1 YEAR TO GO!
#Rio2016
“With Rio 2016 set to be broadcast to more countries than ever before, I am fully confident that we will break through the four billion cumulative TV viewers for the first time.”

Welcome to this special edition which celebrates one year to go until the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. It does not seem too long ago that I passed the Paralympic flag from London Mayor Boris Johnson to his Rio counterpart Eduardo Pias in London’s Olympic Stadium, but time has moved on and Rio is gearing up to stage the biggest Paralympic Games to date.

Featuring 22 sports, including debuts for canoe and triathlon, Rio 2016 has an aspiration to sell 3.3 million tickets, half a million more than London 2012. Should this target be achieved, then in terms of tickets sales alone, the Paralympic Games will overtake the FIFA World Cup as the world’s second biggest sporting event.

With Rio 2016 set to be broadcast to more countries than ever before, I am fully confident that we will break through the four billion cumulative TV viewers for the first time, showcasing the best of what the Paralympic Movement has to offer to millions of new fans.

This September, Rio will stage a special one year to go event, as well as the Chef de Mission seminar and World Broadcasters Briefing. Together with the ongoing test event programme, these landmarks will help ensure everything is ready for the Opening Ceremony on 7 September 2016 at the iconic Maracana Stadium.

Consolidating the growth of the Paralympic Games as a premier event is one of six strategic goals in the newly launched IPC Strategic Plan 2015-2018 which is featured in this edition.

Published in June, the plan also aims to increase global participation in para-sport and improve the recognition and value of the Paralympic brand.

A lot of work and input went into the document from the whole IPC membership and I would like to thank everyone who contributed. I hope the final product can act as a roadmap for the IPC’s future and a source of inspiration to the whole Paralympic Movement.

Staying with the theme of growth, I would like to share with you my absolute delight at the long-term and monumental agreement we announced with Japanese broadcaster NHK in June. NHK are huge advocates of the Movement and I am extremely excited at what can be achieved with them over the coming years in the lead-up to, during and after Tokyo 2020.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at November’s IPC General Assembly in Mexico City.

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President
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THE PARALYMPIAN

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Art Editors Yusuf Rohosh, Marvil Avalos
Printing dienrol + hardt GmbH
All rights reserved © 2015 International Paralympic Committee
ISSN 1609-1329

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**IPC Athletics coaching conference comes to USA**

IPC Athletics will stage the first ever Para-athletics Coaching Conference from 12-13 December in Colorado Springs, USA, featuring a stellar lineup of speakers from the world of high performance para-athletics.

“Destination Rio 2016 – preparing for prime performance” is targeted at high performance directors, national coaches, classifiers and team support staff including strength and conditioners, nutritionists and physiotherapists.

Speakers will include five-time Canadian Para-athlete Chantal Petitclerc, a winner of 14 Paralympic gold medals; head coach of the Dutch para-athletics team Guido Bonsen; National Chairman of the USA Track and Field for Coaches, Education Lawrence W. Judge; and professor of physical education at the Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Ciro Winkler.

**NHK secures Paralympic Games broadcasting, exhibition rights**

In June, the IPC awarded NHK the exclusive broadcast and exhibition rights in Japan for the Paralympic Games through to 2024, in an agreement that is the biggest in Paralympic broadcasting history.

NHK, Japan’s only public broadcaster, acquired the rights for television, radio, internet, mobile and all other media platforms for the PyeongChang 2018, Tokyo 2020, Beijing 2022 and 2024 Paralympic Games.

During Tokyo 2020, NHK plans to show dedicated live coverage across their networks, including television, radio, digital services and 8K Super Hi-Vision. In addition to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, NHK will broadcast competition from Tokyo 2020 on terrestrial and satellite television channels every day.

The IPC has also announced two separate five year agreements with premium pay broadcaster WOWOW and Dentsu Inc.

In the leadup to Tokyo 2020, WOWOW will produce a series of documentaries on para-athletes, whilst Dentsu Inc., will lead marketing efforts in Japan.

Dentsu will have the exclusive rights to sell partnership and sponsorship packages to Japanese companies for all 10 summer and winter sports (athletics, swimming, powerlifting, shooting, alpine skiing, snowboard, ice sledge hockey, cross-country skiing, biathlon and wheelchair dance sport) the IPC acts as the International Federation for.

In addition to these package sales, Dentsu will provide support for promotional activities in Japan as well as for communications between the IPC and its Japanese sponsors.

**Mactavish earns Paralympic Scientific Award**

Canadian Professor Jennifer Mactavish will receive the IPC’s 2015 Paralympic Scientific Award in October at VISTA 2015 in recognition of the role she played in the re-inclusion of athletes with an intellectual impairment into the Paralympic Programme.

The award is given biennially to an academic researcher for his or her contributions to research in the field of sports for persons with an impairment, and it serves to promote and encourage further study in this area.

“I am delighted and humbled to be the recipient of the 2015 Paralympic Scientific award,” Mactavish said. “This tribute rightfully belongs to a dedicated community of academics, graduate students, coaches and sport federations from around the world, who have worked together over the years to address a complex question that unanswered would continue to exclude athletes with intellectual impairment from showcasing their talents at the highest level of sport.

