

THE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

ISSUE NO. 3 | 2013

PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org

► Perfecting the game



- **Recap:** Governing Board elections and summer sport World Championships
- **Preview:** Alpine skiing and snowboard World Cups





It's not about the cards you're dealt, it's how you play them.

Here's to the athletes who proved that anything is possible. They didn't just keep going, they went further and became an inspiration to us all. None more so than London 2012 Paralympic silver medallist – and world record holder, Matt Stutzman.

In light of such displays of courage and determination, we are delighted to support all Paralympians as they continue to inspire every generation.



International Partner



“The Movement is now bursting with sport and, even though 2013 has not been a Paralympic year, we have seen a major international event take place every two weeks.”

Dear Readers,

Since the last edition of The Paralympian, so much has happened within the Paralympic Movement, I'm not sure where to start with many things occurring both on and off the field of play.

In terms of sport, multiple World and regional Championships have taken place, in addition to Youth Games in the Americas and Asia – all of which are reviewed in this edition. The Movement is now bursting with sport, and even though 2013 was not a Paralympic year, we have seen a major international event take place every two weeks.

With more sporting events taking place, the need for better, more transparent and understandable sport-specific classification has increased and our feature this edition covers all of these areas.

Athletes and classifiers give us their views on the subject and with the second round of consultation for the IPC Classification Code Review set to take place next June, I urge athletes, IPC members, classifiers and other stakeholders to give their feedback whilst they can.

Away from the sporting action, Tokyo was voted host city of the 2020 Paralympic Games and a new IPC Governing Board was elected at November's IPC General Assembly.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the General Assembly and Conference in Athens, Greece, and would like to inform the whole IPC membership that planning has already started for the event that will celebrate the IPC's Silver Jubilee year.

It will bring together the whole Movement to address any areas of concern and will determine our direction for the next four years and beyond.

Everyone will be encouraged to contribute, taking into account language, culture and understanding of the participants. Working with the new Governing Board, the intended outcome is that this event forms part of the foundations for the next IPC Strategic Plan.

To finish I would like to welcome the IPC's new International Partner BP to the Paralympic Family and would like to encourage everyone to check out a new IPC video that was launched on 3 December, the UN's International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The four-minute long video, which I previewed at the General Assembly, can be found at www.ParalympicSport.TV and gives a great background to the history of the Movement and our future. If a picture speaks a thousand words, this video speaks about a million and is the perfect introduction to the Paralympic Movement. I hope you enjoy it.

Season's Greetings,

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





Arnaud Assoumani participates in the long jump at the 2013 IPC Athletics World Championships in Lyon, France



07 PARALYMPIC NEWS

The latest news in the Paralympic Movement includes results of the IPC Governing Board election, a groundbreaking broadcast deal with NBC and new development grants from the Agitos Foundation.

18 FUTURE GAMES

Russian media had a chance to try out ice sledge hockey in Sochi, and Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Paralympic Games.

34 ISSUE OF THE SEASON

What questions and reporting methods are considered appropriate for broadcasters and journalists when interviewing athletes with an impairment?

16 #ASKANATHLETE

Germany's Andrea Eskau and Olena Lurkovska discuss their road to the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games on the Nordic skiing trails.

22 WORLD SPORT ROUNDUP

Take a look back at the IPC Athletics and IPC Swimming World Championships, in addition to a sampling of sport action from each region.

36 UPCOMING EVENTS

American snowboarder Evan Strong and Slovakian alpine skier Henrietta Farkasova share what equipment they will be taking with them out on the slopes this winter.

17 DIGITAL BONUS

Find out how Spanish alpine skier Jon Santacana Maiztegui and British equestrian rider Sophie Christiansen are interacting with their fans while injured.

28 FEATURE

An in-depth look at why para-sport fans should care about sport-specific classification and what updates to the IPC Classification Code will mean for the Movement.

38 GUEST COLUMN

Sixteen-year-old table tennis player Aleksy Kaniuka of Argentina shares why the Youth Parapan American Games are the perfect stepping stone for an athlete aiming for the Paralympics.

PRINT



The views expressed in The Paralympian are not necessarily those of the IPC. In case of republication of any part of The Paralympian, please send a copy to the IPC. The publisher reserves the right to edit submitted articles. The International Paralympic Committee endeavours to be as current and accurate as possible with this publication, aiming to treat all readers with courtesy and respect. We can not guarantee however that the information contained in this publication is complete and accurate in all respects and readers are taken to understand and agree to this disclaimer upon reading any part of The Paralympian. No infringements upon any law, including sport regulations, from people within the photographs and/or featured in the magazine's content were known at the time of publication. Articles, pictures and other written or graphic devices published in The Paralympian may not be reproduced without the prior written permission of the International Paralympic Committee.

THE PARALYMPIAN

Editor Craig Spence
Assistant Editor Stuart Lieberman
Art Editors Carolin Baird and Natalia Dannenberg
Graphic Design designfee Bianca Werninghaus
Printing welzel + hardt GmbH
All rights reserved
© 2013 International Paralympic Committee
ISSN 1609-1329



CONTACT

International Paralympic Committee
Adenauerallee 212-214
D-53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +49 228 2097-200
Fax +49 228 2097-209
info@paralympic.org
www.paralympic.org

IMAGES

© Photo Credits:
Luc Percival Photography (p. 1/4/19/22/34/35/40), IPC (p. 3/11/31),
Yosof Rohesh (p. 5/28), Getty Images (p. 5/11/12/13/14/16/19/21/22/23/25/30/
31/37), George Santamouris (p. 5/7/8/9/10), Lieven Coudenys (p. 11/12),
Larry Wong (p. 10), istockphoto (p. 14/21/27/30/34/36),
Alexander Manykin Photography (p.15), Tennis Foundation4 (p. 15),
Jürgen Fälchle – Fotolia.com (p. 17), Jon Santacana (p. 17),
Sophie Christiansen (p. 17), Sochi 2014 (p. 18/19/31), Robyn Mackenzie (p. 19),
Alex Ferro (p. 20), Rio 2016 (p. 20), T. Quehen (p. 22), IFDS (p. 24),
Balint Vekassy (p. 24), MyRowingPhoto.com (p. 24), ITU (p. 25),
US Paralympics (p. 25), Yuki Higa (p. 26), Asian Paralympic Committee (p. 26),
NPC Brazil (p. 26/27), Tennis Foundation (p.26), ITTF (p. 26/38),
Australian Paralympic Committee (p. 27), Olivier Papegnies (p. 30/32),
IWRF (p. 30), Marcus Hartmann (p. 36), Henrieta Farkasova (p. 36),
Evan Strong (p. 37), Silke Schwarz (p. 38)

Cover photo: Sweden's Niklas Ingvarsson celebrates after scoring on Germany at the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Qualification Tournament

1 experience
respect is the
hardest medal to win.

Believe in yourself.

As a partner of the International Paralympic Committee, we are supporting the Paralympic Movement.

allianz.com/believe

With you from A-Z

Allianz 

Marcel Hug, Wheelchair Racer

Paralympic Movement meets in Athens



IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez speaks to the Paralympic Family in Athens, Greece



Nearly 450 people from more than 150 countries – including IPC members, observers and media – attended the 16th IPC General Assembly and Conference in November in Athens, Greece.

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of the IPC, the Paralympic Movement's global governing body, and meets every two years.

During the event, a number of motions and policies were discussed and voted upon, and seven new members were welcomed into the Paralympic Movement.

Georg Schlachtenberger, Director of the Agitos Foundation, which is the IPC's development arm, highlighted the Movement's development work over the past year and gave an insight into the Foundation's plans for 2014.

A pilot mentoring programme will launch in Europe to develop stronger female leadership within the Paralympic Movement, and an Organisational Capacity Programme will assist emerging National Paralympic Committees in six priority areas: Paralympic Games preparation, athlete development, branding, fundraising, organisational capability and strategic partnerships.

The Foundation's Grant Support Programme will return after successfully distributing EUR 630,000 in 2013 to 34 projects that will support athlete development programmes.

The IPC also announced its publication of the strategic plans for the nine Paralympic sports it acts as the International Federation (IF) for. In order to ensure these sports become more self-sustainable, the plans will help them develop athlete opportunities and pathways and ensure greater visibility and promotion of the sports between the Paralympic Games.



