

THE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

ISSUE NO. 2 | 2013

PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org



▶ Stretching for more

- ▶ **Recap:** Roland Garros, ice sledge hockey World Championships
- ▶ **Preview:** Athletics, road cycling and swimming World Championships




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Quality for life



“This is the last edition of The Paralympian before two major events later this year that will have a bearing on the Paralympic Movement’s future.”

Dear Readers,

A little known fact about London 2012 is that although a record number of countries and athletes took part, 45 per cent of the athletes came from just 10 countries.

In contrast, 46 countries sent just one athlete with the majority of them receiving a wild card in order to compete.

Clearly there are many barriers to increasing the depth and quality of participation across the Paralympic Movement, and in this edition's feature article we look at one of them – funding – from both from a National Paralympic Committee (NPC) and an athlete perspective.

It is almost one year now since the IPC launched the Agitos Foundation, and some of the work it is doing to try help NPCs and athletes improve their financial situation are highlighted in this edition.

We are now halfway through 2013, an extremely busy and productive year so far. All the major announcements, events and Championships from the last few months are reviewed in this magazine together with previews of upcoming World Championships in athletics, road cycling and swimming.

This is the last edition of The Paralympian before two major events later this year that will have a bearing on the Paralympic Movement's future.

On 7 September, the host city of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be decided in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The three bid cities – Istanbul, Madrid and Tokyo – have each submitted excellent bids and I am delighted at each city's desire to deliver the best Paralympic Games possible.

There used to be a time when the Paralympics received just a passing mention in bid books. However, thanks to the success of previous Games, bid cities are now more aware of the importance of the Paralympics. They realise that making the most of two spectacular sporting events as one 60-day festival of sport has the potential to be a real vote winner.

I wish all three cities the best of luck and thank each of them on behalf of the Paralympic Movement for their efforts.

In November, IPC members will also get a chance to meet at the IPC General Assembly and Conference in Athens, Greece, where elections will also be held for the roles of IPC President, Vice President and Governing Board members.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my Governing Board colleagues for their superb contributions during the last four-year term, which has seen the Movement continue to grow in size, scale and stature.

I look forward to seeing you all in Athens.

Enjoy your read.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





Cuba's Yunidis Castillo will try to defend her 100m, 200m and 400m T46 titles at July's 2013 IPC Athletics World Championships in Lyon, France.



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Allow an American wheelchair rugby star to take you through an airport with a team of 12 Paralympians in wheelchairs.

PRINT



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Cover photo: Gustavo Fernandez, pictured competing at Roland Garros, has helped attract attention and sponsorship to wheelchair tennis in Argentina

IPC President speaks at MINEPS V



More than 100 sport ministers listened to IPC President Sir Philip Craven speak in Berlin, Germany

IPC President Sir Philip Craven was one of the keynote speakers at May's International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS V), in Berlin, Germany.

At the conference, which was opened by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, sport ministers from more than 100 of the 195 member states of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) discussed policy solutions to overcome the main challenges in physical education and sport today.

Sir Philip focused his presentation on the importance of inclusive physical education for all children and women.

"I sensed a clear hunger by governmental officials from over 100 nations to ensure that sport and education for all children and youth is a priority for investment in each of their nations," he said.

Warrior Games attract international attention

US Paralympics hosted the 2013 Warrior Games in May in Colorado Springs, Colorado, attracting 260 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans.

The event featured five US teams (Army, Marine Corps, Navy/Coast Guard, Air Force and Special Operations) and a British Armed Forces team. Great Britain's Prince Harry attended the event to help raise awareness of the Paralympic Movement and support the rehabilitation of servicemen. The Games were opened by London 2012 Paralympic gold medallist Bradley Snyder, a former US Navy Lieutenant.

"It is tough being at the Warrior Games as an ambassador and a mentor because in my heart, I'm an athlete and a competitor. But I am so proud to be here," said Snyder.

"Last year, I watched from the athlete section as Melissa Stockwell lit the cauldron as the honorary torchbearer, and I was so inspired. I am thankful for the opportunity this year to light the cauldron and pass the torch to these athletes, and help them find their place in a Movement that means so much to me."



US Paralympic swimmer Bradley Snyder (centre) opens the Warrior Games with US Olympic swimmer Missy Franklin (left) and Great Britain's Prince Harry (right)

Kenya hold Agitos Foundation athletics course



The course aimed to help to develop a new wave of athletes in East Africa and allow Kenya to gain the knowledge necessary to hold an international IPC Athletics competition



AGITOS
Foundation

The Agitos Foundation IPC Athletics Technical Course took place from 27 May - 7 June in Nairobi, Kenya.

The course, co-financed by UK Sport, aimed to help coaches, national officials and national classifiers systematically develop the sport and its athletes, and to decrease the discrepancy between the training conditions of athletes from different countries.

Sixty-five participants from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of Congo attended

four different sessions for visual impairment and physical impairment classification, coaching and officiating.

Each country received at least one low-cost racing wheelchair at the end of the coaching course, during which coaches learned how to train wheelchair racers.

The participating delegations will now be mentored and monitored in the implementation of the athlete performance pathway.

web >> www.agitosfoundation.org

Burundi host first national para-sport event



Goalball and sitting volleyball are two of the commonly practiced para-sports among developing countries



Following on from Agitos Foundation development camps, Burundi hosted a national competition for sitting volleyball and goalball in April that included 17 teams from around the country. All members of the National Paralympic Committee of Burundi and a large crowd

enjoyed the event, which was the result of training organised by the Agitos Foundation in Rwanda in February 2012 and Senegal in December 2012.



Iran's Nemati wins Spirit of Sport Award

Iranian Paralympic archer Zahra Nemati received SportAccord's Spirit of Sport Award in May, less than a year after becoming the first woman from her country to win Olympic or Paralympic gold.

The award honours the commitment and humanitarian spirit of SportAccord members who have made an exceptional and lasting contribution to using sport as a tool for positive social change.

Nemati, who won gold at London 2012 in the individual recurve W1/W2 and bronze in the women's team recurve open, received significant media coverage in Iran that helped break down the perceptions of people with an impairment and also inspired other women to take up sport.



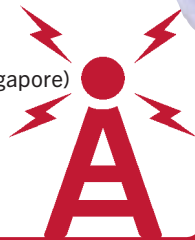
Iran's Zahra Nemati receives her award at the SportAccord conference in St. Petersburg, Russia

APC teams up with ABU for broadcast opportunities



Key broadcasters at 52nd Asia Pacific ABU Sports Conference

CCTV (China)
KBS (Korea)
NHK (Japan)
IRIB (Iran)
Media Corp (Singapore)
Astro (Malaysia)
TV3 (Malaysia)
RTM (Malaysia)
TVRI (Indonesia)



The Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) embarked on plans to develop a partnership with broadcasters in the region to help enhance television coverage for the Paralympic Games, as well as the Asian Para-Games and Asian Youth Para-Games.

Through collaboration with the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), the APC hopes to attract more public broadcasters and Free-to-Air stations.

The APC initiated engagement efforts with Asian broadcasters by participating in May's 52nd ABU Sports Conference held in Bali, Indonesia.

Delegates representing more than 25 public and private broadcasting organisations as well as sports marketing agencies attended the conference.