Mactavish’s work in the international sporting community for athletes with an intellectual impairment provided the framework for the “Eligibility Classification Research” project, directed by the joint IPC – International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS) Taskforce. This successful project eventually led to 120 intellectually impaired athletes competing at London 2012 after a 12 year absence in athletics, swimming and table tennis.

**McFadden wins Laureus Sport Award**

US Paralympian Tatyana McFadden won the 2015 Laureus World Sportsperson with a Disability award at a glitzy ceremony in Shanghai, China, for her achievements in 2014 in both athletics and cross-country skiing.

In her first full season in snow sports, McFadden won silver in the 1km cross-country sprint at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games and 32 days later won the London Marathon.

With further wins in Boston, Chicago and New York, she repeated her feat of 2013, when she became the first athlete ever to win all four major world marathons in a calendar year.

On the track, she also set new world records over 1,500m and 5,000m T54 to cap a memorable year.

To win the award, McFadden beat five other finalists, including Russian Nordic skier Roman Petushkov and German alpine skier Anna Schaff felhuber, who between them won 11 gold medals at Sochi 2014. Great Britain’s para-cyclist Sarah Storey, Hong Kong’s boccia world champion Yuk Wing Leung and Canada’s para-cycling world champion Sheila Gauthier were also nominated.
The All Eng-8
It was attended by dignitaries and Paralympic Day on 11 June in Beirut. Delegates
three-day meeting. It saw 25 delegates broadcasting as the main focus of the excitement for their athletes ahead.

Athletes are Tougher” to generate support young people and children living in challenging environments.

IPC President speaks at UN Headquarters
IPC President Sir Philip Craven told an audience at United Nations headquarters in New York, USA, on 15 April that he believes the Paralympic Games are the world’s leading sporting event for driving social inclusion. Sir Philip, together with three-time Paralympian Dr. Cherri Blauwe, was speaking at “United action towards sustainable development for all through sport,” a special event hosted by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to commemorate the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

During a short address to an audience which included Member States, athletes, high-level representatives of the sport sector and UN officials, Sir Philip shared his own experiences of practicing sport as a five-time Paralympian in wheelchair basketball and described sport as “life’s great educator.”

In my opinion, no other sporting event in the world can deliver such seismic shifts in attitudes or drive social inclusion as well as the Paralympic Games,” said Sir Philip, who highlighted that around 20 million people in Great Britain, one third of the population, changed their view of people with an impairment as a result of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

“Together we need to embark on a long-term programme of education where sport and activity play a key role in encouraging people to maximise their development of what they possess, not worrying about what they don’t.”

Beijing wins 2022 Winter Games bid

Beijing, China, was awarded the right to stage the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games at the 128th IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 31 July. Beijing received 44 votes from IOC members, whilst rival city Almaty, Kazakhstan, polled 40 votes.

“I would like to send my heartfelt congratulations to the whole Paralympic Movement to the bid committee of Beijing on winning the right to stage the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games,” said Sir Philip Craven, IPC President.

“Beijing, as the Olympic host city for 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, can have a similar impact and China could emerge as a Paralympic superpower in winter sports, just as they are now in summer sports.

“Although China made their debut at the Salt Lake City 2002 Paralympic Winter Games they have yet to win a medal and participation in winter sport remains relatively low.

“Therefore I am excited that these Games are a real opportunity for China’s 85 million people with an impairment to engage in winter sport and become more active, not just in sport but most importantly in society.

At Sochi 2014. China sent a team of 10 athletes and finished fourth in wheelchair curling. Earlier this year the team won the silver medal at the 2015 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Finland.

IPC personnel appointed to Olympic Education Commission

IPC President Sir Philip Craven was appointed as Chair of the Olympic Education Commission following a review by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of scope and composition of their commissions for 2015.

A number of IPC representatives have been re-appointed to IOC commissions: IPC Vice President Andrew Parsons, who is also President of the Brazilian National Paralympic Committee to the Tokyo 2020 Co-ordination Commission, IPC Governing Board member José Luis Campos to the Rio 2016 Co-ordination Commission; Rita van Driel, also IPC Governing Board member, to the 2022 Evaluation Commission; IPC Athletes’ Council chair Todd Nichol to the IOC Athletes Commission as well as the PyeongChang 2018 Co-ordination Commission; and Tine Rindum Teilmann to the Women in Sport Commission.

Parsons will also represent the IPC on the new Olympic Channel Commission, which is meant to ensure all relevant stakeholders and experts are consulted throughout the growth and development of the Olympic Channel.

The Commissions will support the IOC Session, the IOC Executive Board and the IOC President in the implementation of the roadmap designed to shape the future of the Olympic Movement.

>> NEWS IN-BRIEF >>

**LEBANON:** The Lebanese Paralympic Committee hosted their first National Paralympic Day on 11 June in Beirut. It was attended by dignitaries and sports clubs from across the country.

**BOTSWANA:** Equipped with training from the Agitos Foundation’s Organisational Capacity Programme in 2014, the Paralympic Sports Association of Botswana held their National Paralympic Day on 27 May. About 400 athletes competed, and 58 officials oversaw the competitions.

**CANADA:** The Canadian Paralympic Committee launched a multiplatform campaign “The Games are Tough; the Athletes are Tougher” to generate excitement for their athletes ahead of August’s Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games.