New IPC members:



Sir Philip Craven re-elected IPC President

“This wonderful Movement has reaffirmed its trust in me and I pledge to repay that faith by maintaining the momentum and building on the tremendous progress we have made in recent years.”

IPC President Sir Philip Craven, MBE



(Left) Alan Dickson congratulates Sir Philip Craven on being re-elected; (right) Andrew Parsons shows emotion after being chosen as Vice President

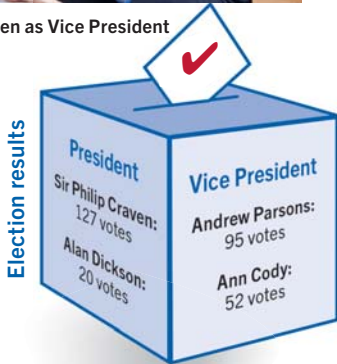
Great Britain's Sir Philip Craven was re-elected as IPC President and will serve a final four-year term after receiving 127 votes in the IPC Governing Board elections. The 63-year-old was chosen over fellow Britain and CPISRA candidate Alan Dickson, who polled 20 votes.

The new IPC Vice President is Andrew Parsons, who is also the President of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee, a role he took over in 2009.

Parsons, 36, served as President of the Americas Paralympic Committee between 2005 and 2009

and has been an IPC Governing Board member since 2009.

Parsons, who received 95 votes to finish ahead of the USA's Ann Cody with 52 votes, replaces Australia's Greg Hartung, who did not seek re-election.



Denmark's John Petersson was re-elected President of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), unopposed, at the EPC's General Assembly in October. Croatian Vice President Ratko Kovacic and British Treasurer Craig Corscadden were also elected unopposed.

Five individuals were elected to the EPC's Executive Board, including: Petra Huber (Austria), Samuel Rosko (Slovakia), Mikhail Terentiev (Russia), Denis Jaekan (Belarus) and Geoff Smedley (INAS).

IPC Governing Board full of new faces

Ten Members at Large were also elected to the IPC Governing Board, which also consists of the President, Vice President, Athletes' Representative, and Chief Executive Officer. The IPC Governing Board is representative of the IPC membership and responsible for the implementation of policies and directions set by the General Assembly. It meets at least three times a year and meetings are chaired by the President.



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Mohamed Alhameli (United Arab Emirates) | 5 Rita van Driel (Netherlands)* | 10 Miguel Sagarra (Spain)* |
| 2 Kyung-won Na (South Korea) | 6 Patrick Jarvis (Canada)* | 11 Xavier Gonzalez (Spain) |
| 3 Yasushi Yamawaki (Japan) | 7 Duane Kale (New Zealand) | 12 Todd Nicholson (Canada) |
| 4 Ann Cody (USA)* | 8 Jairus Mogalo (Kenya) | 13 Sir Philip Craven (Great Britain) |
| | 9 John Petersson (Denmark) | 14 Andrew Parsons (Brazil) |

*Denotes candidate was re-elected. All others are new to the IPC Governing Board.



National Paralympic Committees in the region and build the Paralympic Movement from the grassroots through to the elite level and the Paralympic Games, calling for more competitions in more countries.

During his next four-year term, Campo will be involved in three major events in the region – the Santiago de Chile 2014 Para-South American Games, Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games and Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

At the 12th Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jose Luis Campo defeated incumbent, Colombian Octavio Londono, 14 votes to three.

In his manifesto for election, Campo outlined the need to strengthen

Carla Qualtrough, former President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, was elected Vice President, and the Dominican Republic's Eladio Agramonte and the USA's Mike Peters were voted in as Members at Large.

2013 Paralympic Awards

PARALYMPIC ORDER

Bob Balk

Former Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council

Michael Barredo

Former President of IBSA

Duncan Campbell

Founder of wheelchair rugby

Jonquil Solt

Former Chairperson of the IPC Equestrian Committee and FEI Para-Equestrian Technical Committee



The 2013 Paralympic Sport Award winners pose with their accolades on stage

The 2013 Paralympic Awards, proudly partnered by the IPC's International Partner Allianz, were held in November at the IPC General Assembly and Conference in Athens, Greece.

Six Paralympic Sport Awards and four Paralympic Media Awards were presented to recognise the top performances and coverage from the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

The IPC also awarded four individuals with the Paralympic Order – the highest tribute a person connected with the Paralympic Movement can achieve.

All four Paralympic Order recipients have made important contributions to the Paralympic Movement and have illustrated the Paralympic ideals either in the sporting world or via outstanding services to the cause of the Movement.

MEDIA AWARDS



BEST BROADCAST

Channel 4
The network showcased more than 500 hours of London 2012 coverage, transforming perceptions with their advertising campaigns for the Games.



BEST WRITTEN (PRINT AND ONLINE)

Telegraph Media Group
For the third Paralympic Games in a row, the group won the print coverage award. At London 2012, their reports covered front and back pages, and they gave great insight into all 20 Paralympic sports.

BEST RADIO

BBC World Service
With a team of eight producers and reporters, they brought the Paralympics to a worldwide audience of more than 40 million listeners, many of whom were listening to Paralympic coverage for the first time.

BEST PHOTO

Larry Wong, Edmonton Journal
He captured a stunning image of Canadian swimmer Benoit Huot celebrating victory in the 200m individual medley SM10 at London 2012.



BEST MALE



David Weir (Great Britain)

At London 2012, Weir was unbeatable at home, racing to four golds in eight days in the 800m, 1,500m, 5,000m and marathon distances in the T54 class.

BEST FEMALE



Esther Vergeer (Netherlands)

Vergeer, who retired from wheelchair tennis shortly after winning London 2012 gold in singles and doubles, dominated her sport for more than a decade, winning eight Paralympic titles, 42 Grand Slam titles and ending her career on a 478-match winning streak in singles.

BEST FEMALE GAMES DEBUT



Marlou van Rhijn (Netherlands)

The double-amputee claimed 100m silver and 200m gold in the T44 sprints at London 2012, setting new T43 world records in both distances.

BEST MALE GAMES DEBUT



Alex Zanardi (Italy)

Twenty-one years after competing at Brands Hatch as an F3000 driver, Zanardi, who also used to race in F1, was able to return to the course and successfully steal the spotlight. He picked up handcycling golds in the individual road race H4 and individual time trial H4 at London 2012, in addition to winning silver in the mixed team relay H1-4.

BEST TEAM



Brazil football 5-a-side

The squad won their third consecutive Paralympic gold in their sport and remain the only team to ever top the football 5-a-side Paralympic podium. At London 2012, the Brazilians were led by top striker Jefferson da Conceicao Goncalves, known as Jefinho, and they did not concede a single goal in the tournament.

BEST OFFICIAL



Sylvia Sekowska (Germany)

As the head table official for wheelchair rugby at London 2012, in the lead-up to the Paralympics she developed and delivered a comprehensive training project that enabled a pool of qualified national technical officials from the host country to be selected for the Games.

Honorary Board meets in Brussels



Belgium's HRH Princess Astrid addresses the Honorary Board in Brussels

The IPC Honorary Board met in October at the Palais Royal in Brussels, Belgium, where they were updated on the growth of the Paralympic Movement over the last two years and received further insight into the activities that surrounded the London 2012 Paralympic Games, as well as those for future Paralympics.

HRH Princess Astrid, Member of the Royal Family in Belgium, hosted the meeting, as members were informed about the IPC's vision in the lead-up to the Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Games, as well as the Agitos Foundation, which is the IPC's development arm.

Other attendees of the IPC Honorary Board included: HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden; HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands; HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg; Hassan Ali Bin Ali, Paralympic ambassador from Qatar; and Maria Guleghina, Opera singer.



IPC rewards NBC with Paralympic Games TV rights



Sitting volleyball player Katie Holloway is expected to star on American television screens at the Rio 2016 Paralympics



Goaltender Steve Cash hopes to lead Team USA to another ice sledge hockey Paralympic title in Sochi – this time in front of millions of TV viewers on NBC's networks

The Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Paralympic Games will receive an unprecedented 116 combined hours of coverage in the USA, as NBC Olympics and the USOC partnered to acquire the media rights from the IPC for the next two Paralympic Games.

