

THE

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PARALYMPIAN

Celebrating 25 years of the International Paralympic Committee • 1989-2014

www.paralympic.org

Celebrating 25 years
of the IPC





Fate made him a runner. Courage made him a legend.

Ask any Angolan who the greatest athlete is and they'll tell you with pride, José Armando Sayovo. Why? Because when his footballing dreams were crushed he didn't give up. He got up, and ran. All the way to three Paralympics, winning a remarkable eight medals. And all our respect.



International Partner

Supporting those
who strive for better

“To see so many leaders from the world of sport, politics and entertainment wishing the IPC a happy 25th anniversary underlined to me the reach, respect and impact the Paralympic Movement now has around the world.”

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the final edition of The Paralympian in 2014, a year that marked the IPC's silver jubilee.

Early October's IPC Membership Gathering and Gala Dinner in Berlin, Germany, was one of my proudest moments as IPC President and heralded a new chapter in the Paralympic Movement's illustrious history.

To see so many leaders from the world of sport, politics and entertainment wishing the IPC a happy 25th anniversary underlined to me the reach, respect and impact the Paralympic Movement now has around the world.

The IPC's Top 25 Moments campaign and resulting commemorative book, courtesy of International Partner BP, also highlighted the fantastic achievements and steps forward we have taken together over the last quarter of a century.

Although we should be rightly proud of our first 25 years, it is now time to plan for the future, and determine how we make the next 25 years equally as successful.

I'd like to thank the IPC membership for their contributions in Berlin and assure you all that your comments will be taken on board at all levels of the IPC.

I believe the future for the Paralympic Movement is extremely bright, and I am even more confident of this following a trip to Japan in October.

During my trip there, Panasonic agreed a long-term Worldwide Paralympic Partnership agreement

(more details of which are in this edition), and I was blown away by preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games which are still six years away!

This edition also covers a busy period of sport for the Paralympic Movement with multiple regional and World Championships having taken place, including the Incheon 2014 Asian Para-Games.

The Ukrainian National Paralympic Committee are the subject of this edition's feature article. Having made their Paralympic Games debut in 1996, Ukraine has propelled itself up the medals table faster than any other. Now widely regarded as a Paralympic superpower, they have faced a number of testing challenges in 2014, all of which are covered in this issue.

Finally, Jon McCullough, a member of the IPC Athletes' Council and hugely inspirational and popular figure across the whole Movement sadly passed away in August. He will be greatly missed by us all and you will find a tribute to him in this magazine.

Wishing you all the best for the new year.

Enjoy your read.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





PRINT



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In memory of Jon McCullough, his mother Daphne Hutchinson looks back on his incredible life.

THE PARALYMPIAN

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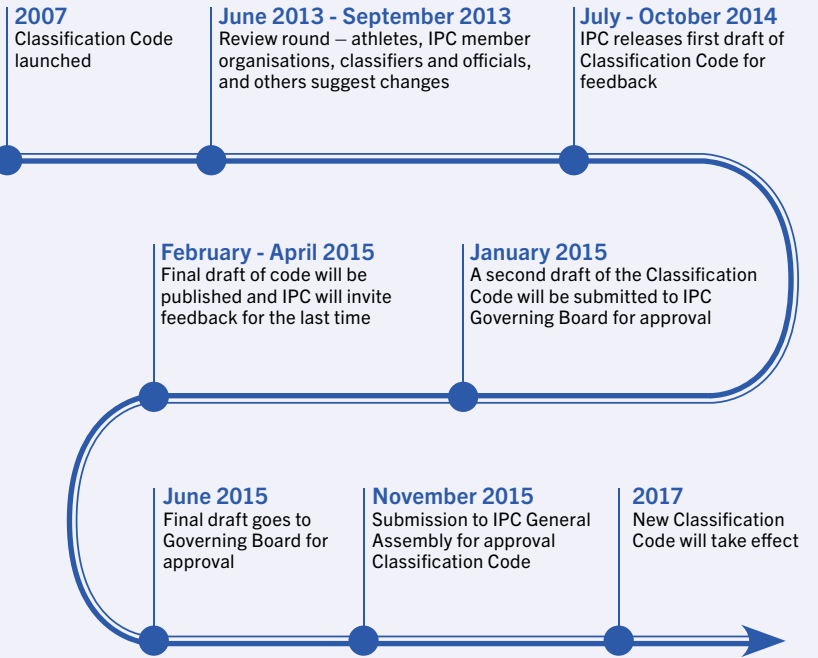
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Classification Committee discuss 2017 code

Classification experts from all across the Paralympic Movement were in Bonn, Germany, in August for a series of meetings to discuss the 2017 Classification Code.

There were meetings by the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and International Federations (IFs), with the latter being represented by 29 organisations.

The meetings also saw discussion around the recent development of an International Standard on National Classification and provided the IPC with a greater understanding of the NPCs interpretation of the Code, and where support and guidance is required.



Kari Marklund retires from IBSA Goalball Committee

Dr. Kari Marklund, Chairperson of the International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) Goalball Committee, has announced his intention to retire at the end of 2014.

“Luckily for me and for IBSA goalball, someone appeared over the horizon ... a man with enormous integrity and an impeccable curriculum vitae – that man was Dr. Kari Marklund.”

Speaking about Marklund’s decision, IBSA President Janine Hamershoi thanked the departing chairman for his services.

“We had an urgent need for a new Chairman for IBSA goalball – someone who would command the respect of the goalball community, but also a person possessing the experience necessary to lead goalball back onto the right track,” she said.



Amy Purdy features in ESPN’s ‘The Body Issue’



Amy Purdy won a bronze medal at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games

American Paralympic snowboard bronze medalist Amy Purdy featured in the sixth annual edition of ESPN’s The Magazine: The Body Issue.

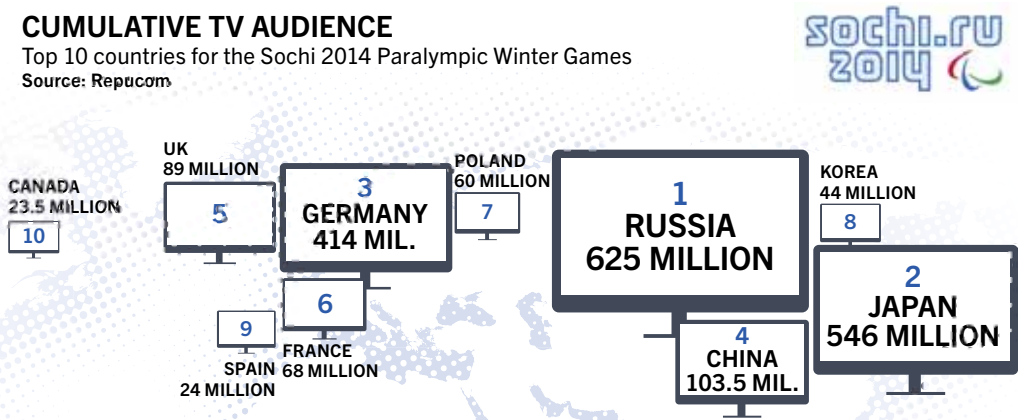
She became the third Paralympic athlete to do so, after the USA’s Oxana Masters appeared in 2012, and the Netherlands’ Esther Vergeer in 2010.

The Body Issue, launched in 2009, is an annual celebration of the athletic form, which includes many top sports stars posing nude or semi-nude in photographs.

Sochi 2014 watched by two billion viewers

CUMULATIVE TV AUDIENCE

Top 10 countries for the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games
Source: Reputicom



A cumulative TV audience of nearly 2.1 billion people watched the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

In total, 1,378 hours of action were shown on TV from the Games across 125 channels in 55 countries. This attracted a cumulative TV audience of 2.094 billion, a 32 per cent increase on the 1.588 billion who watched the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

In Russia alone, a cumulative TV audience of 625 million tuned in to watch Sochi 2014.

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey unveils World Series

IPC Ice Sledge Hockey has announced that the 2014-15 season will feature a brand new competitive series for A and B pool national teams.



The World Series aims to bring together matches that currently take place between countries, as well as incorporating new fixtures, in order to formalise the competition calendar.

The World Championships A Pool is scheduled for Buffalo, New York, USA from 24 April - 2 May 2015.



Sochi 2014 medallists receive unique badges

In a bid to honour all medallists from the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, the IPC has awarded them with dedicated pins.

Coloured gold, silver and bronze, the pins were given to winners of medals according to their results.

A total of 182 athletes and guides from Sochi 2014 have received 363 of the first edition pins, which are made distinctive by the use of the official typeface of the Games. They have been designed in consultation with the IPC Athletes’ Council.

From now on, all medallists from future Summer and Winter Games will be awarded the pins which will be unique to each edition, as denoted by the year engraving.



IPC 2015 Anti-Doping Code published



The International Paralympic Committee has published its 2015 Anti-Doping Code, which will apply to all Member organisations, Paralympic Games and IPC recognised International Federations from 1 January 2015.