Chinese table tennis star Lin Ma hopes to compete in front of Asian television viewers in the near future

web >> www.AsianParalympic.org

Allianz extends commitment with IPC



Allianz has been a proud International Partner of the IPC since 2006 and in April confirmed its support through 2016.

This is the first time Allianz has signed a long-term agreement for four years with the IPC.

In addition to the global and local partnerships, Allianz will also be involved with IPC Athletics in order to create even more excitement about the Paralympic Movement.

Local partnerships between Allianz subsidiaries and local NPCs are about to be signed as well in the Czech Republic and Germany.

web >> www.sponsoring.allianz.com/en/Paralymphics/Paralymphics

Oliveira named world's 17th most marketable athlete

Brazilian Paralympic sprint champion Alan Fonteles Oliveira was listed as No. 17 on SportsPro magazine's 50 Most Marketable Athletes list for 2013.

SportsPro saw Oliveira's 200m T44 victory at London 2012 as a watershed moment for Paralympic sport, raising its commercial success in recent months and fostering rivalries among some of the world's best sprinters.

SportsPro wrote that Oliveira's name is actually bigger now in Great Britain than in his native Brazil, but that Caixa Economica Federal will put 120 million reais toward Brazil's Paralympic ambitions over the next four years to help him and his teammates succeed.

In June, Alan Fonteles Oliveira became the fastest sprinter on blades, running the 100m in 10.77



Nicholson to lead IPC Athletes' Council



Todd Nicholson, a five-time Paralympian and part of Canada's 2006 Paralympic gold-medal winning ice sledge hockey team and pictured on the far left, was elected the new Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council for the next four years in May.

The IPC Athletes' Council is the collective voice of Paralympic athletes within the IPC and the greater Paralympic Movement. Its role is to provide feedback and advice and report to the IPC Governing Board on behalf and in the interest of the athletes in all IPC matters.

As Chairperson, Nicholson will be an ex officio member of the IPC Governing Board with voting rights. He will also be put forward by the IPC to join the IOC Athletes' Commission.

The IPC Athletes' Council is made up of nine athletes – six from summer sports and three from winter sports.

web >> www.Paralympic.org/Athletes/Council

#AskAnAthlete

Prior to August's IPC Swimming World Championships in Montreal, Canada, Paralympic champions Andre Brasil and Benoit Huot talk about their rivalry in the S10 class.



◀ Andre Brasil
vs.
Benoit Huot ▶

I will swim five individual events and two relays. I will try to do my best to win seven medals, and I'm hoping for a minimum of four golds.

What do you hope to achieve at the World Championships?

It's a very unique opportunity that I have to be able to compete at home in front of friends and family. I am looking forward to showing Montreal what para-swimming is all about. It will be great to increase the visibility of para-sports in Canada.

Benoit is more than a rival, he is my friend and an idol to me. He showed me how amazing this sport is.

What do you think of your rival?

We have become good friends over the years and I am lucky to have him as a competitor. He made me a better athlete by pushing the limits in our sport to another level.

I love to swim freestyle. It's an amazing stroke. No matter how fast I'm swimming it, I always feel like climbing another step.

What's your best swimming stroke?

I would think freestyle is my best stroke, but I love the individual medley. It's a fun race because there is a little bit of strategy in the event, and it's fun to be able to train for four swimming strokes.

"The Pretender" by the Foo Fighters.

What music do you listen to before a race?

I don't really listen to music. I like to talk with the other swimmers to get excited about the race.

I think about how hard the journey was to get there, and that it's worth every sacrifice to achieve that dream.

What goes through your mind when you hear your national anthem on top of the podium?

I embrace the moment and think about everything I did to get there. Being on the podium is a great feeling, and you never get used to it.



2013 IPC Swimming World Championships

Dates: 12-18 August

Location: Montreal, Canada

Athletes to watch: Sophie Pascoe, New Zealand; Matthew Cowdrey, Australia; Jessica Long, USA; Daniel Dias, Brazil; Marc Evers, Netherlands; Ellie Simmonds, Great Britain

web

>> www.ipcswimmingworlds2013.org

@andrebrasils10

@benhuot

Twitter talk

What hashtags should you use to discuss the next major events in para-sport?

#ALICANTE2013

2013 IPC Shooting European Championships

#BAIECOMEAU2013 #USOPEN

2013 UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships Wheelchair Tennis US Open

#ROADTORIO #MONTREAL2013

Athlete updates on their pathway to Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

2013 IPC Swimming World Championships

#SOCHI2014

Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games

#GLASGOW2014
2014 Commonwealth Games

#INCHEON2014
2014 Asian Para-Games

#BUDAPEST2013
2013 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships

#IPCASRACE
IPC Alpine Skiing races

#LYON2013

2013 IPC Athletics World Championships

#RIO2016

Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

#ROADTOSOCHI

Athlete updates on their pathway to Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games

#INCHEON2013
2013 IPC Powerlifting Asian Championships

#ECWCRUGBY

2013 IWRF Wheelchair Rugby European Championships

#T02015
2015 Parapan American Games

#BANGKOK2013
2013 Para-Archery World Championships

Categories

- Alpine skiing
- Archery
- Athletics
- Cycling
- Goalball
- Powerlifting
- Shooting
- Summer multi-sport event
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Triathlon
- Wheelchair fencing
- Wheelchair rugby
- Wheelchair tennis
- Winter multi-sport event



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IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships A-Pool

FINAL STANDINGS

1		Canada*
2		USA*
3		Russia*
4		Czech Republic*
5		Norway*
6		Italy
7		Korea
8		Sweden

*Denotes team has qualified for Sochi 2014

In an aggressive, fast-paced matchup, Canada escaped with a 1-0 gold-medal victory over arch rival USA at April's 2013 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships in Goyang, Korea.

The much-celebrated win is Canada's third world title (2000, 2008, 2013) – the most ever for any ice sledge hockey team.

Canada finished the Championships with an undefeated 5-0 record, outscoring their opponents 20-3.

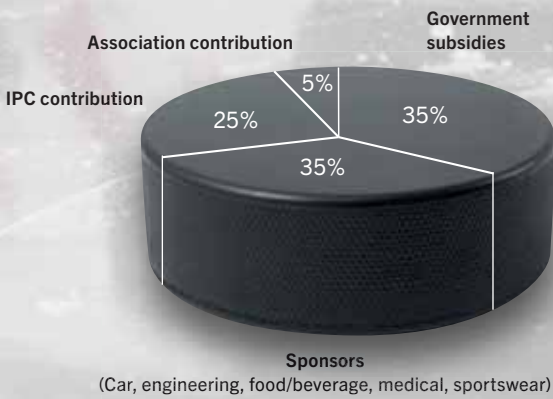
Italy, Korea and Sweden finished in the bottom three, meaning they will join Japan, Germany and Great Britain at the Paralympic Qualification Tournament later this year to fight for a Sochi spot.



As the reigning world champions, Canada will enter the Sochi 2014 Paralympics as the team to beat

How were the Championships funded?

A breakdown on where the Korean Ice Sledge Hockey Association for the Disabled received funds to host the 2013 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships A-Pool.