**FRANCE:** Long-distance athlete Javi Conde became the first Spanish Paralympian appointed as ambassador for the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. He will collaborate on projects to support young people and children living in challenging environments around the world.

**SPAIN:** The Malaysian Wheelchair Rugby Federation hosted the inaugural South East Asia Wheelchair Rugby Workshop. The event, held 24-26 April, drew representatives from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, and focused on teaching basic game skills and growing the sport in the region.

**OBS:** The inaugural Paralympic Sport Technical Meeting took place 11-13 May in Madrid, Spain, with sports broadcasting as the main focus of the three-day meeting. It saw 25 delegates from 19 International Federations.

**MALAYSIA:** The Malaysian Wheelchair Rugby Federation hosted the inaugural South East Asia Wheelchair Rugby Workshop. The event, held 24-26 April, drew representatives from Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia, and focused on teaching basic game skills and growing the sport in the region.

**FRANCE:** The Abbott World Marathon Majors is expanding its series to include elite wheelchair athletes. For the first time, a male and female winner will be determined over a 12-month period based on scoring earned via results from six iconic global races, each will be awarded USD 50,000 for the championships.

**SWEDEN:** Margaret Israelsson was re-elected as chairman of the Swedish Para Sports Federation and Swedish Paralympic Committee.
At October’s IPC Athletics World Championships, one of the biggest rivalries will be in the T42 class between Martina Caironi and Vanessa Low. Here’s what the two had to say about each other.

Vanessa is a very determined athlete and a nice person.

Martina Caironi
@smartinella

What are your ambitions for Doha 2015?

Doha is an important step on my way to Rio. In the last years I worked very hard and I really hope I can execute all that and deliver a perfect race. I want to give an exciting race for the people watching, so getting as close as possible to my main competitor is the goal.

How would you describe your rival?

She has a lot of talent and took our class to a new level. A lot of my improvements are related to her as I had something to aim for. It keeps me motivated and makes me work harder on myself during training. I really wish that the quality of our class keeps improving and pushes her to be a better athlete as well.

What are your greatest achievements to date?

Winning the European title last year and breaking the world record at the IPC Athletics Grand Prix final were big achievements for me. In the past I had issues to execute when it counted, so finally winning a major title was very important for my head.

How has the Grand Prix series helped develop para-athletics?

Building the IPC Athletics Grand Prix series was an important step. In the past athletes disappeared after the Games and the next time you saw them was a year before the next Games. The Grand Prix events finally offer more occasions for para-athletes to compete on a big stage against other athletes in their class.

I just keep calm and try not to forget the stretching movements whilst music pulses in my ears.

2015 IPC Athletics World Championships
Dates: 23-31 October
Location: Doha, Qatar
www.doha2015.org

How ‘social’ are they?

A look at the Facebook and Twitter accounts of International Federations (IFs) and how they stack among others.

Number of Facebook likes and Twitter followers as of 31 July.

*Accounts for both able-bodied and para-sports.
**IF has separate Facebook/Twitter accounts for para-sport.
Never before has Latin America hosted a Paralympic Games. That will change one year from now, when the Paralympic flame will be lit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

As the Games prepare to enter uncharted territory, Chair of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Integration Committee Andrew Parsons envisions the impact the country can play in growing the Paralympic Movement in the Americas region.

“I think it’s perfect for the Paralympic Movement,” said Parsons, who is also President of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee. “We are reaching a new frontier. This is not the first Paralympic Games in South America – this is the first Paralympic Games in Latin America. So it’s all the opportunities that come with it in terms of development.”

The only time an Olympic or Paralympic Games came to Latin America was in the 1968 Olympics, which were held in Mexico City, Mexico. The Paralympic Games have been held in the Americas five times, but all were in North American host cities.

Rio 2016 will open new doors to para-athletes, and Parsons said they can expect a city and country that are “eager to welcoming” them and serving a new “Latin flavour.”

But there is much to be done to ensure a lasting taste.

“Let us provide a fantastic platform for the Paralympic athletes to succeed,” Parsons said. “We want to be the best Paralympic Games ever, and hope the Brazilian population can engage in that.”

“In terms of preparations, I think we are pretty much on schedule and on track with constructions of the Olympic Park and Athletes Village,” Parsons said. “I don’t see any major issues with that. Our focus has been on the test events to see if we are missing any part of the whole competition.”

Also on the to-do list is promoting the Games and both Brazilian and international athletes. That in turn could help with another priority: selling tickets, Parsons said.

The Rio 2016 Organising Committee hopes to build on marks set at London 2012, which sold a record 2.7 million tickets.

“We are very close to sportscasters of the Games,” Parsons said. “We have had a meeting with all the TV channels, and they want to take advantage of the fact that they have the rights of the Games.”

“We are very close to sportscasters of the Games,” Parsons said. “We have had a meeting with all the TV channels, and they want to take advantage of the fact that they have the rights of the Games.”

In addition to ticket sales records, venues in London were packed, and more broadcasters covered the Games than ever before, reaching 3.8 billion people worldwide.

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“Let us provide a fantastic platform for the Paralympic athletes to succeed,” Parsons said. “We want to be the best Paralympic Games ever, and hope the Brazilian population can engage in that.”

www.rio2016.com
Paralympic sites

Your guide to where all the action will take place a year from now.