The new Code has been established in response to the release of the 2015 World Anti-Doping Code (WADC), due to come into force on the same date, and has been approved by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Toni Pascual, Chairperson of the IPC’s Anti-Doping Committee, said: “The 2015 IPC Anti-Doping Code reflects changes made to the WADC and we remain committed to meeting the standards laid-out to ensure fair play across all areas of our responsibility.

“We have made great strides in the introduction of education and outreach programmes, which when combined have led to a greater understanding amongst Members, athletes and teams of anti-doping.

“All Members should now ensure that athletes and team personnel familiarise themselves with the new edition.

“There is still progress to be made but the new IPC Anti-Doping Code will help us to be even clearer of everyone’s responsibilities in the fight against doping.”

Panasonic and Samsung sign Official Worldwide Partnership Agreements



Panasonic's Satoshi Takeyasu (left) was joined in Tokyo for the signing by Sir Phillip Craven (right)

Panasonic Corporation announced on 15 October that it has signed an Official Worldwide Partnership Agreement with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for six years and two months from 2014 through to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The signing ceremony was held in Tokyo, Japan, and was attended by IPC President Sir Philip Craven and Panasonic Corporation Executive Officer Satoshi Takeyasu.

Sir Philip welcomed the worldwide partnership of Panasonic, stating: "Through this partnership with Panasonic I am confident we can consolidate this position and grow the Paralympic Movement to new levels as we build towards the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games."

Meanwhile Samsung has signed an agreement to extend its partnership through to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games and beyond.

For the next six years of this agreement, Samsung, which has sponsored the IPC since 2006, will remain as one of the IPC's Official Worldwide Paralympic Partners. After 2016 it will expand its category of sponsorship to "Wireless Communications Equipment and Computing Equipment," including smartphones, tablets, laptops, personal computers and other computing equipment, and desktop printers.

Nemati addresses UN Panel



Iranian Archer Nemati spoke at the UN Conference in New York, USA, about the power of sport for those with impairments.

Para-archer Zahra Nemati, the first Iranian female to win Olympic or Paralympic gold with her London 2012 success, addressed a United Nations panel on 10 June, called "Sports for inclusive development: Empowering persons with disabilities through sport" in New York, USA.

Nemati called on people with an impairment not to give up and do their utmost to reach their goals and ideas.

She said: "I believe that sport, from grassroots to the elite level is an accessible and powerful tool for disabled integration into society. Sport helps the disabled in two ways: from one side, it changes the people's perceptions and from the other side, it changes a disabled person's view towards themselves.

"These internal and external influences reduce an individual's isolation and ultimately push people towards social life."

"Sport helps the disabled in two ways: from one side, it changes the people's perceptions and from the other side, it changes a disabled person's view towards themselves."

Nemati made history at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, winning gold in archery



Agitos Foundation



With funding from the Agitos Foundation's Grant Support Programme, the Benin National Paralympic Committee organised three Paralympic days in September-October

In a bid to develop para-sport within Benin, attendees were able to try out a number of different sports, like powerlifting

Grant Support Programme

Twenty-eight IPC member organisations from around the world have received EUR 650,000 of funding through the Grant Support Programme, an initiative by the Agitos Foundation.

The programme, launched in 2013, aims to support the development of both summer and winter para-sports through funding projects from National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), Regional Organisations (ROs), International Federations (IFs) and International Organisations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSDs).

GSP ACTIVITIES FUNDED IN 2014:

- A project to develop alpine skiing and snowboard in Latin America
- Development of wheelchair tennis in the Caribbean
- Funding towards a Baltic Summer Youth Games
- Widening the reach of the Paralympic Movement in Benin
- A snow sports talent identification programme for women and young people in New Zealand
- Athlete development for the 2015 All-Africa Games

highlights the great desire of our membership to build development activities in their regions."

Organisational Capacity Programme

In October a second round of workshops took place for 13 participants from NPCs involved in the Agitos Foundation's Organisational Capacity Programme. This was designed to strengthen NPCs in the areas of governance, management, leadership and sport promotion, supporting them to improve their overall capacity to develop and support para-athletes in reaching their full potential.

Youth Co-ordinators showing development

The latest workshop for NPC youth co-ordinators took place in Kigali, Rwanda.

Organised by the Agitos Foundation and the Rwandan NPC alongside the co-ordinators, the workshop ran for three days and included an evaluation of the programme as a starting point for sustainable youth programmes, knowledge-sharing, strengthening networks and spreading information about the Paralympic Movement.



The project was called 'Extension of the Paralympic Movement in Benin' and aimed to raise awareness amongst potential athletes

www.agitosfoundation.org

#AskAnAthlete

With the 2015 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships upon us, Paralympic silver medallists, Ihor Reptyukh of Ukraine and Canada's Mark Arendz tell us their world title hopes.



Ihor Reptyukh

Mark Arendz

What do you hope to achieve at these World Championships?

I want to win the World Championship in 2015 or come to the podium. That is always my goal for any competition I take part in, trying to show my best and hopefully even more.

To have three biathlon races with as few mistakes as possible and execute my race plans to the best of my ability. If I cross a finish line knowing there is nothing else I could have done better, then that's a successful race for me.

What is your favourite Nordic skiing event?

I like almost all events except from cross country and biathlon sprint and 15km biathlon with penalty minutes. I love long distances where you should endure and overcome yourself.

The biathlon pursuit. Not an event that is raced often but one of the most entertaining for both the spectators and the athletes. Athletes have to deal with the pressure of keeping an advantage or fight to get ahead. A lot can happen in the race; a missed shot can send you tumbling back or a clean bout can slingshot you up the standings.

Is there anything you do before a race to mentally prepare?

On the eve before the race I think over all my actions for the next day, plan every minute of my warm up, not to wait too much and not to burn out mentally. If I cannot fall asleep, I do not force myself. Sometimes I do not sleep almost all night and then race very well.

Before a race I want to know what my plan is. How am I going to attack this race? Where are the key points for me to be successful? Being relaxed and knowing my race plan are what prepare me for race day.

What goes through your mind as you stand on the start line?

On the start line, all my thoughts are about the race, track, technique, shooting and nothing else.

I try to clear out any random thoughts and focus on the race ahead, remembering key points I want to work on and key reminders of how and where I want to attack the race.

IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships
Dates: 23 January - 1 February
Location: Cable, Canada



Top social media moments of 2014

As we look back on the top 50 moments of 2014 on paralympic.org, take a look at how some para-athletes celebrated their greatest moments of the year.

12 June 2014



Italy's Beatrice Vio claims the wheelchair fencing European title in the foil event.

23 July 2014



After trending worldwide on Twitter when the USA beat Russia to win Ice Sledge Hockey gold, Sweeney received the Pat Tillman Award

1 September 2014



Amy Purdy wins bronze in para-snowboard at Sochi 2014, stars in US TV series Dancing with the Stars and goes on tour with TV host Oprah Winfrey.

July 2014



Australia take the wheelchair rugby world title for the first time ever.

10 September 2014



Poland's Natalia Partyka once again defends her world title in table tennis.

WHERE NOW FOR NPC UKRAINE AFTER TWO DECADES OF SUCCESS?

Since their debut at the Atlanta 1996 Paralympics almost 20 years ago, Ukraine has moved up the medals table faster than any other country in Paralympic history.

Now widely regarded as a Paralympic superpower, the future of para-sport in the country was thrown into jeopardy in early 2014 when Russia annexed the Crimea — the location of the country's high performance training centre which has been instrumental in their recent success.

Months on from the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, an event Ukraine nearly boycotted, The Paralympian caught up with Valeriy Sushkevych, founder and President of the Ukrainian National Paralympic Committee (NPC), to find out the full story.

Early breakthrough

When visually impaired shot putter Vasyl Lishchynsky won Ukraine's first ever Paralympic gold medal on 24 August 1996, few would have predicted the sporting success story that would unfold over the next two decades.

Coming on the exact day that marked the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the Atlanta gold marked the start of a journey that would see Ukraine transform itself into

one of the world's strongest performing para-sport nations.

Sushkevych has overseen this development over the last 20 years and can recall the challenges they faced from the outset.

"I remember in the post-Soviet period I tried to go to the swimming pool with some members of my sports club. The director of the swimming pool said 'the swimming pool is not for the disabled, for the disabled there is a hospital,' explained Sushkevych, a two-time para-swimming champion in the Soviet Union.

"This was the reality we faced in Ukraine, but we fought.

"We fought for new views, for human rights, the rights of people with a disability and the rights for people with a disability to do sport."

At the Atlanta 1996 Paralympics, Ukraine won an impressive seven medals, including Lishchynsky's historic

first gold. Despite the success, people with an impairment still faced discrimination back home and faced an isolated existence.

Four years later in Sydney, the Ukrainian team won 37 medals and made the major breakthrough they were looking for, attracting the attention of the national government.