BEST FORWARD

Greg Westlake, Canada
Five goals, three assists



BEST DEFENCEMAN

Taylor Chace, USA
Five goals, one assist



BEST GOALTENDER

Mikhail Ivanov, Russia
55 saves, 96 save percentage

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Grand Prix

web >> www.iwasf.com

The first two editions of the 2013 Wheelchair Fencing Grand Prix took place in Montreal, Canada (26-28 April) and Lonato del Garda, Italy (24-26 May).

At the first event, France won five titles and claimed podium places in all 11 events.

A highlight of Montreal was when France's Romain Noble beat Poland's Norbert Calka to secure victory in the category A epee event, while in the equivalent category B competition Marc Andre Cratere beat compatriot Alim Latreche to the title in an all-French final.

Poland's Marta Fidrych beat France's Delphine Bernard to take home the category A title in the epee discipline with Simon Briese-Baetke, a silver medallist at London 2012, coming out victorious in the category B event.

DON'T MISS IT!

What:
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships

When:
7-12 August

Where:
Budapest, Hungary

Italy's Beatrice Vio continued her meteoric rise in the sport in Montreal with a win over London 2012 bronze medallist Marta Makowska of Poland in the final of the category B foil competition. Then, she made the most of her home advantage in Lonato del Garda, beating London 2012 silver medallist Dani Gyongi of Hungary in the final to firmly establish herself as one of the sport's top performers this year.



The first two IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Grand Prix events took place in Canada and Italy, and the final event will take place in Hong Kong in December



After watching Italy's Beatrice Vio (right) win back-to-back IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Grand Prix titles, fans voted her IPC Athlete of the Month for May

IPC Powerlifting Open European Championships

Russia put on a show as the host nation of May's IPC Powerlifting Open European Championships in Aleksin, topping medals table with 11 gold and 18 overall medals.

Iraq finished second with three gold and five total medals, followed by Poland with two gold and eight total medals.

Ten world and 20 European records were broken among athletes at the sport's biggest event this year.

The Championships included IPC Powerlifting's new weight categories, which took effect on 1 January this year, changing the structure of weight classes and meaning several new world and regional records were set. This followed an extensive review of all bodyweight category trends across major competitions.

web >> www.ipc-powerlifting.org



There were 137 athletes who took part in the Championships in Aleksin



Russia had the largest delegation at the Championships with 31 powerlifters

DUBAI TO HOST 2014 WORLDS

The IPC announced that the 2014 IPC Powerlifting World Championships will be from 5-11 April in Dubai, UAE.

Hosted by the Dubai Club for the Disabled, between 250-300 athletes from 50 countries are expected to participate in the World Championships – an event required for athletes wishing to compete at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

BIGGEST LIFTS

Men:
Faris Al-Ajeeli
(Iraq, +107kg category):

240 kg

Equivalent to an adult zebra

Women:
Souhad Ghazouani (France, -73kg category):

150 kg

Equivalent to 120 bottles of wine



Germany's Sabine Ellerbrock (far left) and France's Stephane Houdet (far right) won the women's and men's Roland Garros singles titles, respectively. Japan's Shingo Kuneida (centre top) and the Netherlands' Marjolein Buis (centre bottom) pushed their limits on the clay courts as well.

Roland Garros

web >> www.ITFTennis.com/wheelchair



France's Stephane Houdet retained his men's singles title and Germany's Sabine Ellerbrock won her first Grand Slam title at June's Roland Garros event in Paris, France.

Japan's world No. 1 Shingo Kunieda took Houdet to a final-set tiebreaker in the men's singles final, but Houdet, world No. 2, was able to hang on to clinch a 7-5, 5-7, 7-6 (5) victory.

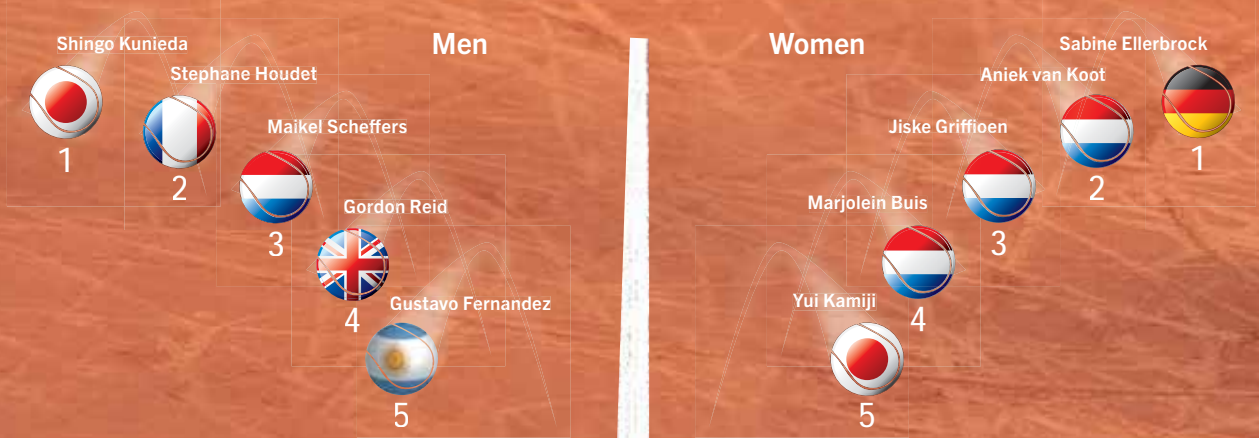
Following that final, Houdet then partnered with Kunieda to win their second men's doubles title together at Roland Garros, fighting back from a set down to beat second seeds Gordon Reid of Great Britain and Ronald Vink of the Netherlands, 3-6, 6-4 (10-6).

After finishing runner-up to then-world No. 1 Aniek van Koot of the Netherlands in her first Grand Slam final at January's Australian Open, then-world No. 3 Ellerbrock ended Roland Garros having beaten both of the world's top two players on the women's side.

Following her 6-4, 6-4 semi-final win over van Koot, the German claimed a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win against Dutch then-world No. 2 Jiske Griffioen in the final to reverse the result of last year's Paralympic bronze-medal match.

The duo of van Koot and Griffioen, however, sped past Ellerbrock and Dutchwoman Sharon Walraven to cruise to the women's doubles title with a 6-2, 6-3 victory.

ITF Wheelchair Tennis singles rankings (as of 1 July)





"It's a vicious cycle. We don't get the sponsorship because we don't get the publicity. We don't get the publicity because there's no sponsorship behind us. It's a vicious cycle. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"

Philippa Johnson,
South African equestrian rider

It is 2013, and yet again, South African para-equestrian rider Philippa Johnson finds herself searching for a way to fund her career at the stables.

The 39-year-old, a three-time Paralympian, originally made her international debut in 2002, delving into her life savings and riding on a borrowed horse just to take part.

She received a big break after winning gold at the Beijing 2008 Paralympics, when the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASOC) chose to fund her next Paralympic cycle, paying for her living, training and sports scientists. But after failing to medal at London 2012, she lost all of that.

Everything on the road to Rio 2016 must now come out of her own pocket.

She is left wondering what she can do to carry over the momentum she once had into the next Paralympic cycle.

"We're trying to align ourselves as much as possible with the able-bodied part of the sport," Johnson said. "But when we compete internationally, we get prizes of blankets and bunches of flowers, whereas the able-bodied riders are getting cash.

"But our expenses are just as much, if not more expensive."