1. Riocentro
   - Pavilion 2: Powerlifting
   - Pavilion 3: Table tennis
   - Pavilion 6: Sitting volleyball

2. Barra Olympic Park
   - Carioca Arena 1: Wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby
   - Carioca Arena 2: Boccia
   - Future Arena: Goalball
   - Olympic Aquatics Stadium: Swimming
   - Olympic Tennis Centre: Wheelchair tennis and football 5-a-side
   - Rio Olympic Arena: Wheelchair basketball
   - Rio Olympic velodrome: Track cycling

3. Pontal
   - Road cycling

4. Youth Arena: Wheelchair fencing

5. Deodoro Stadium: Football 7-a-side

6. Olympic Equestrian Centre: Equestrian

7. Olympic Shooting Centre: Shooting

8. Sambodromo: Archery

9. Olympic Stadium: Athletics

10. Lagoa stadium: Canoe and rowing

11. Fort Copacabana: Triathlon

12. Marina da Gloria: Sailing

Existing / to be renovated

To construct

Temporary

Paralympic sites

Rio de Janeiro

BRAZIL
When asked if the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games would be his last, Daniel Dias could only laugh.

The 27-year-old Brazilian was a hot commodity during July's IPC Swimming World Championships, winning an incredible seven gold medals. It is hard to imagine that his last hurrah could be one year from now.

He carried on at the World Championships, posing for pictures and speaking with media, all while lugging the weight of all that bling around his neck – the most of any of the 500-plus swimmers at the event. Dias' performance that week in Glasgow, Great Britain, seemed like an appetiser for what was to come next September.

The thought of bringing that performance to Rio de Janeiro stirred anticipation for Dias. “I am feeling kind of a good anxiety of being able to swim in Rio and have my country and family watch me,” Dias said. “I had a pre-experience back in 2007, when the Parapan Am Games were hosted there. I think it will be a good opportunity for all my countrymen to look at me, and even maybe getting a gold medal with them looking at me it will be nice.”

It would be Dias’ third Games, one where he can add to his collection of 10 Paralympic gold medals. It would also be one where Brazilians can watch, in person – many for the first time – what makes the native from Sao Paulo so dominant in the international pool.

The force that makes the native from Sao Paulo so dominant in the international pool. Maybe that will change the perception of people with impairments, exponentially, in his home country. “I hope we can show our people that people with disabilities are not poor people,” Dias said. “They don’t have to feel sorry about us. I expect the Games to create more opportunities to show our faces and what we can do.”

“We as people with disabilities, we want more opportunities [to do sports], and we hope our government can provide more of these opportunities for us. With the Games, we can show them how good we really are and how much better we can actually be with more resources.”

Perhaps, the Games could even encourage others to try swimming after seeing another of their own in Andre Brasil – a seven-time Paralympic champion – go for gold.

“I am excited that Brazil will host the next Paralympic Games,” Dias said. “I want to see swimming as a sport to do in our country instead of Brazil being soccer oriented.”

For Dias, Rio 2016 is his focus, and there are the competitions and training in between. He won four gold medals in Beijing 2008 and added six from London 2012. He followed that up with six titles at the 2013 World Championships. Dias seems to be defying age and getting faster. Maybe Rio 2016 will not be his peak.

Not wishing to be drawn on whether he will carry on after Rio and after another laugh in between, he added, “I will think about it.”

He is also enjoying the time with his son, who is a little more than a year old. With all that, it is difficult to look beyond a year but rather soak it all in.

“It is a hard time because you are training so much for big events and leaving your family,” Dias said. “Sometimes I need some rest.

And I still have a baby and I want to take two to three months to enjoy my family after the Paralympic Games.”

Wishing to be drawn on whether he will carry on after Rio and after another laugh in between, he added, “I will think about it.”
16 to look out for

Eight Brazilian stars

**Terezinha Guilhermina (Athletics)**
The star of women’s visually impaired sprinting for nearly a decade, the 34-year-old has won three Paralympic and eight world titles.

**Jan Francisco Brito da Costa (Football 7-a-side)**
Arguably the world’s best player, who at June’s World Championships staged his own goal of the tournament competition.

**Fernando Fernandes (Canoe)**
Fernandes is not just a multi-world champion but a world famous model so is certainly one to watch!

**Jefinho (Football 5-a-side)**
The “Paralympic Pele” first starred for Brazil at the 2007 Parapan American Games and was part of their gold medal winning side in 2008 and 2012.

**Romario Diego Marques (Goalball)**
Part of the Brazilian team that won silver at London 2012 and the world title in 2014 with a sensational 9-1 win over Paralympic champions Finland.

**Dirceu Jose Pinto (Boccia)**
Pinto is aiming to win the triple double at Rio 2016 having won individual BC4 and pairs BC4 gold at Beijing 2008 and London 2012.

**Daniel Dias (Swimming)**
Brazil’s most successful ever Paralympian gets better with age and recently won seven world titles at Glasgow 2015.

**Petrucio Ferreira (Athletics)**
In his first full year competing, the 18-year-old has smashed the seven-year-old 200m T46/47 world record.

**Sherif Othman (Powerlifting)**
After winning gold at the last two Paralympic Games, as well as multiple other titles, Othman moved up to 59kg class where he is already the world record holder.