"Although we won 37 medals, we only won three golds," stated Sushkevych, who is a member of the Ukrainian Parliament. "We were not ready to a high level. Our coaches did not have enough experience and we did not have the right structures in place.

"For Ukrainian society and the Ukrainian government, the Sydney results were a real shock. The reaction was '37 medals with disabled people, how is this possible with the blind, people in wheelchairs, amputees, how can they possibly be winners in the world?'"

"After Sydney, the President of Ukraine invited us for a meeting and explained how astonished he was at what we had achieved. On the wave of the Sydney success, the National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine, together with the Ukrainian government, produced a new structure: a new state system of sport for people with a disability."



Ukraine's Paralympic Training Centre in the Crimea has enabled them to become one of the most dominant nations in para-sport

Encouraged by the government's support, Sushkevych pushed further, warning that a new state system would deliver little if sports facilities were not accessible and remained out of bounds for people with an impairment.

It was out of this that the idea of a high performance training centre was born.

"The school of independent living"

Covering 60 hectares of what used to be a former Communist Youth Camp on the Black Sea coast in Yevpatoria, Crimea, the Ukrainian Paralympic Committee built a state-of-the-art performance centre in 2002. It is amongst the best in Europe for both Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Known to many as "the school of independent living", the centre boasts five swimming pools — including two 50m Olympic standard pools — a gym, football fields and a top class running track, an athletics stadium for javelin and shot put events, a physical and recreational complex, a powerlifting hall, a table tennis centre and much more.

It was not always like this, however, Sushkevych stressed: "When we took over, it was a destroyed, derelict and uninhabited place. Everything was broken and fit for nothing at all. The first time I visited

this territory I saw rabid animals such as foxes and rabbits prowling the grounds.

"We pushed the President and the government for support, and turned to our business partners we were working with. We also received funds from the government. All funds we invested into the creation of the centre.

"Parallel to building the centre, we helped build the state system."

Today, that system involves more than 35,000 youngsters - all grouped by their respective impairments - practicing para-sport on a regular basis and each region has at least one school dedicated to introducing youngsters to para-sport.

The best crop of youngsters from this huge pool of talent progresses to the Black Sea training centre to benefit from some of Europe's best sporting facilities. It is a system that has delivered instant results.

At the Athens 2004 Paralympics, the Ukrainian team won 55 medals, including 24 golds, to rise 29 places up the medals table to sixth overall.

"It was a great step," said Sushkevych with immense pride. "It's a unique achievement and I don't know of any other country which has improved as quickly as we have.

"In Beijing we made another step to finish in fourth place with 74 medals and were up there with China, United States and Russia.

"Unlike the others, Ukraine is not a superstar state. Ukraine is a poor country with problems in the economy, society and politics, but we are a superstar state in para-sport."

At London 2012, the country again finished fourth winning 84 medals, including 32 golds. Thanks to widespread TV coverage, the Games also acted as a catalyst for societal change in Ukraine.

"Today the Paralympics on TV is more powerful than the Olympics," said Sushkevych, who knows first-hand the power of sports to change lives. "The Paralympics on TV have helped change post-Soviet stereotypes that people with a disability can do nothing.

"They have seen the action on TV and thought 'these people can be real people in society'. Paralympic sport, our success and Paralympic champions have helped me to make new laws and legislation for people with a disability in Ukraine.

"We have created new legislation that ensured accessible transport, access to education, employment etc. It's a pathway to great success in ensuring rights for disabled people in Ukraine."



Ukraine were only represented by their flag bearer during the Opening Ceremony of the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games in Russia, after political unrest between the two nations

Sochi 2014 — “the tragic Games”

After finishing in second place at the 2013 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships, the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games should have been another major chapter in the Ukrainian success story.

Instead, according to Sushkevych they were “the most tragic Paralympic Games in the history of Paralympic sport in Ukraine” after Russian troops moved into Crimea, throwing Ukraine’s participation in the Games into serious doubt.

Facing intense pressure domestically and internationally to boycott the Games, Sushkevych called a meeting with the entire team the night before the Sochi 2014 Opening Ceremony. It was a tense affair.

“The meeting went on for two hours,” he said. “There were many different opinions but after

much discussion, many athletes and coaches said the same.

“The view was that if we went back home, all we could do was lie on the sofa and watch the news about what was going on in the Crimea. On the sofa we could do nothing, just be observers.

“Yet in Sochi, by taking part we could fight for peace for Ukraine on Russian territory.

“For us, fighting for peace for Ukraine, for Russia, for anybody, was not a political thing. Peace is a fundamental human right.”

After confirming their participation in the Games, the Ukrainian team faced a major public backlash and was widely criticised back home. Before long, coaches and athletes were losing psychological balance, they were worrying about whether they had made the right decision.

“The negative reaction was very painful. People misunderstood our reasons for staying.

“For the team members who read the reaction online, many cried. It was a very difficult and emotional time with many questioning whether we had made the right decision.

“Mentally it affected everyone within the team. Athletes were not sleeping at night, instead they were just following what was being said on the internet.

“The lack of sleep was affecting the athletes’ sporting condition. We lost medals as the athletes were not fresh. The coaches started to get very vocal demanding that all computers be switched off. It was a very stressful time.”

Public opinion soon started to change, however, beginning with the Opening Ceremony where just one Ukrainian athlete took part, moving in on a wheelchair bearing the Ukrainian flag.



“The medals were not important. What was important was victory for Ukrainian athletes on Russian soil.”



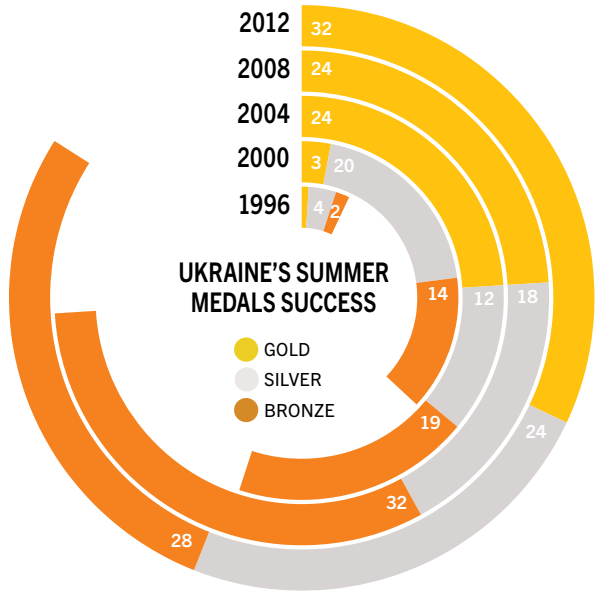
Ukraine won 25 medals in total in Sochi, and often stood side by side with Russian athletes

“When our sportsmen saw the transformation in public opinion, from betrayal to hero status, it was a lot better. It all happened within one week,” said the 60-year-old, who recalls thousands of people with Ukrainian flags greeting the team at Kiev airport after the Games.

“The medals were not important. What was important was victory for Ukrainian athletes on Russian soil.

“For me to lose so many medals and still finish fourth in Sochi, despite not being a winter sport country, is, I think, the greatest result ever in our Paralympic history. It was our most difficult and certainly most tragic result.”

Ukraine won their first Paralympic gold medal at Atlanta 1996 Games, and have since gone from strength-to-strength



| Year | 1996 | 2000 | 2004 | 2008 | 2012 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Medals in total | 7 | 37 | 55 | 74 | 84 |
| Position in medals table | 44 | 35 | 6 | 4 | 4 |



| Year | 1998 | 2002 | 2006 | 2010 | 2014 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Medals in total | 9 | 12 | 25 | 19 | 25 |
| Position in medals table | 14 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

Five Ukrainian athletes to look out for

Vasyl Kovalchuk Shooting

The 41-year-old followed up his London 2012 Paralympic gold in R5 (10m air rifle prone SH2) with a world title in 2014 in the R9 (50m rifle prone SH2).

Yevheniy Bohodayko Swimming

The S7 swimmer may only be 20-years-old but his success in the pool is prolific. He followed up his three world title wins in 2013 with seven European gold medals in 2014.

Oxana Boturchuk Athletics

During a glittering career, the 30-year-old T12 sprinter has won three world titles and a Paralympic gold. At Swansea 2014, she won three European titles.

Oleksandra Kononova Nordic skiing

A four-time Paralympic and five-time world champion, Kononova made it onto the podium in every single World Cup race last season, ahead of adding the women's 12.5km biathlon standing title to her collection at Sochi 2014.

Taras Dutko Football 7-a-side

Dutko has helped Ukraine to two Paralympic gold medals in 2004 and 2008, and was part of the side that retained its European title earlier this year.

The future

With the Crimea now annexed by Russia, some might wonder if it spells the end of Ukrainian Paralympic sport's golden era.

If results this summer are anything to go by, however, this is far from the case.

Ukraine topped the medals table at August's IPC Swimming European Swimming Championships, retained their CPISRA Football 7-a-side European title and finished second at August's IPC Athletics European Championships.