Americans will be able to watch 50 hours of the Sochi 2014 Paralympics across NBC and NBC Sports Network, and 66 hours of coverage from Rio 2016. In addition, there will be live online coverage of all events from both Games on TeamUSA.org.

Canadians to receive unprecedented Paralympic coverage



The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) announced plans for the most comprehensive coverage ever offered in Canada for a Paralympic Games, as it will showcase more than 65 hours of broadcast and up to 350 hours of digital streaming from the Sochi 2014 Games across multiple platforms.

The CPC has secured the Canadian broadcast rights and will lead Paralympic broadcast consortium partners in creating coverage on five platforms: CBC/Radio-Canada, Sportsnet (through an agreement with CBC), Accessible Media Inc. (AMI) and Yahoo Canada Sports.

In addition, SendtoNews will distribute full news access highlights to all Canadian media.

London celebrates one year on



“The most surprising thing for me is the attention I get from people I don't know. People writing to me on Twitter saying, ‘Good luck.’ That's quite shocking when you come from just being a table tennis player and never getting any recognition. And then in London you're suddenly one of the biggest names in sport for about two weeks. It's quite a big thing, and it's quite a shock to the system.”

Will Bayley, British table tennis player

National Paralympic Day a hit

Wheelchair racer David Weir, equestrian rider Sophie Christiansen and table tennis player Will Bayley were all on hand at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in September to attend Great Britain's National Paralympic Day, encouraging people to get involved in their local sport clubs.

The athletes took part in sport demonstrations and autograph sessions, and some of the athlete attendees competed in front of 5,000 fans at the Copper Box.

Stoke Mandeville puts itself on the map once again

The IPC announced that Great Britain will be involved in all future Paralympic Games Torch Relays starting next March, in recognition that Stoke Mandeville is the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement.

The announcement came on the same day IPC President Sir Philip Craven unveiled a giant five-metre high Agitos – the Paralympic symbol – at Stoke Mandeville hospital.



All future Paralympic Games Torch Relays will start in Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain, beginning next March with the Sochi 2014 Games

The Paralympic Order goes to ...

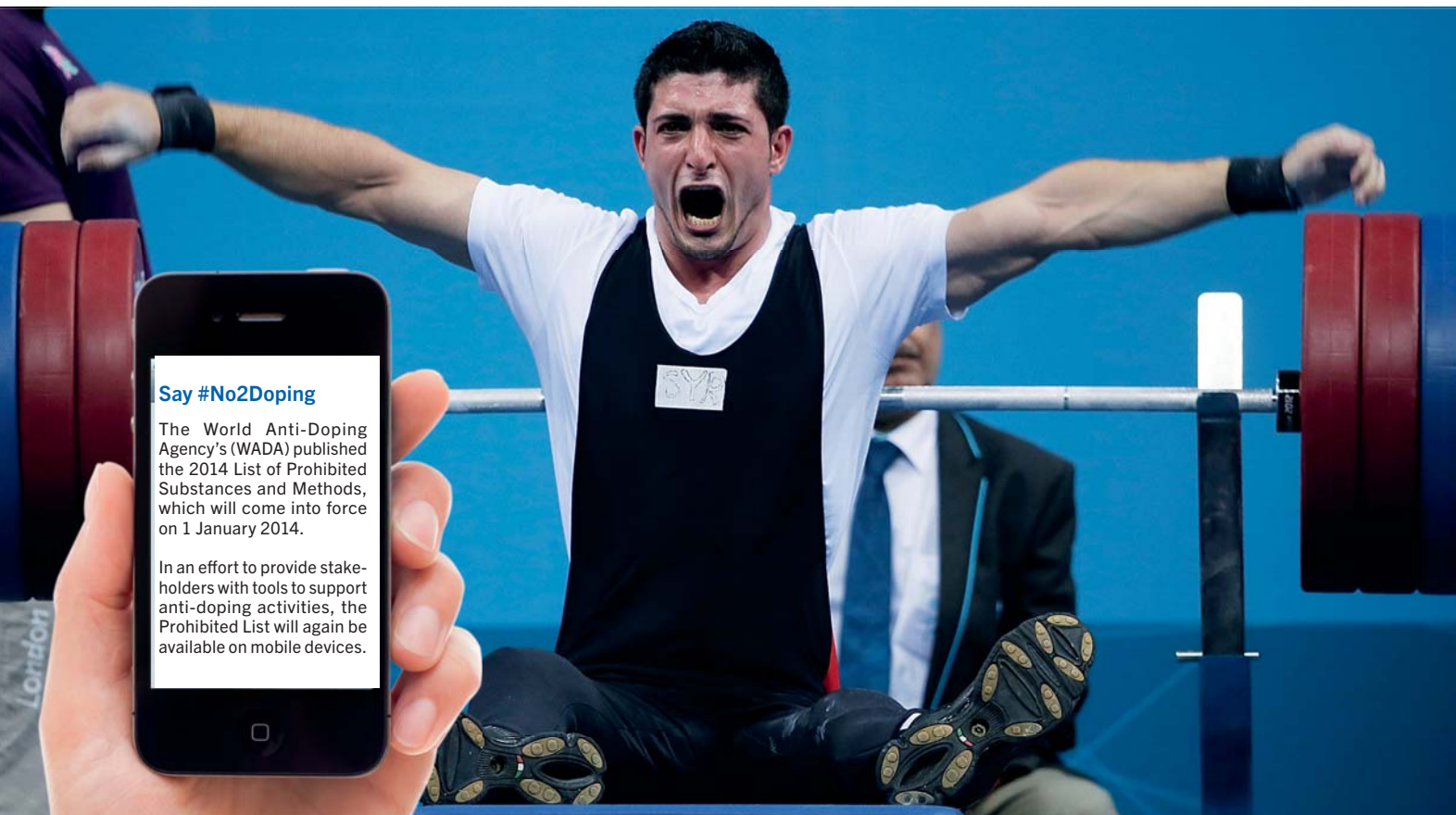
London Mayor Boris Johnson was presented with the Paralympic Order by the IPC in September for his support and contributions to the London 2012 Games.

The Paralympic Order is the highest tribute a person connected with the Paralympic Movement can receive. It was presented to the Mayor by IPC Governing Board member Rita van Driel at National Paralympic Day.

Since becoming Mayor of London in May 2008, Boris Johnson has been a big advocate of the Paralympic Movement and in September 2011 played the British Prime Minister David Cameron at wheelchair tennis in Trafalgar Square as part of International Paralympic Day.



Boris Johnson



'Raise The Bar'

IPC Powerlifting's new "Raise The Bar – Say No! to Doping" campaign was launched at the 2013 IPC Powerlifting Asian Open Powerlifting Championships in November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The programme, funded by the Agitos Foundation, not only aims to target approximately 500 lifters, but their coaches and the support networks which surround them throughout training and competition.

In the lead-up to the 2014 World Championships, all groups will attend one-on-one education sessions, at which they will be trained and tested for their learnings. WADA will support them in their training regimes, and will offer a variety of branded merchandise to show their commitment to anti-doping.



IPC signs on BP as International Partner

Following BP's successful sponsorship of the London 2012 Games, it became the IPC's second International Partner in December and will remain so until at least 2016.

BP's London 2012 vision was to use the power of the Games to inspire change and to provide real solutions for a lower-carbon future. BP fuelled the Games in ways that inspired millions of people to think about the mobility choices they make every day.

BP also has local or national partnerships with National Paralympic Committees in Angola, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Trinidad and Tobago, Great Britain and the USA. In each of the countries, BP also supports several individual para-athletes on their journeys to the Games.



International Partner



Colombia's Angelica Bernal is quickly growing from a wheelchair tennis player at the grassroots level to one at the elite level

Agitos Foundation's Grant Support Programme gets underway



More than 30 projects from around the world have received over EUR 630,000 of funding through the IPC's development arm, the Agitos Foundation, to help boost para-sport participation.

The money, made available through the first ever Grant Support Programme is going to 34 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), International Federations (IFs) and International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs).



Cape Verde's National Paralympic Committee has been one of the first to get involved with the Agitos Foundation

ITF to enhance female, quad participation

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) will host a range of developmental activities in Central and South America to increase the number of women and quad athletes in wheelchair tennis.

ITF experts, along with former No. 2 quads female player Sarah Hunter of Canada, will hold introductory clinics, media interviews, and coach education and meetings in Brazil, Chile and Guatemala.

