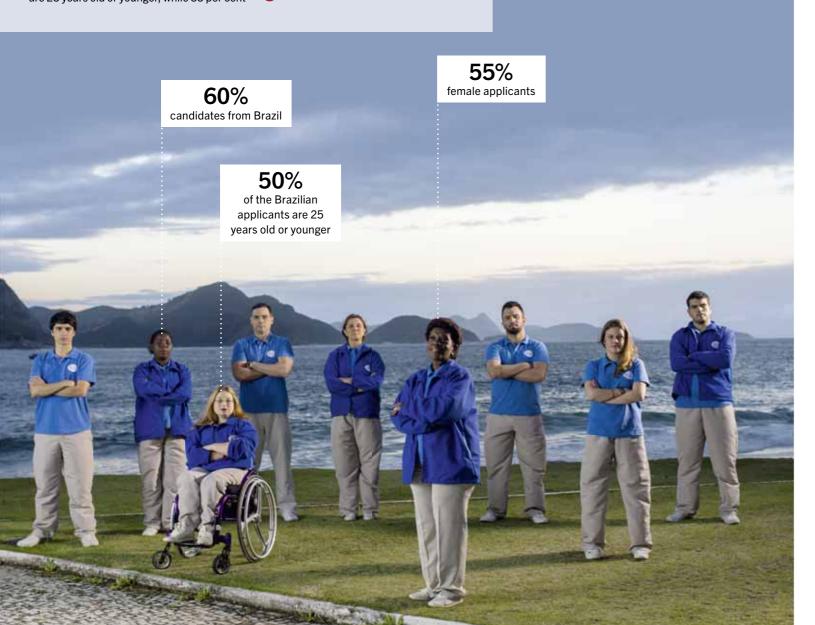
Among the Brazilian candidates, 50 per cent are 25 years old or younger, while 55 per cent ages ranged from 16 to

The applicants who are selected will be offered a oneyear online English course, as well as specific training for their roles. They will also receive a uniform, meals and transport on working days, and a certificate of participation.

Rio 2016

Volunteers are needed for nine functional areas: customer services, sports, press and communications, operational support, ceremonies production, protocol and languages, health services, technology, and transport.

www.rio2016.com



# PyeongChang 2018



#### National Paralympic Day — "It's our turn!"

Between 14-15 March, the PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee staged its first annual National Paralympic Day celebration in Seoul, South Korea, attracting around 15,000 people.

The aim of the event, which featured demonstrations of wheelchair curling and ice sledge hockey, was to raise awareness of the next Paralympic Winter Games which take place in less than three years' time.

Other activities held as part of the weekend included a para-sport photo exhibition and a display of para-sport equipment.

Around 500 dignitaries attended the event including CHO Yang Ho, POCOG President, KIM Jong Deok, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism, KIM Sung-II, President of the Korean Paralympic Committee (KPC), NA Kyung-won, IPC Governing Board Member and foreign ambassadors in Korea.

#### **Fourth Project Review and Excellence Programme**

"Start putting plans in to action" was the clear message from the IPC to the PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee following the completion of February's fourth Project Review in Seoul, South Korea.

During two days of meetings, POCOG updated the IPC on various functional areas including venues, accommodation, acces-



sibility, Paralympic Village, transport and sport. The IPC was also briefed on preparations for the Actualising the Dream project, a promise from the bid phase to develop winter para-sport.

In the lead-up to the Games, the IPC Academy will deliver three Excellence Workshops this year designed to provide the Organising Committee with examples of best practice, knowledge and learnings from previous Games.

This summer's first workshop will be on "Creating awareness and influencing the media ahead of the Games" and it will be closely followed by "Advancing Paralympic marketing opportunities and sponsors' activation." The year's final workshop will be on "Paralympic integration in planning and Paralympic testing."

The IPC Academy has previously staged Excellence Programmes with Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016.

www.pyeongchang2018.com

# TOKYO 2020



#### 2,000 days to go

To mark 2,000 days to go until the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, children at an international school in the host city were given the opportunity to try out football 5-a-side alongside a number of national players and learn more about the Paralympic values.

Japan's national team player Kento Kato was joined at the school by Tsuyoshi Kitazawa and Atsuhiro Miura, two players who had represented Japan's able bodied team at Asia Cups and Olympic Games.

"I really hope that everyone who attended the event will remember the experience forever," said Kato. "If the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics is able to contribute to increasing opportunities for all people, regardless of impairment, to take part and enjoy the benefits of sport, then I think that will be its greatest legacy."

#### New sponsors on board

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games may still be more than five years away, but the Organising Committee has announced six gold partners in the first quarter of 2015.