“We are not in a simple situation, but I feel the leaders of both Russia and Ukraine could learn a lot from the Paralympic solidarity shown between the two countries.”

And thanks to the International Paralympic Committee and Russian Paralympic Committee, the Ukrainian Paralympic Committee still owns and has access to their training hub in Crimea.

“I have to say, many, many thanks to the President of the IPC Sir Philip Craven for his very human and civilised position.

“He held many negotiations with the President of Russia during Sochi and in Moscow about the Paralympic centre.

“We now have a decision from the Russian government that the ownership of the centre remains with the Ukrainian Paralympic Committee.

“Today, we have special letters and documents which guarantee that we can continue our Paralympic activities at the Paralympic centre in Crimea.

“Mr Lukin, the President of the Russian NPC also deserves great credit. He is a

very civilised person and a great international diplomat. He is a very famous statesman in Russia and he played a great role in the fair decision regarding the Paralympic centre.

“Together the Presidents of the IPC and the Russian NPC ensured a fair decision with the Paralympic centre.



The Paralympic Training Centre was developed after the success of the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games

“Today relations with NPC Russia and NPC Ukraine are normal, very stable with good co-operation and understanding.

“We are not in a simple situation, but I feel the leaders of both Russia and Ukraine could learn a lot from the Paralympic solidarity shown between the two countries.”



Covering 60 hectares, the Paralympic Training Centre boasts top quality facilities, including five swimming pools, a top class running track, a gym and more ...

Top 25 Moments

To mark its 25th anniversary, the IPC has announced its top 25 moments from the last quarter of a century.

LONDON 2012: INSPIRING A GENERATION, TRANSFORMING A NATION

The London 2012 Paralympic Games broke multiple records and created seismic shifts in attitudes and perceptions towards people with an impairment.

The Games attracted a record-breaking 4,236 athletes from 164 countries, competing across 20 sports.

Venues were packed every day with a record 2.7 million tickets sold. More broadcasters than ever before covered the Games and TV pictures were beamed to over 100 countries, reaching a cumulative audience of 3.8 billion people.





2

'One bid, one city' agreement
The IOC and IPC signed an agreement in 2001 ensuring Olympic Host Cities would also stage the Paralympics.



3

Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games
The benchmark for the future – the Games were the first to benefit from packed venues, daily TV coverage and superb organisation.



4

Jonnie Peacock silences stadium
The British athlete had to silence 80,000 people chanting his name before winning the 100m T44 gold in 10.85 seconds, a new Paralympic record.



5

Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games
The Games attracted a record 3,881 athletes from 122 countries and benefited from astounding levels of competition, administration and public awareness. They raised the profile of the Paralympics to a new high.



6

Great Wall of China and Forbidden City made accessible
By spending RMB 1 billion (EUR 100 million) on improving accessibility in the years leading up to the Games, Chinese authorities ensured the population's 83 million people with an impairment were no longer excluded.



7

First IPC-IOC Agreement
After years of working together informally, the IPC and IOC signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding in 2000, covering the basic principles and relationships between the two bodies.



10

Beijing Opening Ceremony
Chinese Paralympic high jumper Hou Bin left the world in awe by hauling himself and his wheelchair up a 39-metre-long rope with just his bare hands to light the cauldron on the stadium roof.



9

The IPC is created in Dusseldorf
On 22 September 1989, 203 people from 42 countries attended a meeting which aimed to form a new world organisation for sports for athletes with a disability. The result was the creation of the International Paralympic Committee.



8

Sochi 2014 breaks down barriers
Although a record 316,200 tickets were sold and a cumulative audience of 2.1 billion watched on TV, Sochi's legacy will be a barrier-free environment that is now a blueprint for over 200 Russian cities.



11

ParalympicSport.TV launched
Ahead of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, the IPC launched ParalympicSport.TV, the first online channel dedicated to screening para-sport.



12

IPC/IOC Agreement signed prior to London 2012
The IPC and IOC entered a new co-operation agreement which, in addition to extending the practice of "One Bid, One City", gave the Paralympic Movement greater protection, stability and financial support.



13

New vision launched
In 2003, the IPC settled on its vision – "To enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world."



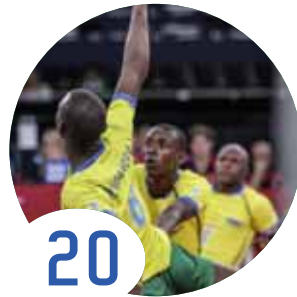
14

IPC HQ opens in Bonn, Germany
In 1999, the IPC opened its first headquarters in Bonn, Germany, providing a basis for it to start recruiting full-time staff.



17

Agitos Foundation launched
In September 2012, the Agitos Foundation was launched to help develop para-sport opportunities across the globe.



20

Rwanda sitting volleyball team make London 2012
Out of the tragedy of civil war, 11 men cast aside their differences to unite and become the first sub-Saharan African volleyball team to qualify for the Paralympic Games.



23

First International Paralympic Day
Held in Bonn in 2003, the first International Paralympic Day gave thousands of people the opportunity to try para-sports. The last event in 2011 saw British Prime Minister David Cameron play London Mayor Boris Johnson at wheelchair tennis in London's Trafalgar Square.



15

Iranian archer wins London 2012 gold
Zahra Nematy became an inspiration to Muslim women and her nation when she became the first Iranian woman to win either an Olympic or Paralympic gold medal.



18

Agitos symbol unveiled
To represent a fresh new look and vision for the IPC, the Agitos – Latin for 'I move' – was launched as the Paralympic emblem at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games.



21

Zorn wins 55th Medal
At Athens 2004, Trischa Zorn was crowned the most decorated Paralympian in history with bronze in the women's 100m backstroke S12, bringing her career medal haul to 41 gold, nine silver and five bronze medals.



24

Craven elected IPC President
Sir Phillip Craven, a five time Paralympian, was elected as President at the ninth IPC General Assembly in December 2001 and has since led the Paralympic Movement to unprecedented growth in all areas.



16

USA v Russia live on NBC
In possibly the biggest breakthrough in Paralympic broadcasting history, NBC showed the USA's gold medal winning match against Russia in ice sledge hockey live from Sochi 2014.



19

Zanardi creates image of 2012
After racing there in Formula 3000, Italy's Alex Zanardi held his handcycle aloft after winning London 2012 Paralympic gold at the Brands Hatch trace track.



22

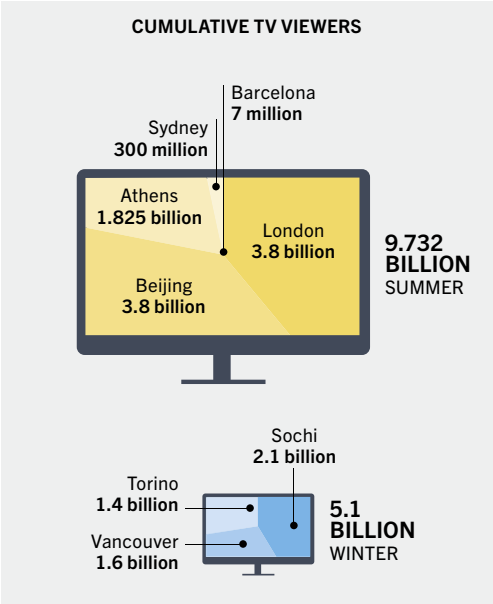
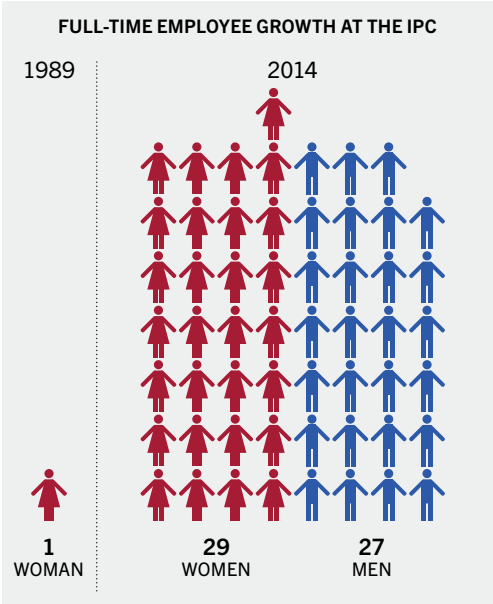
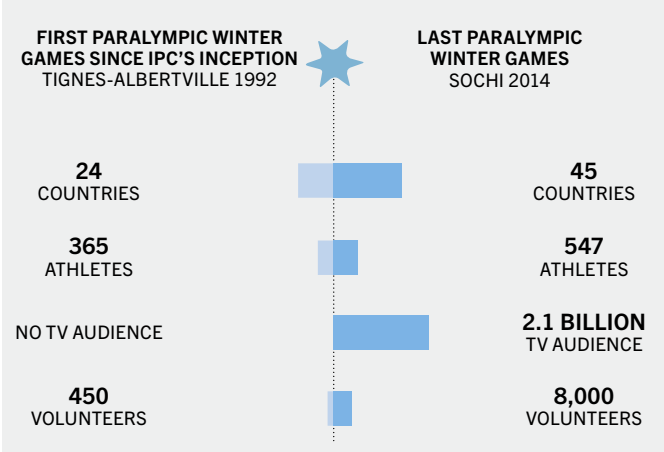
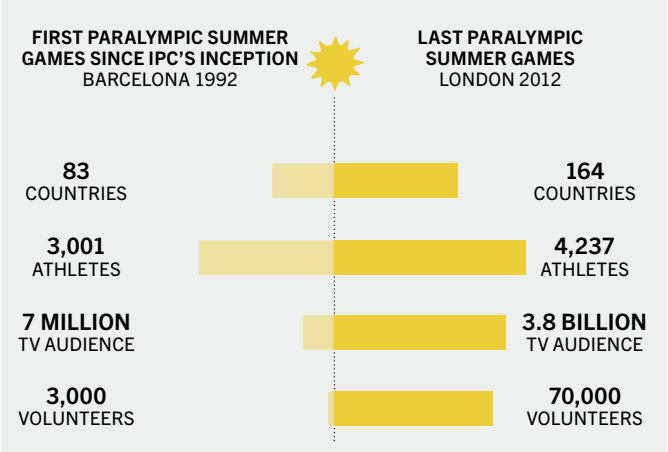
Classification Code published
In 2007 the IPC published a Universal Classification Code which applies to all sports within the Paralympic Movement and provides for impartial competition throughout.