**Alyda Norbruis (Cycling)**
Exelled at the 2015 UCI Paracycling Track World Championships winning three world titles and breaking one of her own world records.

**Sandra Paovic (Table tennis)**
Having competed at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Paovic has battled back from a life threatening car accident to become the world’s class 6.

**Marlo van Rhijn (Athletics)**
Since winning a gold and silver medal at London 2012, the Dutch blade runner has gone on to win two world and two European titles and break multiple world records.

**Shingo Kunieda (Wheelchair tennis)**
The world No. 1 last tasted a competitive loss in January 2014 and few would bet against him winning his third successive Paralympic singles gold at Rio 2016.

**Marlou van Rhijn (Athletics)**
Since winning a gold and silver medal at London 2012, the Dutch blade runner has gone on to win two world and two European titles and break multiple world records.

**Zak Madell (Wheelchair rugby)**
Madell was part of Canada’s silver medal winning side at London 2012 and was voted the Most Valuable Player at the 2014 IWF World Championships as Canada again won silver.

**Sandra Paovic (Table tennis)**
Having competed at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Paovic has battled back from a life threatening car accident to become the world’s class 6.

**Zahra Nemati (Archery)**
Nemati made history at London 2012 by becoming the first Iranian woman to win Olympic or Paralympic gold. In the years since, she has won world titles and broken world records.

**Martin Schultz (Triathlon)**
The P4 athlete currently tops the world rankings and in 2014 won his second consecutive world crown. He is unbeaten since October 2012.
This was the clear message from IPC President Sir Philip Craven to the Paralympic Movement in June as the IPC launched its Strategic Plan 2015-2018.

Developed during 2014 and early 2015, the new Strategic Plan aims to build on the success of the IPC’s last strategic planning cycle, a four year period which delivered many impressive results.

“Looking back, it’s hard to believe just how much has been delivered over the last four years,” Sir Philip said. “Soldout Games with record TV audiences in London and Sochi, the launch of the Agitos Foundation and the improvement in athletic performances are just a few of the highlights since 2011.

Although we should be delighted with what we’ve achieved, I don’t want us to waste time patting ourselves on the back. Instead, we have to continue making progress. The IPC and the Paralympic Movement have never been in a stronger position and it is vital that we continue to stay ahead of the game, taking advantage of the many opportunities out there.”

The new strategic plan focuses on three core goals – consolidating the growth of the Paralympic Games, increasing global participation in para-sport and improving the recognition and value of the Paralympic brand. These are supported by three drivers which are essential in everything the IPC does on a daily basis.

In developing the plan, the IPC also updated its aspiration, vision and values in order to reflect changes to the sporting and social landscape. Along the way, Sir Philip said it was critical that athletes and the IPC membership were consulted.

“We want the athletes of today, to become the leaders of tomorrow, so it was important that everything in the plan was looked at from an athlete viewpoint,” he said.

“I think the final plan is a great document and I am extremely excited about the IPC and the Paralympic Movement’s future.

“Sometimes I have to pinch myself at how far the Movement has come in such a short space of time, but the best news is that the Paralympic Movement’s best days still lie ahead.”
France’s Nicolas Peiffer, left, and Argentina’s Gustavo Fernandez win the Wimbledon men’s doubles title on 12 July.

The Netherlands’ Jiske Griffioen and Japan’s Shingo Kunieda each hoisted a pair of titles at Roland Garros.

Griffioen won her second consecutive — and second ever — singles Grand Slam title with a 6-0 6-2 win over doubles partner and compatriot Aniek van Koot.

Kunieda has become a regular in the Grand Slam winner’s circle and now holds 38 Grand Slam titles — 19 singles and 19 doubles. The top-seed defended his Roland Garros singles title, with a 6-1 6-0 win over France’s second-seed Stephane Houdet.

Griffioen and Kunieda also saw success in the doubles. Griffioen’s double partner Van Koot took Japan’s Yui Kamiji and Great Britain’s Jordanne Whiley to three sets for the 7-6 (1) 3-6 10-8 victory. Kunieda and Great Britain’s Gordon Reid defeated the duo of Argentina’s Gustavo Fernandez and France’s Nicolas Peifer 6-1 7-6(1) for the doubles title.

Canada struggled to convert any of their eight shots on goal.

In the bronze-medal match, Ilya Volkov scored the game-winning goal in overtime to give Russia the 2-1 victory over Norway for their second straight Worlds bronze.

Sergei Panfilov scored first to give Russia the 1-0 edge late in the first period. But Norway’s Jan Roger Klaekke tied the game, scoring off a pass from teammate Thomas Jacobsen. Then in overtime, Vasily Varlakov fed Volkov the puck, and Volkov scored to seal the deal for Russia. Russia’s Dmitry Lisov was bestowed with the Best Forward, whilst Canada’s Corbin Watson was named Best Goaltender.

Canadian goalkeeper Corbin Watson conceding a goal during the gold medal game against the USA at the 2015 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships A-Pool in Buffalo, USA.
Russia secured back-to-back Cerebral Palsy Football World titles with a 1-0 final win over European champions Ukraine at St. George's Park in Great Britain.

Going into the final of the 15 team tournament, there was not much to choose between the sides. Between them, the two had scored 50 goals, and conceded just one each on their way to the gold medal game.