#### They are:

- Telecommunications services: Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) Corporation
- Beer and wines: Asahi Breweries
- Stills cameras and desktop reprographic hardware: Canon
- Oil, gas & electricity supply: JX Nippon Oil & Energy
- Data centre hardware: Fujitsu
- Specialist public safety equipment & software and network equipment: **NEC Corporation**



# 7-15 August

# **Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games**

August's Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games in Canada mark the start of a hugely important period for the Paralympic Movement's growth in the Americas.

Taking place during Canada's "Year of Sport", the event is set to attract more than 1.600 athletes from 28 countries who will compete in 15 sports. All sports are qualifiers for Rio 2016, increasing the chances of each nation sending their best athletes.

Brazil, who are gearing up for a home Paralympic Games in 2016, will start as strong favourites to top the medals table having done so four years ago in Guadalajara, Mexico. USA and hosts Canada are expected to push them close.

In order to get ready for the Games, around CAD 1.4 billion has been invested in operational and capital projects. New facilities built for the Games include the spectacular CIBC Aquatics Centre and Field House, CIBC Athletics Stadium and the CISCO Milton Velodrome; all venues created with legacy in mind. Mascot Pachi has also been touring the region helping to raise awareness of the Games.

Toronto 2015 will be the fifth edition of the Parapan American Games and the third time they have been staged in the same city as the Pan American Games.

Thanks to an agreement signed at January's PASO General Assembly, this concept will continue for the foreseeable future as cities looking to host the Pan American Games will automatically have to include the Parapan American Games in their bid as well.

The first Parapan American Games took place in November 1999 in Mexico City, Mexico, and involved 1,000 athletes from 18 countries.

www.toronto2015.org

#### Silver Bronze Total 55 Brazil 81 197 USA 51 47 34 132 Mexico 50 60 55 165

Gold

#### THE SPORTS





**GUADALAJARA 2011** 

Country







Football 7-a-side











Track cycling







#### FIVE TO LOOK OUT FOR AT TORONTO 2015 PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES



**MATT STUTZMAN** USA



Stutzman hit the headlines at London 2012 by winning

the fact he was born without arms. Images of him shooting a bow and arrow were amongst some of the most iconic images of London 2012.

#### YUNIDIS CASTILLO CUBA

Championships



female para-athletes to have run the 100 m in under

Games debut in August and is a four-time Paralympic champion in the 12 seconds. The 27-year-old BC4 class. His rivalry with completed a unique triple his pairs partner Eliseu dos hat-trick in 2013 winning Santos – who currently has world titles in the 100 m, a higher world ranking - for 200 m. 400 m. just like individual gold in Toronto she had done at London could be one of the highlights 2012 and the 2011 World of the Games.

DIRCEU JOSE PINTO

Pinto is set to

make his Para-

pan American





a major shock at the 2014 World Championships

when he beat the Ukrainian Paralympic champion to take gold in the men's -81kg

# CANADA



scorer at the 2014 World Championships in Denmark and also crowned the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Canada are now ranked second in the world and their match with the USA, who they eliminated from the last two



major competitions, could be a classic

# **26 April - 3 May**

2015

Toronto,

Canada

2007

Rio, Brazil

2003

Mar del Plata,

Argentina

**TORONTO** 

**6 6 6 6** 

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**3**0 **3**0 **5**0 **5**0

1,600

ATHLETES

FROM

28

**COUNTRIES** 

2011

Guadalajara,

Mexico

1999

lexico City

Mexico

1999 **MEXICO CITY** 

**4**. **4**. **4**. **4**0 **4**0 **4**0

1,000

ATHLETES

**FROM** 

18

**COUNTRIES** 

# **IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships A-Pool**



On home ice in Buffalo, the USA will aim to add the world title to the Paralympic gold they won in 2014.

The hosts are drawn in Group B alongside Germany and Italy and will start their campaign against Russia in a re-run of the Sochi 2014 gold medal match. Defending champions Canada line-up against Czech Republic, Norway and Japan in Group A.

Following the success of its Sochi 2014 coverage, US broadcaster NBC will show the USA's final group game against European Champions Italy, together with one semi-final and the final.

All matches will be livestreamed via the event website.



#### **ONES TO WATCH**



**JOSH PAULS** USA

**DMITRY LISOV** RUSSIA

**GREG WESTLAKE** CANADA

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### 12-28 June

# Blind judo to feature at the 1st European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan



The inaugural European Games will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 12-28 June 2015. Blind judo has been fully integrated into the Judo programme, with medals in the men's over 90kg category and in the women's under 57kg category.

At least 16 judokas from Azerbaijan, France, Germany, Greece, Great Britain, Hungary, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Ukraine will compete.