In 2014, quad classification will be held in the region for players looking to take up the game on a more elite level.

Classification in Cape Verde

Cape Verde's Paralympic Committee has begun to hold capacity-building courses for potential classifiers in Portuguese-speaking African countries, focusing on functional classification in athletics, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

Participants thus far have come from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique.

At Cape Verde's para-sport national championships in September, they received an introductory course to sport-specific classification and had the chance to observe a classification process with the athletes.

#AskAnAthlete

Prior to the 2013-14 IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup, Paralympic champions Andrea Eskau of Germany and Olena Iurkovska of Ukraine talk about their careers in the women's sitting class.



Andrea Eskau

World Championships:



Paralympics:



Olena Iurkovska

World Championships:



Paralympics:



VS.

The most important thing is to stay healthy and to be focused on your goals.

What's the most important thing to remember as an athlete on the road to Sochi 2014?

There is no time to relax.

Olena is really on a top level, especially in biathlon. She is very fast in shooting and very accurate. Outside the competition she is very friendly.

What do you make of your rival?

She is a very strong and goal-oriented person.

My biggest achievement is not a medal or making the podium. My biggest achievement is powering myself against nature.

What's your biggest sporting achievement to date?

My biggest achievements so far are my 15 medals at three Paralympic Games – five golds, five silvers and five bronze.

I like fast conditions, but I am better in bad conditions.

What are your preferred snow conditions?

When the snow is well-groomed and it is a little frosty.

I eat almost anything, but I prefer eggs or yoghurt.

What's your typical pre-race meal?

Before the race I usually only have a cup of tea.

2013-14 Nordic Skiing World Cup

Dates/location:

9-17 December
(Canmore, Canada)

8-12 January
(Vuokatti, Finland)

16-26 January
(Oberstdorf/Oberried, Germany)

web >> www.ipc-nordicskiing.org



Status update: Injured

Having been sidelined from their sports due to injury, IPC Ones to Watch athletes have taken to social media during their break from competition to interact with their fans.



Sophie Christiansen (Great Britain, equestrian)

Following her triple gold-medal performance at August's JYSK FEI European Para-Dressage Championships, she fell off her horse and broke her collarbone. She hopes to be back on her horse, Janiero 6 (known as Rio), soon to train for the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games.

Follow Sophie:

@SChristiansen87

/SophieChristiansenOBE



Jon Santacana Maiztegui (Spain, alpine skiing)

During a training run in September's IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup in Australia, he tore his Achilles tendon. The injury has taken one of the world's top visually impaired skiers off the slopes until at least February, when he hopes to return to the mountain for the World Cup Finals in Tarvisio, Italy.

Follow Jon:

@JonSantacana

/JonSantacana



@Paralympic

ParalympicSport.TV

Paralympic Games

Paralympics

+paralympics

sochi.ru
2014
paralympic games

Sochi 2014



Russian media get taste of ice sledge hockey

Prior to the Sochi 2014 Test Event for ice sledge hockey at the end of August, the Russian team's head coach Sergey Samoylov and top players Dmitry Lisov and Vadim Selyukin held a master class for media at Shayba Arena.

Reporters had a unique opportunity to not only try on equipment and learn the specifics of the sport, but also to practice with the team and assess the quality of the ice at the arena, which will host the sport's tournament at the Sochi 2014 Paralympics.

"Ice sledge hockey is still a new kind of sport in Russia, and thanks to mass media coverage, more and more people are learning about it," Lisov said.

"I hope that such attention is another step in the development of sledge hockey in particular, as well as Paralympic sport in general in Russia. And, hopefully it will lead to more disabled people having the chance to be involved in sport."

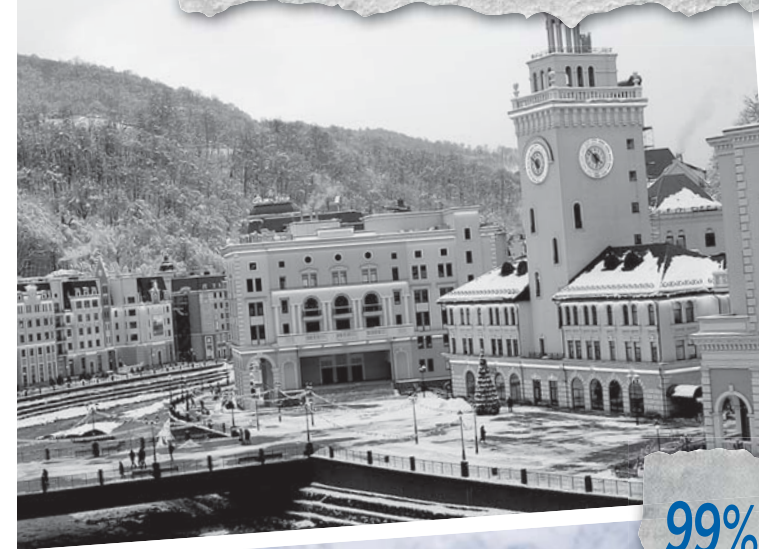
Reigning world champions Canada won the Test Event with a 4-0 victory against Norway in the final, and finished the tournament undefeated, outscoring their opponents 19-6 in five games. Lisov and host nation Russia claimed bronze with a 7-2 victory over the Czech Republic in the third-place game.



web >> www.Sochi2014.com

Russian Paralympic perception in numbers

A sociological survey was recently conducted in 22 cities across Russia regarding the upcoming Sochi 2014 Winter Games.



99% of respondents recognised Sochi 2014 Games emblem



83% have positive attitude toward Sochi Games

46% strongly support idea of holding Games in Russia

25% of population plans to follow Games progress on mobile applications

81% of population will follow Games on television or online



Buy your Sochi 2014 tickets

Tickets have gone on sale for the Sochi 2014 Games, for which the competition schedules have been released for ice sledge hockey, wheelchair curling, biathlon and cross-country skiing, alpine skiing and snowboarding. Nearly 700 athletes from 45 countries will take part in the Games.

Seventy-two sets of medals will be contested in five sports, with snowboard making its Paralympic Winter Games debut as a discipline under IPC Alpine Skiing.

Ticket prices

Sport events: 350-1,500 rubles

Opening Ceremony: 700-5,000 rubles

Closing Ceremony 400-2,000 rubles

Where can I buy mine?

web >> www.Tickets.Sochi2014.com





Rio 2016



#3YearsToGo

The Rio 2016 Organising Committee marked three years to go until their Games on 7 September, which is also Brazil's National Independence Day.

Brazilian Paralympic champion sprinter Yohansson Nascimento marked the milestone by competing in a race on the track with 100 children, many of whom had an impairment.

Nascimento, born with no hands, spoke to the children about his career, and the event also included presentations about the Paralympic Games.

The Organising Committee will also develop a programme to help promote para-sports in South America with the guidance of the Agitos Foundation.

In Rio, there are already 1,800 students with an impairment being taught sports by more than 40 specially trained coaches at the municipal government's community sports centres, such as in the Mato Alto village, where the three years to go event took place.

Vergeer crosses Atlantic

Even after retiring from the game, wheelchair tennis star Esther Vergeer is staying involved in the Paralympic Movement, recently visiting the Rio 2016 headquarters to share her extensive experience with the Paralympic Games organisers.

Paralympic pictograms launched



Twenty-three Rio 2016 Paralympic pictograms have been created for each sport that will be a part of the Games.

Rio 2016's design team have portrayed athletes' different impairments, along with their sport, in a balanced, natural way, depicting prostheses, blindfolds and other elements.

After researching each sport, the first strokes were made by hand. These strokes were then reconstructed on a computer, fitting the contours of the letters. The athlete bodies and sports equipment were built from the characters, or part of them, in a continuous stroke, with variations in thickness in order to give the impression of depth. The pebble shapes, which are a characteristic of Rio 2016's visual language, support the designs and alter their shape according to the athletes' different movements.

Facebook cover photos for all the Rio 2016 sports can be downloaded from the Rio 2016 Facebook app.



>> www.Rio2016.com



PyeongChang 2018

The official emblem of the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games was launched at the National Museum of Korea in Seoul in October. The ceremony was attended by 400 guests and dignitaries from home and abroad.