Despite losing to Ukraine in the semi-finals of last year’s European Championships, Russia were the better team in the final and scored the winning goal through Alexander Kuligin.

In finishing third, Brazil showed they will be strong contenders for gold on home turf at Rio 2016. Jan Francisco Brito da Costa underlined why many consider him the sport’s best ever player with a number of sensational goals.

A new rivalry emerged from Glasgow 2015, with Ukraine’s Yelyzaveta Mereshko and Great Britain’s two-time Paralympic champion Ellie Simmonds making waves in the women’s S6 class.

USA’s multi-Paralympic and world champion Jessica Long came away as the most decorated female swimmer with seven medals (four golds), looking in top shape for Rio 2016.

In total, 38 world records were set in Glasgow 2015.

About 580 athletes across 70 countries competed, seeking to set themselves up for the Paralympics next year. The 21-year-old world and Paralympic champion was one gold medal short, winning six of his seven events – five were world records.

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GOALBALL: Turkey enjoyed double success at the 2015 IBSA Goalball European Championships A on 12 July in Kaunas, Lithuania. Turkey edged Finland 9-8 in the men’s finals; Lithuania won the bronze. The Turkish women downed Russia 5-0 for gold, and Ukraine captured bronze.

CYCLING: Italy rode away with the most gold medals (nine) at the UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championship, which concluded on 2 August in Nottwil, Switzerland. Italians Alex Zanardi (H5), Luca Maizzone (H2) and Francesca Porcellato (H3) each won their class’s road races and time trials, and also teamed up to retain the handcycling relay crown.

TRIATHLON: Athletes tested the course for para-triathlon’s Paralympic debut on 1 August during the test event for Rio 2016. Germany’s Martin Schulz continued his PT4 dominance, winning his race in 59:31. Great Britain’s Lauren Steadman highlighted the women’s side, winning the PT4 class in 1:08:46.

POWERLIFTING: Iran’s Siamand Rahman lifted a world-record 295kg to take gold in the men’s over 107kg at the 2015 IPC Powerlifting Asian Open Championships on 30 July in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

SHOOTING: Ukraine’s Andrii Doreshchenko won the R6 (mixed 50m rifle prone SH1) to wrap up the IPC Shooting World Cup on 14 July in Osijek, Croatia. Iran’s Samira Eram was victorious in an all-Iranian showdown in the P2 (women’s10m air pistol SH1).

SITTING VOLLEYBALL: Rwanda defeated Egypt 3-2 for the women’s ParaVolley Africa Sitting Volleyball Championship title on 29 July in Kigali, Rwanda. This was the first time the Championships included a women’s tournament. The Egyptian men beat Rwanda 3-0 for gold.

Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games
7-15 August

At the Closing Ceremony, Grammy award winner Wyclef Jean brought the curtain down on the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games, an event Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) President Jose Luis Campo described as the “best ever.”

The Games featured a record 1,607 athletes from 28 countries, including participants from Araba, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who competed for the first time. During eight days of competition across 15 sports, 10 world, 70 Americas and 239 Games records were set. Campo was full of praise for the athletes.

“Your record breaking performances speak for themselves. You are getting faster, stronger and more agile by the day. Your future is extremely bright and all roads now lead to Rio 2016 and South America’s first Paralympic Games,” he said.

The Games ended with 18 of the 28 participating countries winning at least one medal. Bermuda won their first Paralympic gold, a gold courtesy of T35 wheelchair racer Jessica Lewis, and Trinidad and Tobago won their first Parapan titles thanks to F43 thrower Akeem Stewart in the discus and javelin events. Nicaragua also medalled for the first time with athletes from the country taking home six gold medals and one bronze.

Campo said: “Here in Toronto, we have seen a growing depth of talent across all sports and athletes from the Americas Games come of age.

“I would like to thank all 28 competing nations, as well as the international federations, for developing these super-human athletes. They have inspired and excited us all and I am certain athletes of the Americas will enjoy more medal success than ever before at Rio 2016.”

Host nation Canada enjoyed their best ever Games, winning 168 medals, including 50 golds, to finish second in the medals table behind Brazil.

Team Brazil

What more can be said about a team that won 257 medals, including 109 golds, and dominated sports such as athletics, tennis, football 5, football 7, goalball, swimming and table tennis? A top five finish at Rio 2016 looks very likely.

Medals Table

**TOP THREE STANDOUTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(All形象和数据来自赛事官方网站)
The PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games will feature more athletes and more medal events than ever before after the athlete and medal event quotas for the Games were approved in June.

A maximum of 670 athletes will compete in the Games, contesting 80 medal events. There is also expected to be a 44 per cent increase in the number of female athletes competing in the Games compared to Sochi 2014.

Snowboard, which made its Paralympic debut in 2014, is the biggest beneficiary of this latest announcement. In 2018 it will feature 10 medal events, eight more than in Sochi, and will involve a maximum of 106 athletes.

The medals programme for alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing and ice sledge hockey will remain unchanged, whilst in wheelchair curling the size of the competition will be increased from 10 to 12 mixed-sex teams.