In the men's tournament, Ilham Zakiyev – who has won two Paralympic gold medals at Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, and one bronze in London 2012 – will compete for Azerbaijan. Zakiyev is also being supported by BP, an international partner of the IPC and also an official partner of the Baku 2015 European Games.

Zakiyev said: "To be selected to represent my country in blind judo at the first European Games in Baku is a wonderful honour for me and I hope to make history as the first European Games champion. It is excellent that blind judo is included at Baku 2015, and I am very proud to have the opportunity to win a medal for Azerbaijan in the Heydar Aliyev Arena."



### 13-29 June

# Football 7-a-side World Championships



Ukraine's won the 2014 European title beating the Netherlands

Ukraine will start the World Championships in Burton-upon-Trent, Great Britain, as strong favourites following their European title win last year.

The London 2012 silver medallists beat Russia, the defending world and Paralympic champions, on their way to European glory last year. The 16 participating teams have been drawn into four groups of four:

- Group A: Ukraine, Iran, England, Japan
- Group B: Russia, Republic of Ireland, Australia, Portugal
- Group C: Brazil, Scotland, USA, Venezuela
- Group D: Netherlands, Argentina, Canada, Northern Ireland



#### **ONES TO WATCH**



#### **OTHER MAJOR EVENTS**

26 April
IPC Athletics
Marathon World
Championships
London, Great Britain

IPC Powerlifting Americas Open Championships Mexico City, Mexico

26-29 April

as Open : World Gam ionships : Seoul, Sity, Mexico : South Korea

8-18 May
IBSA
World Games
Seoul,

10-14 June
Boccia Asia/
Oceania Team &
Pairs Championships
Hong Kong, China

26-30 July
IPC Powerlifting
Asian Open
Championships
Almaty, Kazakhstan

23-30 August
World Archery
Para Championships
Donaueschingen,
Germany

## 13-19 July

# IPC Swimming World Championships



Glasgow 2015 is the last major event before Rio 2016

Less than 12 months after hosting a hugely successful Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the British city will stage the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships.

Around 650 of the world's best swimmers from 50 countries will compete at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre in what will be one of the last major competitions ahead of Rio 2016.

Ukraine topped the medals table at the 2013 World Championships in Montreal, Canada, but will face stiff competition from Russia and the host nation.

Each day, live coverage of both sessions, together with live results, will be available via the event website.



#### ONES TO WATCH



# 28 July - 2 August

# UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships



Italy's Alex Zanardi will be hunting for gold in Nottwil

The picturesque Swiss town of Nottwil, situated adjacent to Lake Sempach, will play host to around 250 cyclists in what will be one of the last major para-cycling events prior to the next Paralympic Games.

On home soil last September, the USA topped the medals table at the World Championships in Greenville and will be keen to reinforce their position 12 months out from Rio 2016.

The men's H5 class could produce the most intense races with Dutch handcyclist Tim De Vries looking to challenge the dominance of Italy's Alex Zanardi and South Africa's Ernst Van Dyk. On the women's side also keep an eye out for dual sport athletes Andrea Eskau of Germany who also excels at Nordic skiing and the USA's Allison Jones who also does alpine skiing.



**GREAT BRITAIN** 

#### ONES TO WATCH



**AUSTRALIA** 

ITALY

# ISSUE OF THE SEASON

How can the Paralympic Movement in the Americas capitalise

fully on the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games, Rio 2016

Paralympics and other upcoming events?

Two key players in the growth of the Paralympic Movement in the Americas give us their views.

Parapan American Games



President Americas Paralympic Committee (APC)

This is a very special time for the Americas Paralympic Movement.

With the Parapan American Games, the Youth Parapan Am Games, the South American Games, the Para Central American Games, and of course Rio 2016, we are developing a strong calendar of events.

Such activity is helping to increase awareness and participation numbers across the region and it is important we get more youngsters involved as they are the athletes of tomorrow. Thanks to initiatives from the Agitos Foundation,

Toronto 2015 and soon Rio 2016, we are also increasing the number and quality of coaches, regional classifiers, technical delegates and officials.

So many young people are attending these seminars and returning back to their countries enthused to carry on the good work.

Our NPCs are also developing and becoming more professional. This will continue thanks to the agreement we recently signed with PASO which will see NPCs work closer with their Olympic counterparts.

The PASO agreement not only secures the future of the Parapan American Games, but really makes us feel part of the Americas sporting family.

One of our aspirations for Rio 2016 – and this is why Toronto 2015 is so important to us - is for all athletes to be classified in advance through their qualification. Previously many unclassified athletes received a wildcard to the Paralympic Games, however I am pretty sure for Rio 2016 many countries will classify their athletes in advance.