Many Paralympians claim athlete funding and sponsorship has struggled to grow as fast as other aspects of the Paralympic Movement over the past few years.

But why?

"The Paralympics and sport for the disabled is becoming much more high-profile, and people are starting to see that these are not just cripples trying to do sport, these are serious sportsmen and women," Johnson said.

"But still, our sponsorship isn't there.

"Unfortunately, it's a vicious cycle. We don't get the sponsorship because we don't get the publicity. We don't get the publicity because there's no sponsorship behind us. It's a vicious cycle. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?"



Where to start?

It is a constant challenge to maintain the visibility of athletes in the eyes of sponsors, the government and media between Games, making it difficult for some athletes to fund their way to the top.

They are not alone. Some Olympic medallists face the same issue, losing sponsorship or funding once a Games conclude.

Within this vicious funding cycle, National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and national federations are expected to help fund athletes en route to their major events.

Many of them have instituted specific and detailed funding programmes, such as SASOC's Operation Excellence (OPEX), which provides four years worth of financial and logistical support to potential Olympic and Paralympic medal hopefuls.

"We were getting funding six months before a Paralympic Games at one point," Johnson said of South African medal hopefuls.

"You can't win medals with six months training. It's four years training that it takes to get a medal. Luckily, South Africa did realise this and they chose a couple of elite athletes to target, fund and help, and they really, really reaped the benefits of it come London."

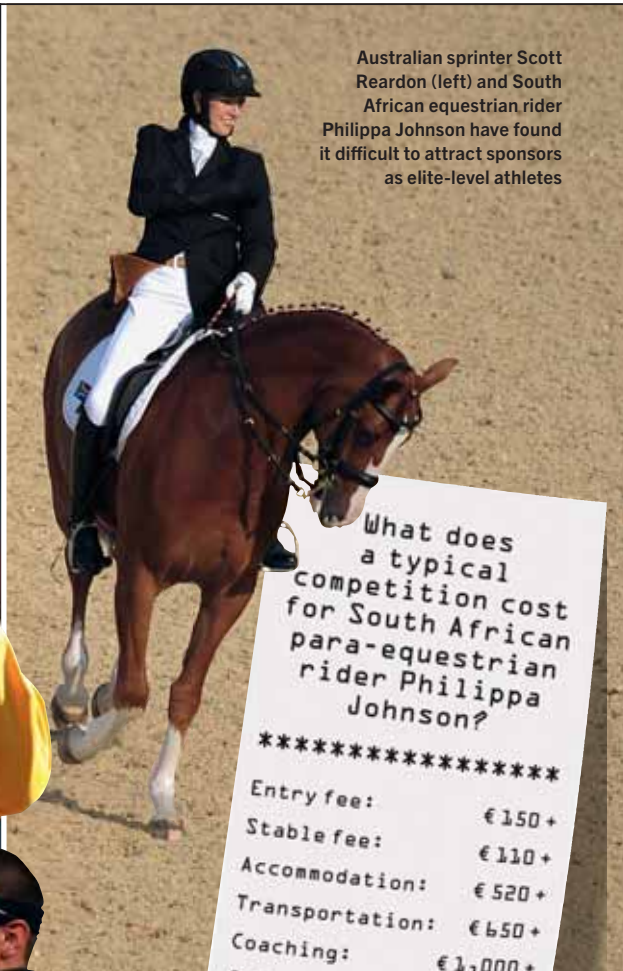
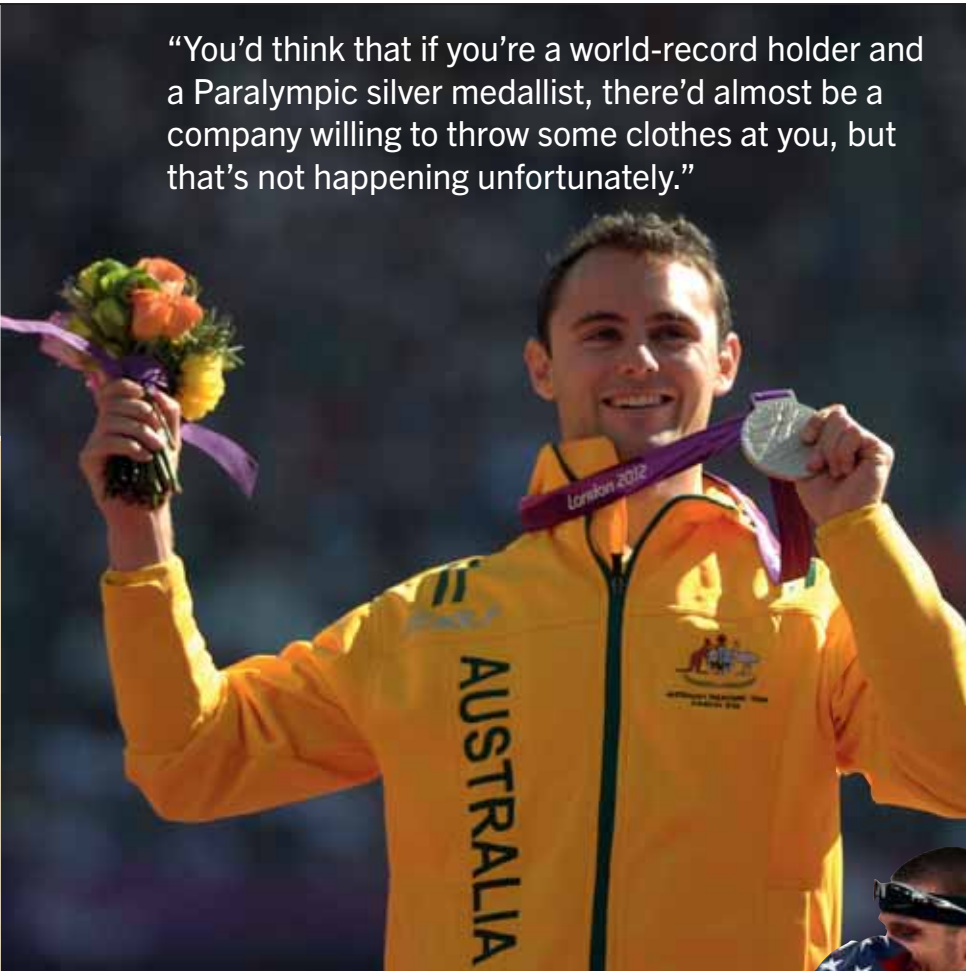
Of the 48 athletes on the OPEX programme for Rio 2016, 23 of them – or 32 per cent – are para-athletes. To give this some context, 33 per cent of the athletes South Africa sent to London 2012 last year were for the Paralympics.

In some cases, NPCs have even partnered with external programmes that can indirectly provide athlete assistance. NPC Ghana, for example, works with the "Right to Dream" programme to enable athletes in their country to reach their full potential and take part in international competitions during the year.

Visually impaired sprint star Ilse Hayes is one of 23 Paralympians being funded by South Africa's OPEX programme on the road to Rio



Greek boccia athlete Greg Polychronidis (far left), long jumper Anthi Karagianni (left) and Christos Stefanakis with pilot rider Konstantinos Troulinos (below) are all trying to fund their way to the next Paralympics with little support from the Greek government



Australian sprinter Scott Reardon (left) and South African equestrian rider Philippa Johnson have found it difficult to attract sponsors as elite-level athletes

Fluctuating funds

Meanwhile, many NPCs receive funding from their governments to help support these initiatives, but with the world’s economy on a constant precipice, the amount of those funds is always fluctuating.