In June, the Organising Committee also announced that the slogan for the Games will be “Passion. Connected.”

www.pyeongchang2018.com

PyeongChang 2018

Athletes and citizens of Tokyo joined together in a mass demonstration event on 25 August to celebrate the five-year countdown until the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Alongside his teammate, Andre Brasil, right, won three gold medals at the 2015 World Championships held 13-19 July in Great Britain

www.rio2016.com

Rio 2016

Rio staged a festival alongside the iconic Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas on 7 September to mark one year to go until the Paralympic Games and officially launched ticket sales.

With the launch coinciding with Brazil’s Independence Day, thousands of people attended the fun-packed day-long event, which attracted star para-athletes from around the world.

One of the highlights was a 100m race to decide the world’s fastest male and female para-athletes, with Ireland’s Jason Smyth and Cuba’s Omara Durand earning the crowns, respectively.

The race brought together the fastest sprinters from various classes – including Australia’s Evan O’Hanlon and the USA’s Richard Browne – for the first time to race against each other.

Away from the running track, Brazil’s 5-a-side football team, gold medalists at the last three Paralympic Games, faced off against arch-rivals Argentina. Brazil were unable to repeat their 2-1 Parapan American Games victory in August, as the match came to a 0-0 draw.

There were also demonstrations in wheelchair tennis, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball and other activities.

Rio 2016 aim to sell 3.3 million tickets for next year’s Paralympics, a figure that would surpass the record 2.7 million tickets that were sold for London 2012.

With around 300 sessions, ticket costs range between BRL 10 and BRL 130. Prices for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies vary from BRL 100 to BRL 1,200.

Ticket requests for Brazilians began on 7 September, with the launch of the draws in October and online sales in December. Tickets will be delivered in May 2016, and ticket office sales will begin the following month.

The sales to fans from abroad will go through the official National Paralympic Committees and Authorised Ticket Resellers. Each ATR can choose the date to begin sales as long as it is after 7 September.

www.rio2016.com

www.pyeongchang2018.com

Tokyo 2020

Alongside his teammate, Andre Brasil, right, won three gold medals at the 2015 World Championships held 13-19 July in Great Britain

www.tokyo2020.com

The celebration was a glimpse of how the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games will be five years from now, as it fostered a welcoming environment and strengthened the “Unity in Diversity” concept among citizens.

“I hope that the 2020 Paralympics will change general perceptions of sports for persons with impairment and that the sports will continue to develop way beyond the 2020 Games,” Koizai said.

In June, Tokyo 2020 announced that it will be the fourth Organising Committee to benefit from the IPC Academy Excellence Programme.

The IPC Academy will deliver a range of knowledge workshops over the next five years geared toward enhancing the planning and delivery of the 2020 Paralympic Games.

www.tokyo2020.com
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Paralympian 02 2015

21-31 October

IPC Athletics World Championships

Following the conclusion of this year’s hugely successful Grand Prix series, around 1,300 athletes from 100 countries will head to Doha, Qatar, to battle it out for 214 world titles.

Taking place less than 12 months before Rio 2016, competition in Doha is likely to be fierce with athletes not just competing for medals but also qualification slots for next year’s Paralympic Games.

Two years ago in Lyon, France, Russia topped the medals table. With the likes of Margarita Goncharova, Evgenii Shvetsov and Vladimir Sviridov all in superb form already this year, they will be strong contenders to repeat the feat this October.

Many world records have fallen already this year, and with Italy’s Martina Caironi and Cuba’s Omara Durand both in action, the history books are likely to be rewritten.

Each day, live coverage of both sessions, together with live results, will be available at the event website. www.doha2015.org

Peacock is the defending 100m T44 Paralympic and world champion who has never lost to Browne in a major event. Browne however has been in sensational form for the last two years. He has not lost a race since Lyon 2013.

Richard Browne (USA) vs Jonnie Peacock (GBR)

In Weir’s absence, Hug won five world and four European titles in 2013 and 2014. Hug has never beaten Weir, who won four golds at London 2012, in a major event.

Marcel Hug (SUI) vs David Weir (GBR)

The T56 rivalry between these two could be spectacular. Hahn won the 100m world title in 2013, but Goncharova got the better of her at the 2014 Europeans.

Sophie Hahn (GBR) vs Margarita Goncharova (RUS)

Brazilians have dominated the T11 class for the last decade partly due to Prado winning all three sprints golds at the Beijing 2008 Paralympics and 100m and 200m gold at the 2011 and 2013 World Championships. But Brown, who is coached by Brazilian Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz, is the form athlete having set new 100m and 200m world records in 2014.

David Brown (USA) vs Lucas Prado (BRA)

Since winning the discus F44 world title in 2011, Greaves played second fiddle to Campbell as his American rival won gold at London 2012 and Lyon 2013, and took the world record. But in 2014 Greaves hit back, topping the world rankings and picking up European and Commonwealth crowns.

Jeremy Campbell (USA) vs Dan Greaves (GBR)
The 2015 wheelchair tennis season will come to a close this November at London’s Queen Elizabeth Park, Great Britain, with Japan’s Shingo Kunieda, the Netherlands’ Jiske Griffioen and the USA’s David Wagner all looking to retain the titles they won at last year’s event.

Before London however, the world’s best players will convene in September for the US Open in New York. Having won the Australian and French Open singles titles, victory at Flushing Meadows will result in Kunieda completing his fifth career Grand Slam.