I think we should only determine if this current period has been a success when we reach the Lima 2019 Parapan American Games. We must gauge then what momentum we have generated off the back of Rio 2016. I believe the Sao Paulo 2017 Youth Parapan American Games can act as bridge through to Lima.

The Games in 2019 will be a challenge; Peru is not a traditional Paralympic country, but that should be seen as an opportunity for us to develop Paralympic sport from the foundations up.

This growth started when Andrew Parsons and Octavio Londoño were the Presidents of the APC and I look forward to continuing this work now with the full support of the IPC and its staff.



President of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee and **IPC Vice President** 

I believe there is no better way to say how much the Rio Games next year represent to the Paralympic Movement than stressing the fact it will be the first time the Paralympic Games come to Latin America. The impact and legacy will be immense for Brazil and the whole region.

In fact, it is already happening. The preparation for the Paralympics has included a series of events for high level athletes being held in the region, not only in Brazil. More and more, these events have attracted competitors from Latin America and other parts of the world. The Caixa Loterias Athletics and Swimming Open International in São Paulo in April will have a record number of almost 200 foreign athletes.

Initiatives in partnership with the Agitos Foundation, Toronto 2015 and Rio 2016 Organising Committees have helped to looking forward to it.

raise awareness about the values of the Paralympic Movement as a tool for a more inclusive society. The debate regarding opportunities for people with impairment and their role in society has increased and received more attention by governments and media organisations.

We are fully confident that this is just the beginning. The 2016 Paralympic Games will inspire generations and will introduce the Paralympic Movement to millions in our continent who may never have watched para-sports before.

We are also very happy to have won the right to host the Youth Parapan Am Games in Sao Paulo in 2017. It will be a great boost for the young athletes who will be motivated by the chance to come and compete in Brazil just six months after the country hosted the Paralympics. We are already

Impairment

TO2015 **Impact** 

Support Antigua and Barbuda

Agitos Foundation Puerto Rico

Opportunity Darhados

Panama

Developmen

Trinidad and Tobago

Dominican Republic

Guatemala Aruba

Awarenese

Uruguay

Professional

Argentina

Growth

US Virgin Islands

Colombia

Value

Chile

Costa Rica

Toronto

Para-sport USA

Canada Youth development

Officials Ecuador

Puerto Rico Lima

El Salvador

PASO

Motivation

Athletes

Events

Venezuela

Coaches

Brazil

Honduras

Confidence

Classifiers Qualification

Peru

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ike many sporting events, the Paralympic Games is always looking to increase ■its media coverage.

One persistent problem is simply logistical do journalists want to stay in town for a further 20 days of work after the Olympics instead of returning home to their families?

There are of course exceptions that show a greater preference for the Paralympics, and I think everyone is in agreement that the Games need and deserve better coverage.

To achieve this requires strategic planning and professional organisation.

I believe the first step is to have dedicated Paralympic commentators, experts on radio and television that can make broadcasts more attractive and more intimate for viewers by having a greater knowledge of para-sports and its athletes.

One solution could be for AIPS and the IPC to organise a series of seminars to educate media on the various intricacies of Paralympic sport. Alternatively national or international media competitions for journalists with an impairment could be organised whereby the prize is an opportunity to cover the Games. Such initiatives would help to raise awareness and bring the media closer to the experiences of people who want to show the strength of their souls through sport.

Another element that would increase coverage would be the integration of modules



Position: Association Internationale De La Press Sportive (AIPS) Europe AIPS Vice President www.aipsmedia.com

**Ioannis Daras** 

Country: Greece

Ioannis Dara's view

# A strong wind comes from the soul ...

**Education.** human stories and media Games are the key for the revolution

on the Paralympics into the graduate programmes of Universities that produce journalists and sport executives.

Including the Paralympics in the humanity aspects of these courses as well would add another dimension to the education of people who ultimately can shape public opinion through their work in the media.

Although there is a desire to promote Paralympic sport as high performance sport throughout the Movement, it is often the back stories of athletes

that can help engage new audiences in some

Each country is different in how receptive it is to Paralympic sport, but human interest stories are always extremely engaging. Stories of athletes overcoming challenges and obstacles to perform on the world stage at the Paralympics have over the years developed a superb track record for changing perceptions and attitudes towards people with an impairment.

Admiration replaces sympathy and such stories can achieve huge cut through via television, radio, the internet and newspapers to millions of homes around the world.

During the London 2012 Paralympic Games I was living in Lancaster, Great Britain, when my four year old son watching highlights on TV said: "Dad, how can this athlete be running so quickly with one leg when I can't even stand on my one leg?"

My answer was that "there is a strong wind that comes from the soul and pushes him





# International Paralympic Committee

**WORLDWIDE PARALYMPIC PARTNERS** 







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