For instance, NPC Greece receives its funding from the Ministry of Sports and the General Secretariat of Sports, which are responsible for funding for all sport federations and associations in the country.

Greek athletes are funded and supported by their respective national sport federations, but state funding has decreased steadily for NPC Greece in the last few years due to the country’s financial crisis, leaving a lot of athletes’ careers in question.

“This happened mainly because of the financial crisis that led to rapid budget cuts that have also affected Paralympic sport,” said NPC Greece President Georgios Fountoulakis.

“During the last two years, because of the rapid budget cuts, there were individual

instances where athletes had to cover their travel expenses.

“We are afraid that in future this will be more frequent if state funding decreases at the same rate it has the last four years.”

With government funding in flux, several NPCs such as Greece have relied on sponsors and donors to provide most of the funds needed to send their teams to events.

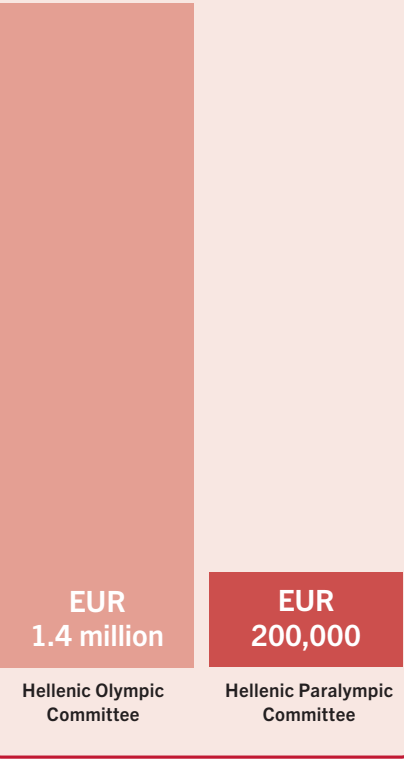
“It is encouraging that corporate sponsorship plays a more important role and has given us strong support,” Fountoulakis said.

“However, the challenges will also be there for the corporate sponsors, since in a more competitive and economically difficult environment they will also decrease or cut their sponsorship budgets.

“A positive notion is that in the last years we have also seen an increase in sponsor funding, especially from OPAP, our National Lottery Company. This is very positive, and we hope it will expand over the four years of the Paralympic cycle and will not be limited only to Paralympic years where the media interest is very high.”

GREEK SPORT FUNDING

Olympic vs. Paralympic funding from the Greek government in 2013:



“You’d think that if you’re a world-record holder and a Paralympic silver medallist, there’d almost be a company willing to throw some clothes at you, but that’s not happening unfortunately.”

The athlete’s role

While NPCs attempt to increase or stabilise funding, athletes constantly reach out to potential sponsors to fill in the gaps and ensure their participation in major events – some having more luck than others.

Heading into July’s IPC Athletics World Championships in Lyon, France, two notable sprinters – the Netherlands’ Marlou van Rhijn and the USA’s Jarryd Wallace – have had success in getting their names out there.

After countless media and public appearances and having a Barbie doll modeled after her, van Rhijn has now picked up three major sponsors – Ottobock, Frank Jol and Nike.

And that was before she became the world-record holder in the 100m, 200m and 400m T43 sprints.

Wallace, a T44 sprinter, has seen major success with his “A Leg in Faith Foundation” and self-marketing efforts, picking up sponsorship from Oakley, Back2Motion Physical Therapy, Georgia Sports Chiropractic and Procure Prosthetics and Orthotics.



Australian Paralympic sprinters Scott Reardon and Evan O’Hanlon have found it more difficult, though, and have taped up all logos on their shoes until they receive a sponsor.

“You’d think that if you’re a world-record holder and a Paralympic silver medallist, there’d almost be a company willing to throw some clothes at you, but that’s not happening unfortunately,” Reardon said.

Johnson has run into the same problems in equestrian.

“Our sport has come into parallels with the able-bodied sport so fast, but things like prize money and funding haven’t,” Johnson said.

“Big companies need to actually start having the balls to sponsor disabled athletes, and not only just go for the big names because that’s where the TV cameras are.”

What does a typical competition cost for South African para-equestrian rider Philippa Johnson?

Entry fee:	€ 150 +
Stable fee:	€ 110 +
Accommodation:	€ 520 +
Transportation:	€ 650 +
Coaching:	€ 1,000 +
Groom:	€ 350 +
Training prior to competition:	€ 1,820 +
Total:	€ 4,600

AGITOS FOUNDATION SUCCESS

Three major projects the Agitos Foundation has already supported to increase the visibility of para-sport:

- **Haiti's National Competition day of Handisport (October 2012):** More than 2,000 spectators looked on as 400 athletes and 300 members of the public took part in para-sport demonstrations.



- **Rwanda Youth Workshop (February 2012):** More than 50 youngsters with an impairment, as well as coaches and youth co-ordinators, took part in a week-long camp that involved sports training, workshops and cultural exchanges. Taking place in Kigali, the workshop trained participants to develop and implement a Paralympic Youth Sport Programme in their own countries.



- **Zambia Regional Development Camp (October 2011):** National Paralympic Committees, athletes and coaches had the chance to share knowledge about how to build the Movement in African countries from the ground up.



web >> www.agitosfoundation.org

If the aim is to bring the world to Rio in 2016, IPC President Sir Philip Craven claims the Paralympic Movement's visibility must span the entire globe on a regular and consistent basis prior to the Games.



Building visibility from the ground up

With the aforementioned athletes at the heart of the Movement, it's the IPC's role to create conditions for athlete empowerment.

The IPC increases the visibility of athletes' stories so they can touch the hearts of people around the world and influence them to create a more equitable society.

"The IPC has made major steps forward in the last eight years that have shown the first results," Fountoulakis said from an NPC's point of view.

"This must be continued and the profile of our sport must be raised further and professionally in an already very competitive sport market."

However, a lot of that progression has been isolated within Great Britain and Europe, and if the aim is to bring the world to Rio in 2016, IPC President Sir Philip Craven claims the Paralympic Movement's visibility must span the entire globe on a regular and consistent basis prior to the Games.

Sir Philip commented: "Although London was a huge success, the importance of athlete development was again underlined by the fact that just 10 countries supplied 45 per cent

of all athletes. In contrast, 46 countries sent just one athlete.

"The Agitos Foundation aims to change this in future years by supporting and, if necessary, taking the lead in global athlete development."

The Agitos Foundation aims to be the leading global organisation in developing sport activities for people with an impairment as a tool for changing lives and contributing to an inclusive society.

In the long-term the Foundation will improve athlete funding situations at the grassroots level.

Namibian sprinter Johanna Benson is a clear success story of the IPC's organisational development initiatives. After winning her country's first Olympic or Paralympic gold in the 200m T37 race at London 2012, she arrived home a sponsored superstar.

The Namibian government rewarded her with a diplomatic passport, a house worth NAD 1.5 million (EUR 132,000) and a NAD 170,000 (EUR 15,000) grant.