The main design motif of the emblem comes from a Korean letter symbolising snow, ice and the Paralympic athletes. The letters to-

gether mean a grand festival for the athletes, the audience and everyone around the globe. The paralleled letters also signify equality while Korea's five cardinal colours are used to represent the uniqueness of each Paralympian.



>> www.PyeongChang2018.org

Tokyo 2020



Three candidate cities – Istanbul, Madrid and Tokyo – bid to host the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and after a secret ballot in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September, IOC members chose Tokyo as the host city.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "The 2020 Paralympics will send a strong message of inclusion not just to Japan but to the rest of Asia, building on previous successful Games in the continent.

"The bid's 'Discover Tomorrow' vision aims to put Tokyo's power for innovation and inspiration at the heart of the Games, and in terms of the Paralympics this means further accessibility improvements and a strong focus on sport for a better and healthier city.

"These Games offer huge potential as well both commercially and in terms of television. We are sure athletes will not only be delighted with having all venues close by, but also by Tokyo's desire to sell out every single venue and sport."

Meanwhile, the IPC has already started a process to potentially add more summer sports onto the Paralympic programme for Tokyo 2020. The IPC currently recognises the following International Federations (IFs) that are not part of the summer Games programme: Badminton World Federation (BWF), International Federation of Powerchair Football (FIPFA), International Handball Federation (IHF), International Hockey Federation (FIH) and World Taekwondo Federation (WTF).

TOKYO 1964

More than 5,000 people attended the Opening Ceremony the last time Tokyo hosted the Paralympic Games in 1964, including the Games' patrons his Imperial Highness Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko. The USA topped the medals table, picking up 123 medals, including 50 golds.

144
MEDAL EVENTS

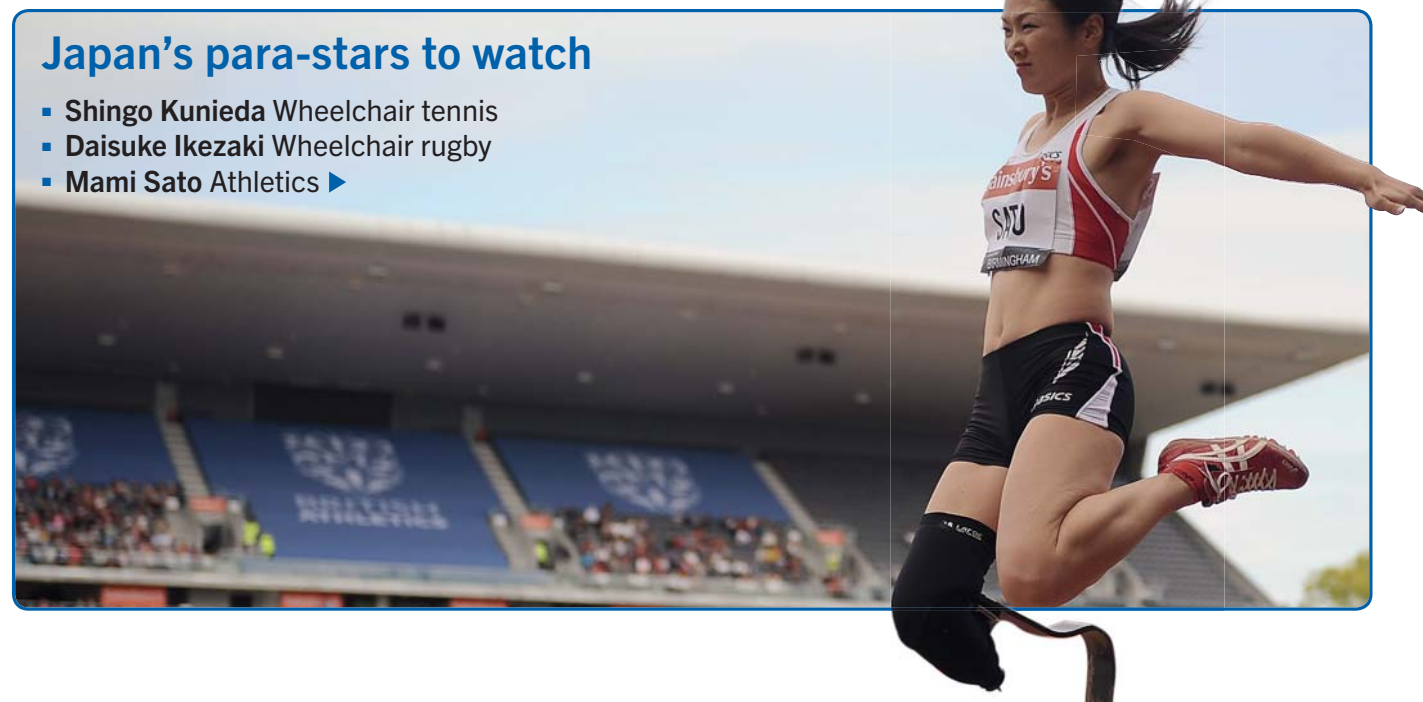
375
ATHLETES

21
COUNTRIES

9
SPORTS

Japan's para-stars to watch

- Shingo Kunieda Wheelchair tennis
- Daisuke Ikezaki Wheelchair rugby
- Mami Sato Athletics ▶



LYON 2013: WHEELCHAIR WONDERS



	Tatyana McFadden (USA, women's T54):							
	Marcel Hug (Switzerland, men's T54):							
	Raymond Martin (USA, men's T52):							
	Brent Lakatos (Canada, men's T53):							
	Walid Ktila (Tunisia, men's T34):							

“Lyon 2013 was the best World Championships in my career so far. Not only because of my big successes, but also because of the great atmosphere, good conditions and very good organisation. Although some top athletes were missing, we had high-level competitions and I am very happy that I won five gold and a silver medal in six events. It was nearly a perfect Championships for me, but I can still top that ...”

Marcel Hug

IPC Athletics World Championships

web >> www.ipcathleticsworlds.org

In scorching July heat in Lyon, France, 52 world records were broken and three more were equaled, as athletes picked up where they left off at London 2012.

One of the Championships’ most unique moments was when Germany’s Heinrich Popow and Australian’s Scott Reardon shared gold in the 100m T42 after both clocked 12.68 seconds in the final.



Tatyana McFadden

Two American athletes made history, as Tatyana McFadden became the only athlete to win six world titles at one Championships and Raymond Martin, at just

19, became the first man to win five individual world titles.

France’s Mandy Francois-Elie lit up her home crowd by winning the 100m and 200m T37 sprints, and the Jonnie Peacock-Richard Browne 100m T44 rivalry played out in style, with the USA’s Browne setting a new world record in the heats, but Great Britain’s Peacock taking the gold in the final.



Mandy Francois-Elie

Germany’s Markus Rehm won long jump F44 gold with a leap of 7.95m – a mark which would have been good enough for a top-10 finish at the IAAF World Championships – and Morocco’s El Amin Chentouf made a name for himself in the men’s T12 class, taking gold in the 5,000m, 10,000m and marathon distances.

TOP MEDAL WINNERS				
Country				Total
1 Russia	26	16	11	53
2 USA	17	18	17	52
3 Brazil	16	10	14	40



Heinrich Popow, Scott Reardon and Clavel Kayitare

IPC Swimming World Championships

web >> www.ipcswimmingworlds2013.org

With 43 world records broken at the event in Montreal, Canada, the Ukrainians dominated the medals table with 33 golds, followed by Russia with 19 and Great Britain with 18.

Thirty-nine countries – more than half of those competing – won at least one medal. The top individual winners were Ukraine’s Dmytro Vynohradets and Olga Sviderska, who each won seven golds in the men’s and women’s S3 events, respectively.



Gustavo Sanchez, Eskender Mustfaiev and David Smetanine

Brazil’s Daniel Dias showed he is on pace for Rio 2016, capturing six golds and two silvers, while New Zealand’s Sophie Pascoe won five golds and went on to be voted the IPC’s Athlete of the Month for August.

Canada’s Valerie Grand’ Maison fulfilled the role of host nation hero, adding three more golds to her already six world titles.