Dutch player Jiske Griffioen could also become the first to complete the women’s singles Grand Slam since the retirement of compatriot Esther Vergeer in 2013.

In the quads division, Australia’s Dylan Alcott is the player to beat.

Hungary’s Richard Osvath, right, faces France’s Damien Tokatlian during the men’s foil semi-final at the London 2012 Paralympic Games

The world’s best wheelchair fencers will gather in Eger, Hungary, for the World Championships with a number of home favourites looking for titles.

On home territory, the likes of Richard Osvath, Zsuzsanna Krajnyak and Eva Hajmasi will be difficult to beat. With the Paralympics fast approaching however, Hong Kong’s Yu Chui Yee, Italy’s teenage sensation Beatrice Vio and France’s Romain Noble will also be keen to make their marks.

The highest ranked male and female in each individual event will qualify directly for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.
How can the Paralympic Movement grow in between the Games?

Ryan Montgomery
Head of IPC Athletics

The Paralympic Movement needs to develop a 365 days-a-year sporting calendar, whereby a good quality para-sport event takes place each week that spectators, the media, broadcasters, sponsors and athletes can engage in.

Previously, many of the world's top athletes did not compete against each other outside of the Paralympic Games or World Championships. The IPC Athletics Grand Prix series, which we launched in 2013, has addressed this. With the world's best athletes regularly competing against each other, the series has quickly grown into 10 events in five continents. Athletic performance is improving all the time, and the sport has received more media and broadcast coverage than ever before outside of the Games, which has attracted greater interest from spectators.

In between, we are developing regional Championships, either as standalone events (like we have in Europe and next year for the first time in Asia/Oceania), or which are integrated into events such as the Parapan American Games or African Games.

At the very top level we have the Paralympic Games and the biennial World Championships and at the grassroots level we have IPC approved competitions.

Over the last two years, this long-term approach, focusing on structured competition and classification models and backed by an innovative promotional strategy, has led to significant increases in athlete participation, competition approvals, media coverage and sponsorship revenues.

I am confident that this approach by other sports could lead to similar results and help us achieve a 365-day sporting calendar.

Chuck Aoki
USA wheelchair rugby player

"So what's next?"

I think pretty much every Paralympian has heard this question immediately following the Games.

The standard answer has always been, "Well, the next one is just four years away!" And this answer satisfies most people. Your average Paralympic or Olympic fan is content to tune in every four years, watch the events they know and love, and then tune out again for four more years.

There are some advantages to having the Games every four years. It reinforces the elite nature of the Games and allows for there to be build up to each edition, to make them special. The downside however, is that the athletes and sports are often then forgotten about during this layoff. Here at USA Wheelchair Rugby, however, we are working hard to generate more and more interest in our sport every year.

To that end, we have been working with USA Rugby, our able-bodied counterpart here in the USA, to promote our sport. Whether it is attending events that USA Rugby hosts or rebranding our logo to resemble theirs, we have been committed fully to growing wheelchair rugby here in the United States.

Globally, the growth of the sport has been tremendous as well. New nations all across the world have begun playing our sport, from Russia to South Africa and Thailand. Events such as the World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge taking place later this year in London, Great Britain, have already sold out many games and look to further expose wheelchair rugby by being aired on ITV4 in Britain. Wheelchair rugby has made its Parapan American Games debut at Toronto 2015, and tickets to the finals were sold out even before those Games began. There is no doubt that wheelchair rugby will be a hot ticket once again in Rio 2016.

You might want to start reserving your tickets now!
The evolution of para-snowboard

How the sport made its way into the Paralympic programme

We realised our sport was not ready for this big step and that we needed more time to fine tune the format and rules.

Soon after, our format became clear. We decided athletes would compete in a Slingshot Boardercross (SBX) with each rider completing three runs. The winner would be the rider with the fastest two runs. Different disabilities competed against each other based on our factor system. The format was straightforward, accessible for everyone and a way for each athlete to compete together in the same class.

We got in touch with the IPC, started to put our rules and regulations in place and learned the criteria we had to meet to join the Paralympic programme.

In August 2011, we were informed that Sochi 2014 had not accepted us for the Games. Devastated, we immediately started to focus on PyeongChang 2018.

Nine months later, with our minds already set on 2018, we got very exciting news: the IPC announced para-snowboarding for athletes with lower-limb impairments would be able to compete at Sochi 2014 after all!

We were ecstatic. I was so happy and proud.

Since then, the sport has professionalised extremely quick.

Coaches from the Olympic SBX circuit got involved, riders started using personal customised boards and wax technicians were at the start of our competitions preparing the boards, bringing more professionalism and speed to our descents.

On 14 March 2014, para-snowboarding was introduced to the whole world at Sochi 2014. A year later, upper-limb disabilities have been added and a new discipline, Banked Slalom, was introduced. The first IPC Snowboard World Championships were held, we have formed our own Sports Technical Committee (STC), and athletes are getting more and more involved in the sport’s growth.

The IPC has announced 10 medal events for PyeongChang 2018, divided between SBX and Banked Slalom. At this point, female athletes with an upper-limb disability are still not on the programme, but I am convinced that they will be added as soon as they realise that they are more than welcome to join us.
IPC Vision: “To enable para-athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.”