25

2007 Parapan American Games
In 2007 for the first time, the Parapan American Games were held in the same city as the Pan American Games. A record 1,115 athletes from 25 countries took part in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

25 YEARS OF THE IPC IN NUMBERS



MAP OF NPC MEMBERSHIP GROWTH SINCE 1989

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USSR

Hong Kong Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, South Korea

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, US Virgin Islands, USA

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Macao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

1989

2014

IPC Membership Gathering

More than 260 people from the Paralympic family were in Berlin, Germany, between 3-5 October, for the IPC's Membership Gathering.

The purpose of the three-day event was to celebrate the IPC's 25th anniversary, and to discuss the Paralympic Movement's future strategic direction.

The event was opened with a speech from IPC President Sir Philip Craven, who discussed the past, present and future of the Paralympic Movement.

IOC delegate member Sam Ramsamy was also in attendance, and praised the relationship between the IPC and IOC, before urging the IPC 'fine tune' for the future.



The IPC Membership Gathering also helped to shape the next four-year IPC Strategic Plan, which will be published in early 2015.

Gala Dinner

A special Gala Dinner was held on 4 October, marking 25 years since the IPC was formed in Dusseldorf, Germany. It was hosted by four-time British Paralympian Lord Chris Holmes and Channel 4's Daraine Mulvihill, and charted the 25 year history of the IPC.

More than 350 guests were in attendance, including Princess Margriet of the Netherlands; Dr. Thomas de Maiziere, the German Minister of Interior; Bernd Kroemer, Berlin State Secretary and the great and good of the Paralympic Movement to celebrate its silver jubilee.

"The high performance level of athletes has definitely accelerated the credibility of the IPC and what it stands for. The world has now realised disability is not in any way a barrier for athletes to perform at the highest level."

"Despite their disability, para-athletes perform superbly well and their performances are of a calibre that everyone respects and is of the calibre of people without an impairment."

"The accelerated rate of progress that has taken place in the IPC's activities has impressed me a lot. It's a direct result of wonderful leadership by Dr. Robert Steadward and latterly Sir Philip Craven."

SAM RAMSAMY

"Whilst it's important we reflect on what we have achieved together over the last 25 years, it is crucial that we listen, debate, discuss and shape where we go from here."

"Together we have achieved a lot in a short space of time, but we cannot afford to be complacent and dwell on our successes so far."

"The sporting world is evolving all the time and we need to be leading the way, working together to overcome the challenges we face and take advantage of the many opportunities that are out there."

"You are the Movement, the dedicated IPC member organisations with your expansive volunteer networks who are the reason why the IPC finds itself in the position it is in today."

"So many people have contributed to the IPC's success over the last 25 years, and every single contribution has made a sizeable difference."

"You have helped transform the IPC from a disability sports organisation in to one of the most respected and fastest growing international sports governing bodies in the world."

SIR PHILIP CRAVEN



"In Britain, we look upon the Paralympics with great pride. The Movement was born here at the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1948, and in 2012, the Paralympics came home and those golden moments are still etched in our minds."

DAVID CAMERON
Prime Minister of Great Britain



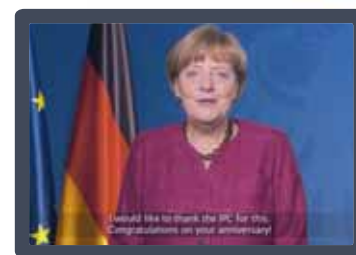
"Ever since the 1988 Seoul Paralympics, sport for those with disabilities has made great strides in Korea. Today, that impassioned momentum is being carried through as we look ahead to PyeongChang 2018."

PARK GEUN-HYE
President of South Korea



"I warmly applaud the officials, athletes and others driving the Paralympic Movement. You advance progress around the world, and I am proud to be your fan."

BAN-KI MOON
UN Secretary General



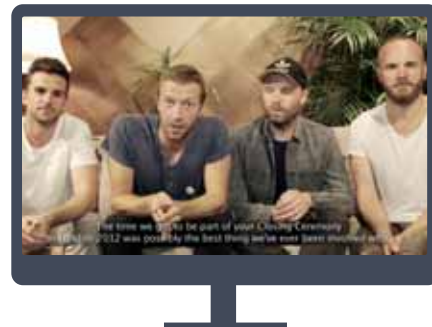
"The International Paralympic Committee has been the driving force behind this striking and very welcome development for the past 25 years."

ANGELA MERKEL
Chancellor of Germany



"I hope that Tokyo 2020 will leave a legacy of great achievement in the history of the Paralympics and that through these Games, the value of sport will be shared throughout the world."

SHINZO ABE
Prime Minister of Japan



"The Paralympic Games – which are now among the largest sporting events in the world – serve as a powerful reminder of the inherent dignity of every individual and of what is possible with determination and grit."

"Congratulations on this special milestone. As you reflect of a quarter of a century of changing lives and opening minds, I wish you the very best for the years ahead."

BARACK OBAMA
President of USA

"We'd love to say congratulations to everyone at the International Paralympic Committee on 25 incredible years! The time we got to be involved in your Closing Ceremony in London 2012 was probably the best thing we've ever been involved in."

COLDPLAY



"Millions of people around the world owe you a debt of gratitude for the work you do in providing opportunities for Paralympic athletes to inspire and excite the world"

INFANTA ELANA OF SPAIN



"You can look back on the last 25 years with great pride, but also great confidence into the future. I am sure that we can do even more together in the future, that we can co-operate even closer, and we can lead together the Olympic and Paralympic Movement to new heights."

THOMAS BACH
IOC President

2014 IBSA Goalball World Championships

26 June - 6 July

Brazil's men and the USA's women were crowned goalball world champions in Espoo, Finland.

In a repeat of the Paralympic final from London 2012, Brazil got their revenge over Finland by winning 9-1 to claim their first ever world title. The USA won bronze, beating Lithuania 4-2.

The USA retained their women's world crown for the fifth successive time defeating Russia 3-0. Turkey caused a shock in the bronze medal game, beating Japan by the same score line.

www.goalball2014.fi

2014 IPC Shooting World Championships

18-26 July

A record 265 athletes from 53 countries competed in Suhl, Germany, making it the biggest World Championships to date.

Although eight world and 38 regional records were set, it was Swedish veteran Jonas Jacobsson, a 17-time Paralympic gold medalist, who grabbed the headlines winning his 18th and 19th world titles. His success did not prevent South Korea from topping the medals table however.

www.suhl2014.com

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|
| |  |  |  | |
| South Korea | 9 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Sweden | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Russia | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| Great Britain | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| Iran | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |



Sweden's Jonas Jacobsson made history with two more world titles in Suhl

2014 IWRF World Championships


4-10 August

It was the one title that has eluded them but in Odense, Denmark, Australia finally added the world title to the Paralympic crown they won at London 2012.


In a repeat of the Paralympic final from two years ago, the 'Steelers' were the nemesis of Canada, beating them in a frantic 67-56 victory.

Defending champions the USA had to settle for bronze, coming out on top (62-56) against Japan.