TOP MEDAL WINNERS				
Country				Total
1 Ukraine	33	22	29	84
2 Russia	19	22	13	54
3 Great Britain	18	22	15	55



Sophie Pascoe

“I didn’t think I would be able to beat (Jessica Long) until Rio, but to do it at World Champs was unbelievable. I really look up to Jess, and to beat your idol at my age was a dream come true.”

Five faces for the future

Maddison Elliott (Australia):

At 14, she won two golds and a silver, beating top swimmer Jessica Long to the wall in the 100m butterfly S8.

Mary Fisher (New Zealand):

The 20-year-old won five golds and a silver in her World Championship debut.

Gustavo Sanchez (Mexico):

He shined in the pool, racking up a gold, a silver and three bronze medals at just 19 years old.

Ihar Boki (Belarus):

The 19-year-old did one better than his last World Championship appearance, this time winning five titles.

Nelson Crispin (Colombia):

In his World Championship debut, the 21-year-old won a gold, a silver and three bronze medals.



World Championships on water and ...

... on land

“Winning my fourth Para-Tri World Championships is a massive relief and confirmation my continued efforts are paying off. Efforts I’m sure will only increase as I aim to stay at the top for the next the years and through the Rio 2016 Paralympics.”

Bill Chaffey

“Repeating my world champion title was more rewarding this year than the year before. The field comes closer together and there was a total newcomer from Russia in second place. It gets more exciting for the spectators and myself. I’m looking forward to my sport being in the Paralympic Games.”

Mendy Swoboda

ICF Sprint Canoe World Championships

Top names in para-canoe emerged in Duisburg, Germany, as the sport held its first major event on the road to Rio 2016 – where it will be included in the Paralympic Games programme for the first time.

Great Britain topped the medals table with five golds, followed by Brazil’s pair of world titles from Fernando Fernandes, who is already expected to star at the next Paralympics. Austria, Canada, Germany, Spain and Ukraine also made their way onto the top of the podium.

Spotlight on Mendy Swoboda (Austria)

The 23-year-old successfully defended his world title in a competitive K1 men’s 200m TA final.

Spotlight on Natalia Bolshakova (Russia)

In her first year rowing at the elite level, she has now beaten Ukrainian Paralympic champion Alla Lysenko in both races they had together this year.

World Rowing Championships



In temperatures that reached 30 degrees Celsius, Russia’s Natalia Bolshakova and Australia’s Erik Horrie knocked 12 and 10 seconds off the women’s and men’s world-best times in the single sculls AS events, respectively, en route to gold. Australia’s Gavin Bellis and Kathryn Ross nosed in front to win the mixed double sculls TA and Great Britain’s crew won the mixed coxed four LTA.

For the first time, a mixed double sculls LTA event was held at the Championships, with Ukraine’s Kateryna Morozova and Dmytro Aleksieiev taking the title.

IFDS Sailing World Championships



Three new world champions were crowned in Kinsale, Ireland, with France winning the three-person sonar class, Great Britain claiming gold in the two-man SKUD 18 fleet and the Dutch winning the one-person 2.4mR class.

Spotlight on Guus Bijlard (Netherlands)

He won his first gold at a World Championships after going neck-and-neck to the finish with Germany’s Heiko Kroger and France’s Damien Seguin in the 2.4mR event.

ITU Para-Triathlon World Championships

Great Britain dominated the event on their home course in London, winning 15 medals, including six golds. But several individuals from other nations starred, repeating their world titles for the third or fourth time.

Australia’s Bill Chaffey won his fourth TRI-1 title and Great Britain’s Faye McClelland won her fourth TRI-4 title. Winning their third titles were France’s Stephane Bahier in the TRI-2, Canada’s Jennifer Hopkins in the TRI-3 and USA’s Megan Fisher in the TRI-5.

Spotlight on Bill Chaffey (Australia)

The racing powerhouse engineered an incredible comeback to win his fourth world title in the men’s TRI-1 event. With 300m to go, he passed the Netherlands’ Jetze Plat – who had led the race all day – to win gold.

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships



In August, spectators in Baie-Comeau, Canada, witnessed the American contingent win 19 medals, with Germany grabbing 14 and Italy taking 13. The Americans and Germans dominated many of the individual road races, aside from the handcycling events, which were owned by the Italians.

Spotlight on Megan Fisher (USA)

The American won gold in both the road race and time trial C4 events – her first para-cycling world titles – and then a month later won her third TRI-5 title in London at the ITU Para-Triathlon World Championships.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships



China took home much of the glory from Budapest, Hungary, winning 10 gold medals – five on the men’s side and five on the women’s side.

The dominating nation won three team events, including the men’s epee and foil team disciplines and the women’s epee team competition.

Spotlight on Yijun Chen (China)

The IPC’s One to Watch athlete Yijun Chen, a two-time Paralympic champion, certainly did not disappoint in Budapest. He clinched the title in the men’s sabre category A, just ahead of compatriot Jianquan Tian.

Regional rundown

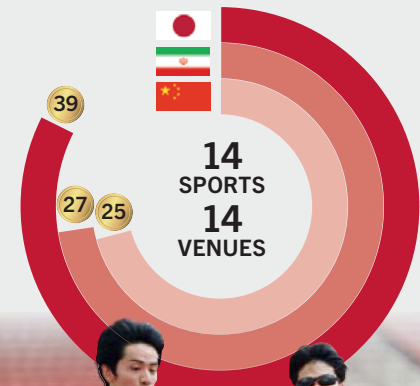
Asian Youth Para-Games



A total of 1,274 young athletes and officials from 28 countries took part in the five-day event in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, hosted by the Paralympic Council of Malaysia (PCM) and the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) in October.

Fourteen sports were contested at 14 different venues, as Japan finished atop the medal standings with 39 golds, showcasing a potential future wave of talent for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

In the standings, they were followed by Iran with 27 golds and China with 25 golds.



EUROPE

Neslihan Kavas (Turkey, table tennis): She won gold in both the women's singles Class 9 and women's team Class 9-10 events at October's ITTF Para-Table Tennis European Championships in Lignano, Italy.



AMERICAS

Jefferson da Conceicao Goncalves (Brazil, football 5-a-side): Jefinho, as they call him in Brazil, led his team to the football 5-a-side Copa America title, which was won on a penalty shootout against arch rivals Argentina in the final in September. He was the top scorer at the tournament, scoring 12 of Brazil's 31 goals.



AFRICA

Lucas Sithole (South Africa, wheelchair tennis): He became the first African player to ever win a Grand Slam singles final, clinching a three-set victory (3-6, 6-4, 6-4) over American David Wagner in the US Open quads final.

ASIA

So Yeong-Jeong (South Korea, boccia): She claimed gold at the 2013 BISFed Asia Oceania Boccia Championships in Sydney, Australia, upsetting Thailand's top-ranked Watcharaphon Vongsa in the semi-finals and beating No. 2 Hiu Lam-Yeung of Hong Kong in the final.



Youth Parapan American Games



More than 600 young athletes from 16 countries participated in the Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in October. The third edition of these Games featured 10 sports in three different locations, as Brazil, who will host the 2017 Games, topped the medals table with 102 golds. All but one of the participating nations won at least one medal.

For a medal-winner's viewpoint

see page
38



OCEANIA

Ryley Batt (Australia, wheelchair rugby): Despite Australia's second-place finish to the USA at the Tri-Nations Tournament outdoors in Sydney, Ryley Batt was still named MVP of the event after crossing for 40 goals in the final.



In most able-bodied sports, fans who are not familiar with the game seek out a stat sheet to identify the top players or teams.

They rely on numbers to tell them the story.

But that should not necessarily always be the case when it comes to para-sports.

Just ask Belgium’s Peter Genyn, a 1.5 wheelchair rugby player recently named to the IPC’s Ones to Watch list.

“If you have somebody who doesn’t know anything about the game, they always think Ryley Batt is the best player ever and the low-pointers are just water carriers,” Genyn said.

“But the truth is, you need four good players on the court, and it’s important that people know that the low-pointer isn’t some loser who’s slow and doesn’t get the ball.

“He trains just as hard as the high-pointers. He just doesn’t have as much function and isn’t as fast, but it’s not his fault.

“He’s not a worse athlete because of it.”

Genyn is referencing sport-specific classification – a system unique to para-sport that ensures an athlete’s impairment has a minimal effect on the outcome of a competition.