She was even nominated for the Laureus 2012 World Sportsman of

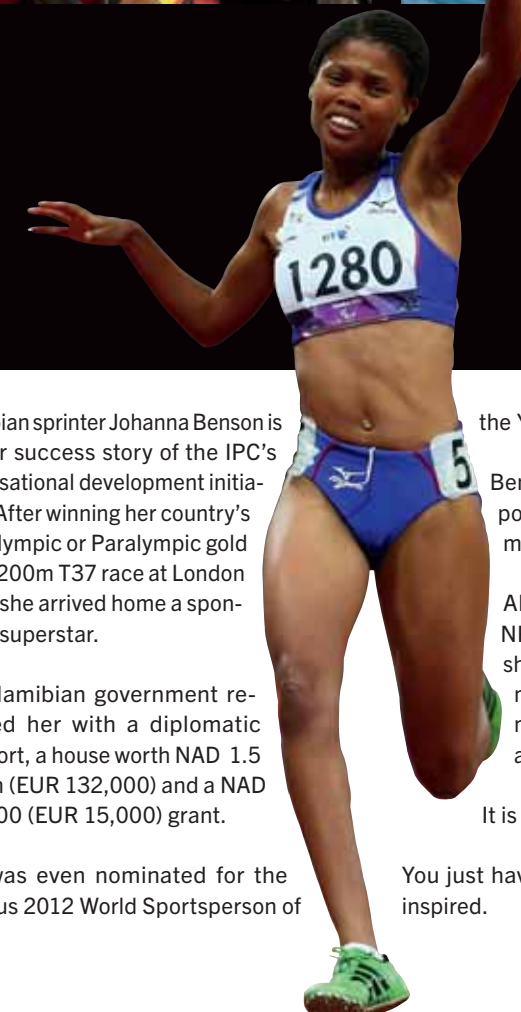
the Year with a Disability Award.

Benson's success story proves it is possible to emerge from the aforementioned vicious funding cycle.

All three parties — the athlete, NPC and IPC — must join forces to show sponsors, media and governments that the Paralympic Movement does not regenerate a pulse around the world every four years.

It is alive every day.

You just have to know where to look to be inspired.





Great Britain's Jonnie Peacock and the USA's Richard Browne (top left), as well as China's Na Mi (bottom left) and Belgium's Marieke Vervoort will look to tear up the competition in Lyon

IPC Athletics World Championships



A new generation of track and field stars arose at London 2012, and they will be the ones to keep your eyes on throughout the next Paralympic cycle, beginning with the 2013 IPC Athletics World Championships from 19-28 July in Lyon, France.

The Championships are expected to draw nearly 1,100 athletes from more than 100 countries at Lyon's Stade du Rhone for the nine days of competition, making it the largest para-sport event of 2013.

Notable stars to watch include British and Brazilian sprinters Jonnie Peacock and Alan Fonteles Oliveira, as well as Dutch double-amputee Marlou van Rhijn and American wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden. All four became Paralympic champions for the first time last year, with Peacock recently being challenged by the USA's Richard Browne,

who unofficially equalled his world-record time of 10.85 in the 100m T44 sprint last month. Oliveira then reacted to Browne's race with a new world-best time of 10.77 at the IPC Athletics Grand Prix in Berlin, Germany.

"Jonnie feels like he's on top of the world right now, and I respect him because he's the Paralympic gold medallist," Browne said. "But I hope he takes notice of my time because it wouldn't be smart for him not to take notice."

Also in Lyon, expect a key rivalry to play out in the men's T42 class, as Australia's Scott Reardon seeks revenge in the 100m after losing Paralympic gold to Germany's Heinrich Popow.

Elsewhere on the women's side, Belgium's Marieke Veroort will challenge Canadian veteran Michelle Stilwell in the T52 wheelchair sprints and China's Paralympic sensation Na Mi will look to triumph in the F37 field events.

Viewer's guide

All action from Lyon 2013 will be live streamed on the IPC's YouTube Channel at www.YouTube.com/ParalympicSportTV. Here's a guide of the top events to watch each day.



Day 1
Women's 200m T34
Great Britain's **Hannah Cockroft** seems to break world records every time she hits the track now. So why should Lyon 2013 be any different for the two-time Paralympic and two-time world champion?

Day 2
Men's 200m T43
This event's all about **Alan Fonteles Oliveira** – the face of the next Paralympic Games host nation. After winning Paralympic gold last year, he believes he can set a new world record in Lyon and make this race his for years to come.

Day 3
Men's discus F44
Great Britain's **Dan Greaves** and USA's **Jeremy Campbell** have gone back and forth in this event at the World Championships and Paralympics for nearly the last decade now. Campbell won the last Paralympic crown, but Greaves is the defending world champion.

Day 4
Men's 100m T44
The world fell in love with this race at London's Olympic Stadium behind chants for **Jonnie Peacock**, but the British Paralympic champion will be pushed to his limits in Lyon when he goes up against the American trio of **Richard Browne**, **Jerome Singleton** and **Jarryd Wallace**.

Day 5
Women's 100m T37:
France's own **Mandy Francois-Elie** is the defending Paralympic champion and world-record holder in this event, but Namibia's new star in **Johanna Benson** will look to knock her off her pedestal to claim the gold.

Day 6
Women's 100m T44
Put the Netherlands' **Marlou van Rhijn**, France's **Marie-Amelie Le Fur**, USA's **April Holmes** and Great Britain's **Stef Reid** in the blocks, and you have yourself a World Championship-calibre race. Enough said.

Day 7
Men's 100m T42
Germany's **Heinrich Popow** finished just six hundredths of a second ahead of Australia's **Scott Reardon** in this race at the last Paralympics, but Reardon broke the world record in the distance in 2013 already and will give Popow a run for his money in Lyon.

Day 8
Women's 200m T11
All three medal winners from London 2012 in this event will be back in action in Lyon, including Brazilian champion **Terezinha Guilhermina**. She will be challenged by compatriot **Jerusa Geber Santos** and China's **Jia Juntingxian**, who finished second and third, respectively, at the last Paralympics.

Day 9
Marathon
The final day of the Championships will be a test of endurance, with Switzerland's **Marcel Hug** and the USA's **Tatyana McFadden** being deemed the ones to watch in the men's and women's T54 marathons, respectively.



The Netherlands' Marc Evers (top left), New Zealand's Sophie Pascoe (bottom left) and the USA's Jessica Long (right) are all on the IPC's Ones to Watch list for Montreal 2013

IPC Swimming World Championships



London 2012, featuring around 650 of the world's best athletes from 60 countries in the specially adapted Parc Jean-Drapeau complex.

A huge temporary structure will be built around the pool, effectively turning it into an indoor arena. The venue has a rich history for hosting international sporting events, including the 1976 Olympic Games and 2005 FINA World Aquatics Championships.

Host nation Canada, as well as Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand and the USA have all announced strong teams already.

The road to Rio 2016 for para-swimmers starts in Canada's second biggest city from 12-18 August at the 2013 IPC Swimming World Championships in Montreal.

It will be the largest gathering of swimmers since

Australia will send their most successful ever Paralympian in Matt Cowdrey, who already showed great form at the German Internationals in late May, when Australia picked up 11 medals.