2014wrwc.dhif.dk



FAN'S MVP FOR TOURNAMENT
Ayaz Bhuta, Great Britain















MVP FOR TOURNAMENT
Zak Madell, Canada

Despite suffering defeat in the final, Canada's Zak Madell put in brilliant performances throughout the competition to receive the Most Valuable Player award

In a tournament first, fans were able to vote for their favourite player of the competition, with Great Britain's Ayaz Bhuta coming out on top

FINAL STANDINGS

| | |
|--|--|
| 1.  Australia | 7.  Sweden |
| 2.  Canada | 8.  New Zealand |
| 3.  USA | 9.  France |
| 4.  Japan | 10.  Finland |
| 5.  Great Britain | 11.  Germany |
| 6.  Denmark | 12.  Belgium |

After winning Paralympic gold at London 2012, Australia won their first ever world title in Denmark



Twenty-four world and 42 European records were set across 161 medal events in Eindhoven

2014 IPC Swimming European Championships

4-10 August



The 2014 European Championships saw 380 of the best swimmers from the region compete



Ukraine topped the medals table at the 2014 IPC Swimming European Championships in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, winning an incredible 94 medals, including 37 golds.

The gold rush was led by two of Ukraine's brightest stars: Yevheniy Bohodayko won nine medals (seven gold, two silver), whilst teammate Dmytro Vynohradets picked up eight medals (seven gold, one silver).

Russia claimed second spot, just ahead of Great Britain, the hosts of the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships in Glasgow. Stephanie Slater starred for Great Britain winning seven gold medals.

Spain, helped by Teresa Perales' successful comeback, and Italy through five golds from Federico Morlacchi, completed the top five.

www.eindhoven2014.com

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|
| |  |  |  | |
| Ukraine | 37 | 29 | 28 | 94 |
| Russia | 34 | 32 | 29 | 95 |
| Great Britain | 30 | 27 | 16 | 73 |
| Spain | 15 | 19 | 14 | 48 |
| Italy | 11 | 2 | 6 | 19 |

2014 Canoe World Championships

6-10 August

With canoe set to make its Paralympic debut at Rio 2016, all eyes were on the World Championships in Moscow, Russia.

Great Britain's Jeannette Chippington was the star of the show, as she was crowned a eight-time para-canoe world champion with two more titles.

Austria's Markus Mendy Swoboda also impressed, securing his fifth title in successive competitions, with victory in the K1 (TA) 200m.

www.canoemoscow2014.com

2014 IFDS Combined Sailing World Championships

15-24 August

An astute performance from Australia's Daniel Fitzgibbon and Leisl Tesch saw them claim their first sailing world title in Halifax, Canada.

The London 2012 Paralympic champions secured four first place finishes during 11 rounds of racing to beat 13 other crews, including Great Britain's Niki Birrell and Alexandra Rickham – who were on the hunt for their sixth consecutive world title.

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|
| |  |  |  | |
| Australia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| France | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Germany | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Great Britain | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Canada | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |



Manuela Schaer was Switzerland’s most successful athlete at the European Championships, winning four gold medals

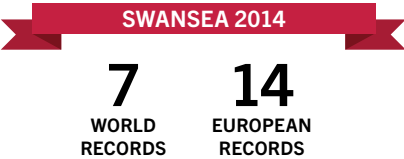
▲
2014 IPC Athletics European Championships
18-23 August

Russia dominated the IPC Athletics European Championships in Swansea, Great Britain, claiming 88 medals, including 41 golds, to finish ahead of Ukraine and hosts Great Britain.

Leading the way for Russia was T38 athlete Margarita Goncharova who claimed four gold medals, a feat matched by Finland’s Henry Manni (T34) and Switzerland’s Manuela Schaer (T54).

The event was the biggest European Championships to date and drew 560 athletes from 37 countries.

► www.swansea2014.com



| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | | |
| Russia | 41 | 29 | 18 | 88 |
| Ukraine | 17 | 8 | 18 | 43 |
| Great Britain | 16 | 19 | 17 | 52 |
| Germany | 14 | 17 | 15 | 46 |
| Finland | 9 | 3 | 4 | 16 |

2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games
23 August - 7 September



Riding her horse Royal Delight, Italy’s Sara Morganti won the freestyle grade 1a title in Normandy

Italy’s Sara Morganti caused the shock of the World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France, as she won the Grade 1a competition.

The 41-year-old was an underdog going into the competition, but put in a remarkable performance to beat Great Britain’s multi-Paralympic and world champion Sophie Christiansen and Singapore’s most-decorated Paralympian Laurentia Tan.

A record-breaking 100 riders from 33 nations competed, with all the gold medallists also securing the first places at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Great Britain topped the medals table, winning seven golds, six silvers and two bronze.

► www.normandy2014.com

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | | |
| Great Britain | 7 | 6 | 2 | 15 |
| Netherlands | 6 | 3 | 9 | 18 |
| Germany | 5 | 7 | 3 | 15 |
| USA | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| Belgium | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |

2014 World Rowing Championships
24-31 August



Great Britain’s Pamela Relph, Grace Clough, Dan Brown, James Fox and cox Oliver James lived up to their billing as favourites with victory in the LTA mixed coxed four (LTAMix4+)

Australia’s Erik Horrie retained his world title with victory in the AS men’s single sculls at the World Championships in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as did Ukraine’s Kateryna Morozona and Dmytro Aleksieiev in the LTA mixed double sculls.

Australia’s Gavin Bellis and Kathryn Ross and the British team of Pamela Relph, Grace Clough, Dan Brown, James Fox and cox Oliver James also scooped gold.

► www.amsterdamrowing.com

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|---------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| | | | | |
| Australia | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Great Britain | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Norway | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ukraine | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| France | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships
28 August - 1 September

The USA topped the medals table in Greenville, Carolina, USA, winning 18 medals – including nine golds.

This included a first world title for Will Groulx, who was previously a three-time Paralympic medallist in wheelchair rugby.

And in the hotly contested H5 category, Italy’s Alex Zanardi claimed the bragging rights with two gold medals, but South Africa’s Ernst Van Dyk did get some revenge, beating Zanardi on the final day to the road race gold.

Elsewhere, there was double gold for the USA’s Jamie Whitmore, making it seven track and road world titles for the year, and Great Britain’s Sarah Storey was crowned an 18-time world champion with two more titles.



South Africa’s Ernst Van Dyk celebrates beating Italian rival Alex Zanardi in the fierce H5 category

2014 Para-Triathlon World Championships
29 August - 1 September

Six new world champions were crowned in Edmonton, Canada, at the World Triathlon Grand Final.

The British team dominated with eight medals, and arguably the standout performer was 21-year-old Lauren Steadman. She beat compatriot Faye McClelland to officially end her dominance of the women’s PT4 category.

But it was the USA who won the most golds, with Aaron Scheidies and Kendall Gretsck winning their respective categories.



Great Britain’s Lauren Steadman won her first ever world title, breaking the three-year dominance that compatriot Faye McClelland has had in the PT4 category



2014 IBSA Judo World Championships

4-6 September

Ukraine dominated at the judo worlds in Colorado Springs, USA, as they won three gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Arguably the shock result of the competition came against a Ukrainian, however, as Mexico's Eduardo Avila Sanchez – competing at a higher weight – beat Paralympic gold medalist Olexandr Kosinov. The result saw him crowned September 2014's Allianz Athlete of the Month.

www.ibsajudo2014.com

2014 ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championships

6-14 September

China gave the home fans much to celebrate as they won 27 medals, including 14 golds, to top the medals table at the 2014 ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championships in Beijing.

This included near dominance of the women's team events, taking gold in four of the six categories.

In what was the largest ever World Championships, 309 athletes from 45 countries and five continents took part.

www.ipttc.org

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| China | 14 | 8 | 5 | 27 |
| South Korea | 4 | 6 | 7 | 17 |
| Poland | 3 | 6 | 1 | 10 |
| France | 3 | 0 | 7 | 10 |
| Germany | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 |



Jordanne Whiley (left) and Yui Kamiji (right) celebrate winning their first ever US Open title