Because each sport requires different abilities, each sport also requires a sport-specific classification system governed by its respec-

tive International Federation, which is based on how a specific impairment impacts the activities of its sport.

“It’s just another part of the (sport) rules,” said Dr. Anne Hart, Chairperson of the IPC Classification Committee.

“If you’re more than just a casual observer, and you want to learn about the sport and you want to understand about Paralympic sport, then it’s helpful to know a little bit about the rules, and for the consumer that means classification.

“They don’t need to know all the details, but it needs to make sense and be logical to someone who’s watching it.

“To understand para-sport is more than just ‘My team wins’ or ‘My athlete wins.’”

Grouping athletes for competition

Understanding classification helps fans comprehend how athletes are grouped together for competition and explains why they see certain images on their television screens.

Young-Hee Lee, Head of Classification for the Wheelchair Curling Federation, explains:

“Although players have the same impairment, there can be a very different impact on sport performance depending on the type of sport.

CLASSIFICATION HAS TWO ROLES:

- To determine eligibility to compete
- To group athletes for competition

“For example, level of trunk control can have significant influence on the performances in wheelchair basketball, but much less in wheelchair curling.”



While not all sitting volleyball players have the same impairment, their impairments have the same impact on the sport

Breaking down wheelchair rugby’s sport classes

Athletes are allocated to one of seven different sport classes: 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 or 3.5. The total number of points on court at one time for four players may not exceed 8.

0.5




Jason Reiger, USA
Players in this class show significant shoulder instability and limitations in their upper arm and hand functions. Most have no trunk or leg control. Players typically catch the ball by tapping it into the lap and throw the ball with a scoop pass.

1.5



Peter Genyn, Belgium
Players in this class have better shoulder stability and arm and wrist function than players in sport class 0.5. They can do chest passes, but the instability of their wrist makes ball handling difficult. Some players might have one side of their body more strongly affected than the other side.

2.5



Thomas Hjert, Sweden
Players in this sport class have good shoulder stability and arm function. They might have some trunk control. Due to their ability to flex their fingers, they can perform overhead passes, catch the ball with two hands and manoeuvre the wheelchair better than their team mates in the lower sport classes.

3.5



Ryley Batt, Australia
This sport class describes athletes with the least severe eligible impairment in wheelchair rugby. Due to a less significant impairment of their shoulders, trunk, arms and hands, they are good ball handlers and can move quickly on the court.



There is only one sport class in wheelchair curling

Athletes are grouped for competition based on how their impairment affects their sport, not necessarily their impairment type.

That is why, for instance, a standing leg-amputee and an athlete with a spinal-cord injury in a wheelchair can compete against each other in powerlifting. Once they reach the bench, both are strapped down with a belt, leaving them with similar functional abilities to lift the bar.

This also explains a certain sitting volleyball scene Hart watched unfold before she ever became involved in classification.

“I had never seen it, but I knew a little bit about it,” Hart said of sitting volleyball.

“It was really exciting, but one of the teams, every time they scored they all jumped up and hopped around. And on the other team, only one person hopped around.

“I thought, ‘Woah ...’”

This is a common reaction, especially during victory ceremonies when you see some ath-



All powerlifters compete in the same sport class but are divided into different weight categories

letes accepting their medals standing up, and others sitting down.

But again, the key is that these sitting volleyball players, as well as all other athletes, have been grouped together because their impairment has the same impact on the sport they play.

Additionally, within some sports, there are several sport classes for varying degrees of a single impairment type to create a level playing field.

Tunisia’s 400m T37 reigning Paralympic champion, Neda Bahi, for example, has been classified in one of the four IPC Athletics standing classes for athletes with a co-ordination impairment.

“The existence of several different classes for athletes with cerebral palsy is logical because not all athletes with CP have the same degree of disability,” Bahi said.

“If you put them all in the same class, you will penalise those with a more severe disability. The different classes give athletes an equal opportunity.”



Tunisia's Neda Bahi is classified as a T37 sprinter

Wheelchair rugby’s process

In wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball, after athletes are deemed eligible to compete, they are then allocated to different sport classes that are assigned a point value, and coaches are only allowed to put a certain number of total points on the court at one time.

Typical procedure is for wheelchair rugby athletes to be classified three times internationally.

Genyn has undergone classification seven times in his career because he lost some of his functional ability – moving him from a 2.0 to a 1.5 – and also because another team protested him for his classification in 2011.

During the classification process, they checked every functioning muscle of Genyn’s body with a series of manual muscle tests, in which he had to resist the force classifiers put on him.

Genyn was also asked to do sport technical assessments, such as pushing his wheelchair and throwing and catching a ball.

He was then watched by classifiers during a match to confirm their decision.

“When they test you, they know whether you’re putting your full strength on it or not,” Genyn said.

“They really know what they’re doing. If they throw a ball right at you, you’re always going to catch it. You’re not going to be able to fake it.”

Undergoing the process seven times has actually taught Genyn a lot about what his own biggest strengths are on the court.

“One of the classifiers looked at me on court and afterwards was telling me ‘You’re compensating for this in that way’ – something I didn’t even know I was doing myself.

“Because you just push the most efficient way, but you don’t think about what muscles you’re using. Apparently, I compensate in a lot of different ways. I push with the back of my hand to get a longer stroke. But I do it differently with both arms, because on the left I have really good triceps, and so one hand I have to twist more than the other.”

CLASSIFICATION CODE REVIEW

How to contribute: The second round of consultation will run from 1 June - 30 September 2014. Athletes, IPC member organisations, classifiers and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to suggest changes to the current Code. Feedback is welcomed on:

- Processes for evaluation of athletes
- Responsibilities of the IPC, NPCs and IFs

And the result of the process is more than just a number.

“Classification is really important for us,” Genyn said. “If somebody goes down half a point, that can create entire new lineups.”

Evolving the Classification Code

Due to the increased awareness of para-sports the last couple of years, classification has received more attention than ever before.

The IPC recently initiated its Classification Code Review process, which will determine future developments in classification systems.

The Code, adopted in 2007, is the set of rules for Paralympic classification that is common to all sports and to the Paralympic Games. It identifies the need for sport-specific classification systems and states that classification decisions must be based on scientific evidence of how an impairment affects sport performance.

Following this year’s first consultation round, a first draft of the modified Code will be circulated for a second consultation round in mid-2014, and the final version of the Code will be presented at the 2015 IPC General Assembly and will take effect within one year of approval.

A revised Code will lead the future of classification until at least 2020, ensuring athletes can focus on their training instead of worrying about potential disadvantages due to their impairment or flawed classification procedures.

The Code review process is imperative, says Genyn, as it affects the rules of every sport.

“If the players evolve, you need to evolve the classification system,” Genyn said. “There are always new players coming along with different impairments, so you can’t always judge them by the same rules.”

Bahi agreed full heartedly.

“It is important that the IPC Classification Code is updated and changed every few years, because over the years performances change, and you should modify the Code to conform to the development of the sports,” Bahi said.

Both Bahi and Genyn will eagerly be awaiting the final results of the Code review process in 2015, as the pair know from first-hand experience how important classification rules and processes are to an athlete’s success.

In team sports, lineups based on classification can even be instrumental to a team’s success.

“Look at Australia,” Genyn said. “I’m not saying they have bad low-pointers, but they’re not the best.

“They have Ryley Batt, who’s the best player ever, and they still cannot beat USA. I’m sure if they would have low-pointers of world class, they would beat USA easily. But that’s just my humble opinion ...”

FUELING THE FUTURE

Three IPC Classification Research and Development Centres are currently launching around the world to enhance the development of evidence-based, sport-specific classification systems:

- Research and Development Centre for Physical Impairment:** Launched in September 2013 at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia
- Research and Development Centre for Visual Impairment:** Launched in July 2013 at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Research and Development Centre for Intellectual Impairment:** To launch in 2014

How was Peter Genyn classified?

Each of Peter Genyn’s arms was assigned a total point value on a scale of 0 to 5. The sum of the arms was added up and divided in half, and then the trunk function value was added to it to get his sport class.



Issue of the season

ISSUE

What questions and reporting methods are considered appropriate for broadcasters and journalists when interviewing athletes with an impairment?

Background

Broadcasters and journalists in the past have sometimes been hesitant about how to discuss athletes with an impairment at the elite level. They have often wondered what questions, language and terms are considered appropriate, and how much they should focus on the athlete's impairment compared to his or her ability.