Local Montreal legend Benoit Huot will go up against Brazil's Andre Brasil following their clashes at London 2012, and the pair will also need to watch out for up-and-coming American Ian Silverman, who broke two world records at the 2013 Spring CanAms.

Canadian Valerie Grand'Masion will chase American Kelly Becherer to avenge the 50m and 100m freestyle S13 wins that Becherer claimed in London, while the USA's Jessica Long and New Zealand's Sophie Pascoe will look to dominate the women's S8 and S10 classes.

Great Britain will send four-time Paralympic gold medallist Ellie Simmonds, who returns for her third World Championships at 18, as well as 16-year-old Josef Craig, the youngest athlete to medal in London.

web >> www.ipcswimmingworlds2013.org

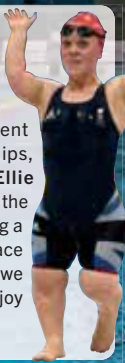
Viewer's guide

All action from Montreal 2013 will be live streamed on the IPC's YouTube Channel at www.YouTube.com/ParalympicSportTV. Here's a guide of the top events to watch each day.

Day 1

Women's 400m freestyle S6

In the very first event of the Championships, Great Britain's **Ellie Simmonds** returns to the spotlight after setting a world record in this race at London 2012. Will we see her cry tears of joy again in Montreal?



Day 2

Men's 400m freestyle S10

The USA's **Ian Silverman** won this tight race at London 2012, just ahead of Montreal's own **Benoit Huot**, and it should be one of the top battles at the Championships, with Brazil's **Andre Brasil** expected to be right up there in the mix.

Day 3

Men's 100m butterfly S13

Can five-time Paralympic champion **Ihar Boki** of Belarus pick up where he left off last summer? The visually impaired swimmer is the current world-record holder in five different events, but this isn't one of them, and he hopes to change that in Montreal.



Day 4

Men's and women's 100m S1

It is likely we'll see the Netherlands' **Marc Evers** and Japan's **Yasuhiro Tanaka** put on a photo finish in this event to determine who is the face of the S14 class. Expect a rivalry that started at London 2012 to fully hit the spotlight in Montreal.

Day 5

Men's 100m breaststroke SB14

It is likely we'll see the Netherlands' **Marc Evers** and Japan's **Yasuhiro Tanaka** put on a photo finish in this event to determine who is the face of the S14 class. Expect a rivalry that started at London 2012 to fully hit the spotlight in Montreal.

Day 6

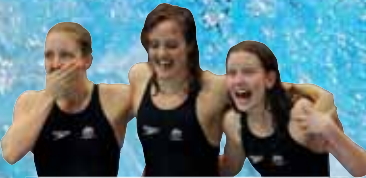
Women's 100m freestyle S8

The USA's world-record holder **Jessica Long** will face tough competition in this race from Great Britain's **Heather Frederiksen**, Australia's **Maddison Elliot** and Russia's **Oleysa Vladykina**, all of whom finished in the top five at London 2012 in the event.

Day 7

Women's 4x100m medley relay 34 points

Australia, Great Britain, USA and Russia all finished within a second of each other at last year's Paralympics in this race, which some journalists have called the best moment at the Aquatics Centre. Expect it to come down to the wire once again on the final day of action in Montreal.



facebook

[Facebook.com/IPCSwimming](https://www.facebook.com/IPCSwimming)

twitter

@IPCSwimming #Montreal2013



WORLD CUP
MATANE, CANADA
(23-25 AUGUST)

WORLD CUP
CANTIMPALOS, SPAIN
(14-16 JUNE)

WORLD CUP
MERANO, ITALY
(7-9 JUNE)

ONES TO WATCH

Sarah Storey (Great Britain) Class: C5
Jiri Jezek (Czech Republic) Class: C5
Muffy Davis (USA) Class: H2
Alex Zanardi (Italy) Class: H4
Carol Cooke (Australia) Class: T2
Robbi Weldon (Canada) Class: B
Sini Zeng (China) Class: C2

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships

Following the conclusion of three World Cup events, the UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships will draw the sport's biggest stars to Baie-Comeau, Canada from 28 August - 1 September.

This year's World Cup circuit includes stops in Italy, Spain and Canada, with each event drawing well over 200 competitors, including Italy's former F1 driver Alex Zanardi and

Canada's visually impaired tandem rider Robbi Weldon.

The season will conclude in Baie-Comeau, which previously hosted the World Championships in 2010, becoming the first North American city to do so at that point in time.

web >> www.paramanic.ca

August 2013

21 August - 1 September
World Rowing Championships

27 August - 1 September
ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships

September 2013

13 September
ITU Para-Triathlon World Championships

16 - 21 September:
WOVD Sitting Volleyball European Championships

October 2013

11- 20 October
Youth Parapan Games

20 - 25 October
IPC Shooting European Championships

November 2013

1 - 7 November
World Archery Para-Championships

1 - 11 November
IBSA Goalball European Championships

IPC General Assembly and Conference



The last IPC General Assembly and Conference took place in Beijing, China in 2011



Athens, Greece will stage the IPC General Assembly and Conference from 22-24 November, where elections will take place for the IPC President, Vice President and Governing Board.

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the IPC which meets every two years.

More than 300 attendees are expected at the event and all National Paralympic Committees, International Federations, Regional Organisations, International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled and friends have been invited to attend.

2013 PARALYMPIC SPORT AND MEDIA AWARDS

The Paralympic Sport and Media Awards, in conjunction with Allianz, will be a part of the event, honouring the performances of athletes, teams, officials and the media from the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Media Award Categories

- Broadcast
- Written (print and online)
- Radio
- Photo

Paralympic Sport Award Categories

- Best Male Athlete
- Best Female Athlete
- Best Team Performance
- Best Male Paralympic Games Debut
- Best Female Paralympic Games Debut
- Exemplary Paralympic Games Official

Issue of the season

ISSUE

Should visually impaired and physically impaired athletes compete together in the three-person keelboat event?

Background

Sailors are classified with a sport class from 1 to 7, with 1 indicating the most severe and 7 indicating the least severe eligible impairment. For example, a sailor with complete tetraplegia most likely competes in class 1 and a single above-the-knee amputee likely competes in class 7.

Athletes with a visual impairment are put in classes 3, 5 or 7, with 7 indicating the highest level of visual ability.

Each crew is allowed a maximum of 14 total points.



Dror Cohen

Beijing 2008 Paralympic champion
Physically impaired

I don't care.

Why should we make so much noise about this?

As long as each team has athletes that make up the 14-point system, I'm ok with that.

Disabilities are never equal to each other, and there's always going to be a grey area in Paralympic sport. You're never going to get the sailing classification system – or the system for any sport – perfect.

Within each side, there's range of disabilities, so we must use our abilities to our advantage.

Athletes with a physical impairment should help navigate the boat more and athletes with a visual impairment should help with the physical aspects more.

What people should be more worried about is athletes who attempt to bluff and cheat their disabilities, and the doctors who can choose to see or not see it. If people are not cheating the system, then I do not really care if visually impaired athletes compete alongside us. I would not even mind if it were an able-bodied person, as whomever it is I will attempt to sail past them, as long as their team remains within the point system.

In fact, what that blind guy from France (Nicolas Vimont-Vicary) can do is amazing stuff. It just makes me want to work harder.

It's simple. There is no problem here.