2014 US Open

4-7 September

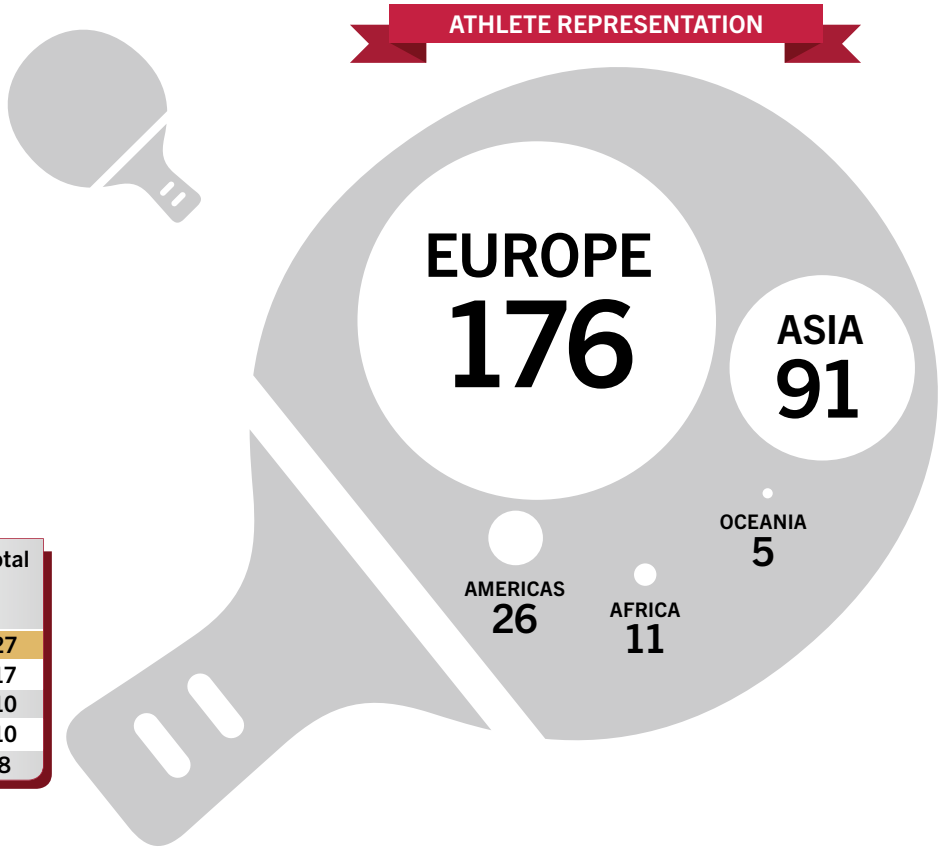
Japan's Yui Kamiji and Great Britain's Jordanne Whiley made history at the 2014 US Open, in New York, by becoming the first non-Dutch pair to win every Grand Slam doubles title in a calendar year.

They beat the Netherlands' Jiske Griffioen and Aniek Van Koot in three sets to take the crown.

Kamiji, 20, also won the singles title, whilst compatriot Shingo Kunieda won his fifth men's title.

There was also a singles quad title for Great Britain's Andy Lapthorne, and a doubles title for the USA's David Wagner and Nick Taylor.

www.usopen.org



2014 BISFED Boccia World Championships

19-28 September



Hong Kong's Leung Yuk Wing, an Athens 2004 double gold medallist, had to wait a long time to get back to the top, but he achieved it with two gold medals at the Boccia Worlds in Beijing, China.

It was South Korea, however, who topped the medals table, winning two gold, one silver and one bronze medal.

Around 180 athletes from 30 countries took part in the competition, with medals being won by eight countries.

www.2014bwc.org.cn

Hong Kong, China's Leung Yuk Wing won his first major title in 10 years at the Boccia World Championships

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Korea | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Thailand | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Hong Kong, China | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Great Britain | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Brazil | 0 | 3 | 1 | 4 |

Incheon 2014 Asian Para Games

18-24 October

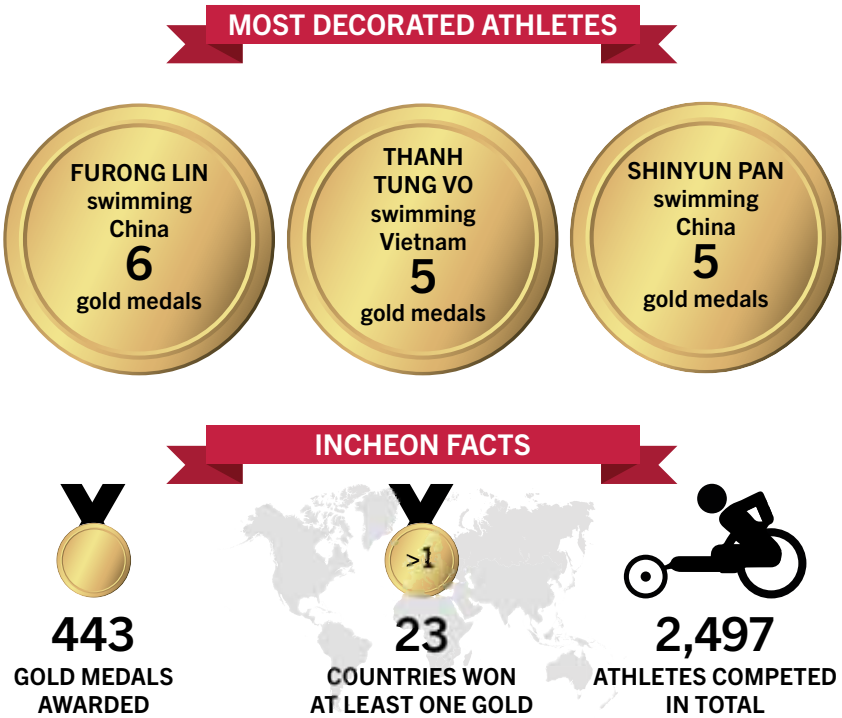
China topped the medals table in Incheon, South Korea, winning 127 gold, 95 silver and 48 bronze medals.

Athletes from 41 nations competed across 23 sports, with 24 world records broken or equalled and 121 new Asian records set across the competition.

Iranian powerlifter Siamand Rahman was the story of the Games, breaking his own world record in the 107kg class three times, with an eventual lift of 292.0kg.

There was also a shock in the wheelchair tennis, as Japan's world No.1 Yui Kamiji crashed out in the semi-finals to eventual winner, Thailand's Sakhorn Khanthasit.

www.incheon2014apg.org



2014 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport European Championships

8-9 November

Russia topped the medals table in Lomianki, Poland, with five gold, eight silver and three bronze medals, whilst Belarus finished second with three golds.

Ukraine completed the top three with two titles in an event that featured around 110 athletes from nearly 20 countries.



The 2014 Wheelchair Dance Sport Europeans saw the debut of the freestyle and singles events, in addition to the couples programme

ISSUE OF THE SEASON

What does the IPC and the Paralympic Movement have to do to continue its growth over the next 25 years?

With the IPC marking its 25th anniversary in September 2014, the Paralympian investigates where the Paralympic Movement goes from here in terms of its future development.

Karen O'Neill

Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Paralympic Committee

I am going to say that the Movement doesn't need to be touching on any new categories, but activating, working and taking the current plan to the next level.

have a clear brand or storyline, it is difficult for us to go out and inspire athletes and for them to know about the movement, and also be able to inspire investment.

Deepening and expanding the Movement is key. Right now we have got such a broad membership across really diverse regions. I think deepening and raising the bar for capacity across the entire movement and all of our National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) has got to be key, in particular on issues such as coaching, classification and capacity building so that the competition really has depth and that there is really the opportunity for all NPCs to participate and compete at a solid level.

Being able to look at a brand, marketing, communications and broadcast strategy from an integrated perspective and looking at multiple platforms and some real innovative models is really going to be critical.

For the branding and storyline standpoint, I think there has been great work done on the brand, it is probably one of the flagship items for me, particularly here in Canada, as it is such a priority. Unless we

I think the notion of bringing in a business model that benefits both the IPC and NPCs, can be looked at over several quadrennials, and can blend broadcasting, marketing and communication on multi-digital and innovative platforms. This has got to be central to us going forward.



Movement

Mark Bullock

Wheelchair Tennis Manager, International Tennis Federation

I think there will be continued growth. If we set ourselves up correctly, there will be growing media interest, growing spectator interest and the athletes will become more well-known and will continue to grow and generate more revenue.

There are challenges in front of us in terms of ensuring global participation and that some of the money that is generated at the elite level is redistributed into the Movement as a whole, to ensure that we truly develop the Movement globally by investing in development activity.

As the Movement evolves, more countries are becoming part of the Movement and they need to follow an evolutionary process. But we have got some countries investing significant amounts of money and how can those smaller countries match that investment or even keep up.

A priority should be to ensure gender equality as best as we can in new projects that are started. We should look at athletes with high support needs and how they put into the Movement, and how we provide a product that is very marketable, but remains as inclusive as possible. I think this can be done, but not necessarily all at the Paralympic Games.



Inspire

Lionel De Rocha

President of the Angolan and African Paralympic Committee

I see enormous opportunities to increase participation of athletes and the impact that para-sports plays in our society, particularly in Africa. To ensure the further growth we need to look for partnerships: partnerships with the IPC and the Agitos Foundation, and also with the Olympic Movement.

We not only need to partner with National Organising Committees, but also at the regional levels and also with other partners of civil society. Partnerships with the government and corporates are essential.

The Paralympic Movement is, and needs to remain, athlete-centred.

We need to become more attractive for sponsors and the media and this can only be achieved through the performance of our athletes. We need to identify athletes at the level of schools/rehabilitation and we need to solidify real development pathways, not only addressing the athletes' performance in sport, but also their life outside.

I am certain that in the years to come we will achieve new heights through the outstanding performance of our athletes and the excitement of the overall Movement. I look forward to working together to develop the future of the Paralympic Movement.