Niklas Ingvarsson

Four-time Paralympian on Sweden's ice sledge hockey team

I've noticed a big change during the years in how the attitude toward disabled athletes has made a turn in a positive direction.

The focus has gradually changed from reporting about our disability to reporting about the coolest sport on ice – sledge hockey.

Also, the total amount of media reporting has increased dramatically. Para-sport has gone from the backyard to being seen as really interesting news, and people's tone towards me as a player has changed in the same way.

As an athlete who just has performed in a competition, I want to be recognised as an athlete. If I have done well, that's great. If I have done badly, I want to have to answer why, and what didn't work out well.

It's all about the performance. Good questions are those about how my team or I practice before

the competition, how we prepare ourselves or my thoughts about the sport.

It's actually quite simple – you just ask the questions you would ask any top athlete.

Of course, maybe you need to ask a little more about how the sport is done or how the sledges are built or what material the sticks are made of. This is OK and shows that a reporter's interested, but they shouldn't overdo this part.

Those are questions necessary to ask that you don't have to ask to an able-bodied hockey player.

When it comes to questions about disabilities, I really don't mind, as long as you remember that the disability and the sad or heroic story about my life is not the big story.

It can be a smaller part of a background portrait, but the big news is always the performance on the ice.



Rickard Ekman

Reporter at SVT Sport in Sweden

Not many years ago, my view on disabled sports was the ordinary "It's good that 'they' do their thing, but still, 'they' are quite few and don't really measure up to the standards of other sportsmen and women.

Then, coincidentally, I was assigned to go cover the Paralympics in 2004, and after that in both 2008 and 2010.

After witnessing the skills of the Paralympians, and the growth of the Paralympic Movement toward a tougher attitude and more media coverage, my views have changed.

In particular, my views on ice sledge hockey changed after trying myself in Malmö, Sweden, about 10 years ago. I came to the ice thinking I had balance and would be fine because I was a good skater, but I found myself totally helpless.

Since then, ice sledge hockey has developed even further. The players are fitter and the game is faster, and deserves to attract more space in broadcasts.

But how should the journalists address the athletes? What terms are appropriate?

I would prefer to look at it from two angles.

First, live broadcasters. When commentators follow a game, there are very few reasons to discuss who has this or that disability, unless it makes a difference on the ice. When we follow sledge hockey, the players should be treated by broadcasters like any other top athletes.

The second angle is that of a journalist or reporter. When I work as a reporter I am looking for good stories, and this is where the Paralympians really stand out. Apart from their sporting skills, many of them have amazing backgrounds which are connected to their disability. What the Paralympians have gone through, by birth or accident, is nothing to be ashamed of.

On the contrary, Paralympians should be proud of who they are.

To say it bluntly, their disabilities are their brand, they are not fake. There is no reason to try to hide their reality.

So, they should be proud of it, and the ice sledge hockey players headed to Sochi next year should arrive with their genuine smile.



NEXT STOP: SOCHI 2014

Italy, South Korea and Sweden swept up the last three Sochi 2014 spots at the IPC Ice Sledge Hockey Qualification Tournament in Torino, Italy, in October. Rickard Ekman and his SVT crew gave the Swedish success story national coverage back home on TV and online.



CONCLUSION

There is no doubt a para-athlete's impairment is part of his or her story, and should be included in media coverage, but it's his or her achievements and performances that should steal the headlines.

impairment

champion

para-athlete

athlete

wheelchair

visually impaired

amputee

blind

Paralympian

able-bodied

handicap

non-disabled

normal

ability

performance
heroic
achievement
perse
un
attitude
out
sag
live
has
standing
pros
accident
skills
para-sport
abc
palsy
trudg
my said
pity
stare
am
elit
fr
overcon
condition
disability

Hitting the slopes

With the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup and IPCAS Snowboard World Cup both underway for the 2013-14 season, see what equipment some of the Ones to Watch athletes are bringing with them on the slopes. Both Henrieta Farkasova and Evan Strong share, in their own words, what will be packed in their bags.

SKIS

An obvious necessity for the sport.

Henrieta Farkasova

Alpine skiing, Slovakia

The three-time visually impaired Paralympic champion is expected to go head-to-head on the slopes this season with her Russian rival, Alexandra Frantseva.

HELMET

Notice the microphone on my specially designed helmet so I can communicate with my guide.

GOGGLES

Yes, even visually impaired skiers need these, as they help reduce the glare.

MY GUIDE

Natalia Subrtova has been with me through it all and will be next to me on the podium in Sochi.

BOOTS

These flashy pink and white boots will do just the trick for me as I speed past you.

Evan Strong

Snowboard, USA

The World Cup champion and X-Games gold medallist has been consistently ranked No. 1 in the world on the road to Sochi 2014.

HELMET

To make sure your brains stays in your skull.

GOGGLES

A good pair of goggles are an essential, because if you cannot see, you're not going to be able to ride fast.

BINDINGS

Since I have a prosthetic leg, I wedge my heel of my binding so I can get the leverage to rail turns.

BOOTS

You need to have some stiff and supportive boots to be able to drive your snowboard.

SNOWBOARDS

My quiver of custom race boards, so I can be prepared to fly in any snow conditions.

IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup

17-20 January: Copper Mountain, USA

27-31 January: Tignes, France

3-6 February: St. Moritz, Switzerland

24-27 February: Tarvisio, Italy (World Cup Finals)

www.ipc-alpineskiing.org [f/IPCAlpineSkiing](#) [@IPCAlpine](#)

IPCAS Snowboard World Cup

17-19 January: Copper Mountain, USA

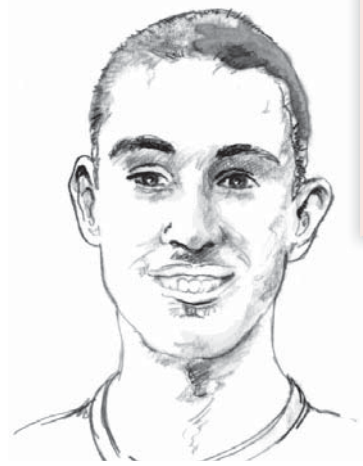
25-26 January: Big White, Canada

2 February: Rogla, Slovenia

6 February: Maribor, Slovenia

10-12 February: La Molina, Spain (World Cup Finals)

My name is Aleksy Kaniuka. I am 16 years old and I live in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and I was born with myelomeningocele and hydrocephalus, a type of spina bifida. Since I was very young I've loved sports and my parents always took me to practice.



Aleksy Kaniuka's view

Why the Youth Games are a segway to the Paralympics

In 2009, I started my career in table tennis in Cedima, and stayed there exclusively training until September 2010, when I was called to start training at the CENARD's school of development with the goal to participate in this year's Youth Parapan American Games in Buenos Aires.

Last year, I played my first international tournament, the Copa Tango, and got a bronze medal in the team event. This year I started

training with the adapted table tennis national team.

In October, I finally participated in the Youth Parapan Games with incredible results, as I won a bronze medal in the singles Class 7 event and a silver medal in the team event.

Taking part in the Games was an excellent experience for me, because in a tournament of this magnitude, I acquired a lot of experience due to the quality and quantity of players that were present in my category.

I would also like to mention how exciting it was to wear the shirt of my country along with the pressure to know that I was responsible to represent it well.

From my point of view, it is good to introduce us teenagers to Paralympic sport from a young age, as this will inflict upon us the importance of the Paralympic Movement early on.

The Paralympic Games require a strong commitment from the athletes, so it is necessary to pass through the Youth Parapan Games to test us, as it's like a version of the Paralympics for developing athletes.

Aleksy Kaniuka

Nationality: Argentinian

Title: Table tennis player

Most-well known for:

Winning a silver and a bronze at the 2013 Youth Parapan American Games



There were 220 sets of medals awarded at the 2013 Parapan American Youth Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina



International Paralympic Committee

WORLDWIDE PARALYMPIC PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



A Paralympic athlete is shown from the side, wearing a yellow and blue wheelchair, positioned on an ice rink. The background features a white wall with the text "LA STAMPA" and a yellow horizontal stripe. Above the wall, there is a glass barrier and a green exit sign.

LA STAMPA

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