If they can sail, then let them come and sail with us.

Tsuneo Aso

London 2012 Paralympian
Visually impaired

I believe the mixed three -person keelboat event is completely based on the co-operation and integration of the different types of impairments.

The combined-impairment event is actually a necessary recipe for success in disabled sailing.

I started sailing in 2002, and ever since, I've been fascinated with the sport because of the high speeds and being able to control the boat as a member of a three-person team.

We complement each other to achieve the highest performances and that is what allures people to the three-person keelboat event.

Sailors with lower limb impairments, for example, have limitations on their movement in the boat, while those with a visual impairment such as myself have difficulties understanding what situations and circumstances we are in on the water.



Therefore, I try my best to control the majority of the heavy physical work, while my teammates inform me of our weather and race conditions, directing me what to do with the boat.

Essentially, they're my guide runners, similar to what visually impaired sprinters or skiers have.

They are the navigators behind the strength.

I've taken the time to read sailing texts to further understand the reasoning behind these rules, as I'm really proud of myself for becoming a Paralympian and want to learn new lessons through my sport.

Now that I am over 60 years old, I've decided to leave the sport to make way for a new visually impaired sailor who I hope can share the same viewpoint as myself.

IPC LAUNCHES CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW PROCESS

All of the Paralympic Movement's stakeholders have been invited to suggest reasonable amendments to the current Classification Code, which aims to provide equitable competition through classification processes that are robust, transparent and fair.

The first round of review will run from 1 June - 30 September 2013, while the second round will run the same dates in 2014.

The modified Code will be presented by the IPC Governing Board as a motion at the 2015 IPC General Assembly, and the amendments will take effect within one year of approval.

web  >> www.paralympic.org/Classification/code-review

ATHLETE CONCLUSION:

Classification is never perfect in any sport, but both athletes agree the three-person keelboat makes for a fair race.

sochi.ru
2014
paralympic games



A CLOSER LOOK

Weight: 686 grams

Thickness: 10mm

Designer: Adamas
(Russia's leading jeweler)

Time to create each medal: 18 hours

Sochi 2014

Medals unveiled for next Paralympic Winter Games

The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games medals were revealed at the SportAccord Annual International Sports Convention in May in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The presentation ceremony was opened by Sochi 2014 President and CEO Dmitry Chernyshenko, who gave the audience the main facts and figures about the medals, which feature the Sochi 2014 "Patchwork Quilt" — a mosaic of national designs from the various cultures and ethnicities of the Russian Federation.

The medals have been carefully crafted to depict the landscape of Sochi from the sun's rays reflecting through the snowy mountain tops onto the sandy beaches of the Black Sea coast. These contrasts in Russia's natural landscape are embodied in the medals and will be an everlasting souvenir for the champions.

One side of the medals features the Paralympic Agitos, while the reverse displays the logo of the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games and the name of the competition in English. The official name of the Games in Russian and English is engraved on the medal rim. The awards also contain inscriptions in Braille for the visually impaired.

web

>> www.sochi2014.com



Rio 2016

Paralympic Friends Programme takes flight

Rio 2016's Organising Committee launched the Paralympic Friends Programme in May in order to mould attitudes toward para-sport integration within the organisation.

Visually impaired journalist and football 5-a-side player Marcos Lima led

the first session, which gathered employees from each functional area for a blindfolded exercise and informative lectures about a visually impaired person's daily routine.

Mario Azevedo, who participated in the exercises on behalf of Rio 2016's commercial department, said: "The main goal is to promote the Paralympic Movement. I usually say that the Olympic Games are where heroes are made, but that the Paralympic Games are where heroes go, which is quite a different thing."



Rio 2016 employees had the opportunity to taste what it would be like to be visually impaired for a day



Airport accessibility assessed

The Rio 2016 Organising Committee recently delegated six professionals to Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport to check the mobility and accessibility improvement opportunities in a place that will receive a great number of people with an impairment in a short period of time.

The operations department's arrivals and departures specialist, Jose Maggesi, co-ordinated the visit and insisted on going through the entire airport in a wheelchair.

"We saw the airport from a different point of view, a different perspective," Maggesi said.

"Everything went according to plan. It's important to praise Infraero's attitude, which gave us its full support to carry out this visit, as we are all in the same team after all."

"We followed a traveller's normal path," Maggesi explained. "We started at the pavement, went through the check-in area, went up to the food court on the third floor, came back for boarding through a jet bridge, visited a few toilets and tested the use of telephones, check-in kiosks, drinking fountains, 24-hour banks. Then, we followed the usual arrivals route. After that, we repeated the same process done at Terminal 2."

web

>> www.rio2016.com

“So what are you guys here for? A race or something?”

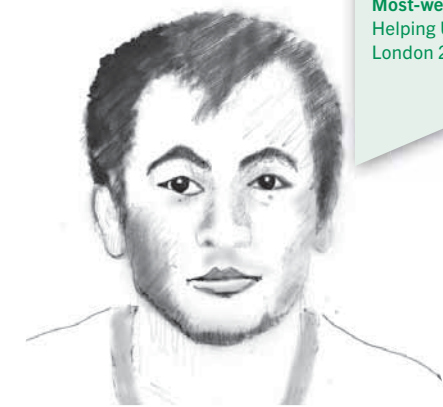
“No, we’re actually ballet dancers.”

This was one of my exasperated teammates’ satirical responses to what may have felt like the thousandth time of being mistaken for wheelchair racers in an airport, a common occurrence for all wheelchair athletes.

Travelling with a team of wheelchair athletes – which we just did to June’s Denmark Wheelchair Rugby Challenge – is an experience unlike any other.

For most, travelling is routine, with the occasional hiccup in weather or plane malfunctions.

With a wheelchair rugby team, however, any number of things can happen.



Chuck Aoki’s view

Transversing an airport with USA’s wheelchair rugby team

Wheelchairs can be lost. Everyone is patted down and searched in security. Equipment can be broken.

The eyes of gate agents widen when they see 12 large wheelchairs rolling toward their

Chuck Aoki

Nationality: American

Profession: USA wheelchair rugby player

Most-well known for: Helping USA win bronze at London 2012

check-in desk, and you can see them visibly exhale before helping us.

I’m not sure why we stir such trepidation in airline agents, but most do enjoy getting to be a part of our journeys.

Baggage claim is always fun as well. A confused looking airline employee will often wander up to one of us, often looking disoriented, and begin to mumble “There’s a bunch of ...um ... wheelchairs are they yours?”

It’s typically a safe assumption that the 12 sport wheelchairs in baggage claim are going to the 12 people in wheelchairs waiting in baggage claim. But I suppose never assume anything.

But there are also perks to travelling with a wheelchair team. We always board planes first, which sometimes results in glares from first-class passengers, but since we also leave last, it evens out.

I call us the Marines of commercial travel. First in, last out. People are often genuinely interested in what we do as well, and travelling gives us the opportunity to connect to people across the world to spread awareness for the Paralympic Movement first-hand.



Chuck Aoki (top left) and his American teammates always come away from their wheelchair rugby events with comical travel stories



International Paralympic Committee

WORLDWIDE PARALYMPIC PARTNERS

VISA

ottobock.

SAMSUNG

Atos

INTERNATIONAL PARTNER

Allianz

“To enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.”