Focus

Strategy

Spectators

Communication

NPCs

Media

Evolution

Classification

Sport

Action

Impairment

Flagship

Inclusive

Competitive

Set

Broadcasting

Paralympic

Visually impaired

Fitness

Past

Brand

para-sport

Marketing

Future

Achieve

Athlete

champion

Report

Skills

Coaching

Able-bodied

Present

Innovative

Perform

Speed

Equality

Investment

Live

Defeat

Bronze

who

Partnerships

Sprint

put



OTHER MAJOR EVENTS

13-18 December
**IWAS Wheelchair Fencing
Grand Prix**
Hong Kong, China

13-17 January
**Sydney International
Wheelchair Tennis Open**
Sydney, Australia

24-31 January
ISAF Sailing World Cup
Miami, USA

28-31 January
**Wheelchair Tennis
Australian Open**
Melbourne, Australia

24-27 February
IPC Athletics Grand Prix
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

23 January - 1 February

2015 Nordic Skiing
World Championships

Cable, Wisconsin, USA, will play host to the 2015 IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships in the first major event since the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

Over 150 athletes from 20 countries are set to compete, in what will be the third time the United States has hosted the competition.

The IPC has named its 16 athletes to watch, with the list containing 31 world and 32 Paralympic titles between them, as well as a series of World Cup wins from the 2013-14 season.

www.cable2015.com

ONES TO WATCH



ROMAN PETUSHKOV
Russia



CHRIS KLEBL
Canada



ALENA KAUFMAN
Russia

6-13 February

2015 World Wheelchair
Curling Championships

Canada will undoubtedly be the ones to beat at the 2015 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Lohja, Finland.

The three-time Paralympic champions have consistently been at the top of their game since their first title at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

In Sochi, Russia, they claimed the 2013 World Championships before repeating this success a year later at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

Ten teams will be competing in Finland for the top prize, including Russia who will be looking to avenge the defeat by Canada in the Paralympic gold medal game.

www.hcc2015.curlingevents.com

ONES TO WATCH



SONJA GAUDET
Canada



JALLE JUNGNELL
Sweden



SVETLANA PAKHOMOVA
Russia

23-28 February

IPC Para-Snowboard
World Championships

The 2015 IPC Para-Snowboard World Championships will be the first time it has been held under the governance of IPC Alpine Skiing.

Around 80 athletes from 20 countries will travel to La Molina, Spain, for the biggest gathering of riders since para-snowboard made its debut at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

The competition will feature athletes in two impairment groups who will compete separately in both disciplines - lower-limb and upper-limb.

The Spanish resort of La Molina has previously hosted IPCAS Snowboard World Cups as well as the able-bodied snowboard World Championships in 2011 and the 2013 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships.

www.lamolina2015.com

ONES TO WATCH



AMY PURDY
USA



BIBIAN MENTEL-SPEE
Netherlands



EVAN STRONG
USA

28 February - 10 March

2015 IPC Alpine Skiing
World Championships

Panorama, Canada, will play host to the 2015 Alpine Skiing Worlds.

It will feature 230 athletes competing from 30 countries and is the first major international alpine competition since the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

The event is expecting 110 more athletes than the 2013 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships in La Molina, Spain.

Panorama is a ski resort located in the heart of the Canadian Rockies, and features a skiable area of 2,847 acres and a top elevation of 2,380m.

www.panorama2015.com

ONES TO WATCH



ALESANDRA FRANTCEVA
Russia



TAKESHI SUZUKI
Japan



MARIE BOCHET
France





Ottobock provide their technical service at Games, where athletes can get repairs and tweaks done to their equipment

The Rio 2016 mascots were unveiled on 23 November, and the public have until 14 December to vote for their names at www.Rio2016.com/mascots.

Rio 2016

Two years to go

To mark two years to go until the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, the city celebrated Paralympic sport in fashion by staging a goalball and sitting volleyball competition at Flamengo Park – the venue that will stage the cycling and marathon events in two years' time.

Members of the Brazilian national teams were joined by players from Brazilian volleyball's seminal 'Silver Generation', who won the country's first Olympic medal in the sport.

Prior to the two years to go celebrations, Rio 2016 launched its volunteer recruitment programme for the Games.

Around 25,000 volunteers are needed for the Paralympic Games to carry out more than 500 different functions and people have until 15 December 2014 to apply.

➔ www.rio2016.com



Ottobock named official provider of the Rio Games

Ottobock Healthcare has announced that it will be providing technical service for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

The company has been at the heart of the Paralympic Movement for more than 25 years, providing innovative solutions for people with limited mobility and has been a partner of the Paralympic Games since 1988.

Rio 2016 will be the 13th Games where Ottobock has provided its technical service.

RACE FOR 2022

Although the IOC shortlisted three Candidate Cities for the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, following the withdrawal of Oslo, Norway, in September, just two cities remain. On 31 July 2015 the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will decide between Beijing, China, and Almaty, Kazakhstan.



Cho Yang-ho was named new PyeongChang 2018 President after Jin-sun Kim stepped down



PyeongChang 2018

PyeongChang launches 'Actualising the Dream' project

In July, the PyeongChang Organising Committee's launched 'Actualising the Dream', a project which aims to raise awareness of the issues regarding people with an impairment and develop Paralympic winter sports and athletes.

As part of the project, the Organising Committee has developed 13 programmes under four different streams, all of which will aim to raise awareness of the Games, increase participation in para-sport, grow the profile of the Paralympic Movement and leave a lasting legacy.

Another aim of the project is for PyeongChang 2018 to work closely with the IPC and Korean Paralympic Committee in various programmes to enhance the performance of Korean Paralympians and to promote the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

Cho Yang-ho announced as new PyeongChang 2018 President

Cho Yang-ho, Chairman of the Hanjin Group, was announced as the new PyeongChang 2018 President on 31 July.

He succeeds Jin-sun Kim who stepped down from the role after he believed that the PyeongChang Organising Committee needed new, stronger leadership.

Cho was the head of the bid committee when PyeongChang was awarded the Games in 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

Speaking of his appointment, he said: "The PyeongChang 2018 Games is a historic project, which will present a more developed Korea to the world. I'll devote myself to organising a successful Games, using my knowledge and experience as head of PyeongChang 2018's bid committee."

➔ www.pyeongchang2018.com



Para-badminton will make its Paralympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

TOKYO 2020

Tokyo 2020 Sports programme decided

In October the IPC Governing Board approved the first 16 sports for inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games sports programme, including para-badminton, which will make its Paralympic debut in six years' time.

The Board also deferred a final decision until its next meeting in late January on the remaining eight sports that aim to be part of the Games. This is so that the sports in question can provide additional information to the IPC addressing issues identified following an extensive management review process of the applications which started in late July.

A maximum of 23 sports can be included in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic sports programme, however, the IPC has the option to reduce the number of sports if it feels necessary.

The 16 sports approved so far are: athletics, archery, badminton, boccia, equestrian, goalball, powerlifting, rowing, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, table tennis, triathlon, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair tennis.

➔ www.tokyo2020.com

Jon McCullough embodied the triumph of the human spirit – a two-time Paralympian and leader in the Paralympic Movement – he proved the power of sport in enriching the lives of people with impairments.

He died on 15 August in Atlanta, USA.

After graduating from high school in 1984, Jon joined the Coast Guard. In an accident at sea two years later, he sustained a traumatic brain injury and permanent damage to his shoulders and spine, which led to a medical discharge.

“There’s not a lot that modern medicine can do for you, but there’s a lot you can do for yourself,” a wise family doctor advised. Jon took that advice and ran with it.

Accepted as a theatre major at The American University, Jon instead studied peace and conflict resolution and began his world travels with a semester in Kenya. He volunteered with Disabled Sports USA, where he was a competition co-ordinator for men’s volleyball.

With this introduction to sport for individuals with physical impairments, he earned a starter’s spot on the national football team at the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games, and again at Athens 2004.



**A message from his mother,
Daphne Hutchinson**

Jon McCullough – 1965-2014

He carried the Paralympic torch in the ceremony to begin the London 2012 Paralympic Games, played in three World Championships and three Para-Pan American Games, was named in the World All-Star team and earned the tournament’s sportsmanship award.

Jon McCullough

Nationality: American

Career: former football 7-a-side player and member of the Athletes’ Council

Most well-known for: Two-time Paralympian with the USA football 7-a-side team, reaching the semi-finals at the Atlanta 1996 Paralympic Games

Jon’s belief in the power of sport led him to leadership and volunteer roles with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Off the

field, his adventures ranged from bee-keeping to sky diving, managing a world tour for an interfaith peace choir from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to working as a keynote speaker for charity Man-Up at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, on how to develop initiatives to bring an end to violence against women and girls.

In 2013, he found what he’d been searching for. He was named Executive Director of Blaze Sports America, an organisation dedicated to using sports as a means to improve lives and opportunities for individuals with physical impairments.

But just eight months later in June 2014, doctors also gave a name to the cause of Jon’s fatigue and health issues – oesophageal cancer, stage four. He faced this with the same unquenchable spirit that he had conquered so many challenges with.

Surrounded by family and loved ones, he died on 15 August 2014.



Jon McCullough embodied the Paralympic spirit, and was a former football 7-a-side player, as well as a valuable member of the Athletes’ Council



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