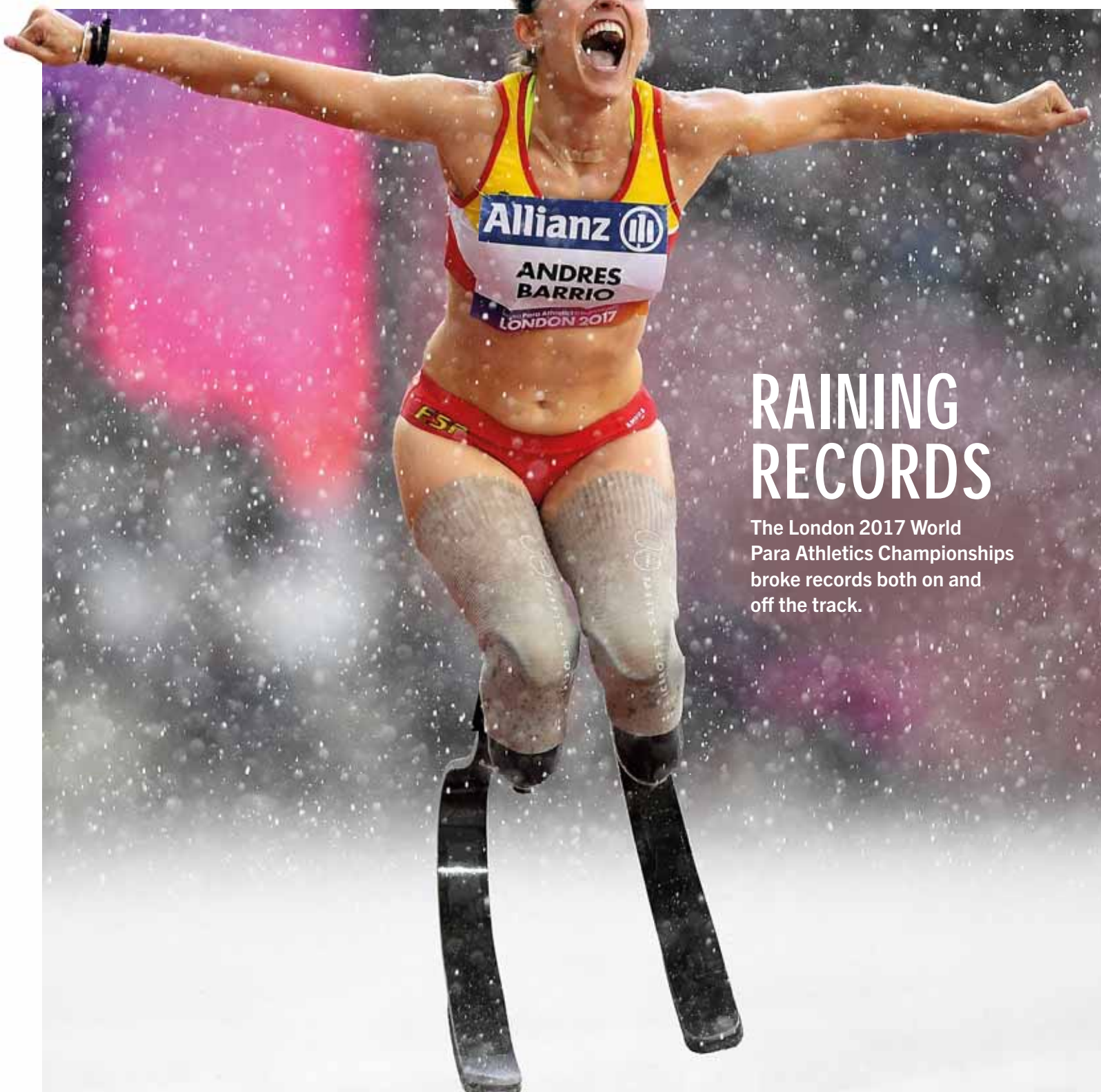


OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

# THE PARALYMPIAN



ISSUE # 02 | 2017



## RAINING RECORDS

The London 2017 World Para Athletics Championships broke records both on and off the track.

### > NEWS

Coming up, Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028

### > FEATURE

Meet new IPC President Andrew Parsons

### > INTERVIEW

Alpine skiing legend plans to quit after PyeongChang 2018





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Bob Martin (Olympic Information Services) captured this stunning image of German high jumper Reinhold Botzel clearing the bar at Rio 2016. Martin received the Paralympic Award for Best Photography for this photo in September.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*“Despite the busy start, I have not taken my focus off the fact that as IPC President I am responsible for leading the Governing Board in setting the strategic direction of the organisation.”*

Dear friends,

**W**elcome to this edition of The Paralympian, my first as IPC President.

I must say that I left September's IPC General Assembly excited and honoured about being elected by the IPC membership, but also really well aware of the tremendous responsibility I have to lead the Paralympic Movement.

Under the guidance of my predecessor Sir Philip Craven, the IPC and the Movement experienced exponential growth. As a result the Paralympic Games are now regarded as the world's number one sporting event for driving social inclusion.

Moving forward, the IPC must continue to offer open, collaborative and strong leadership, while supporting all of our 202 members more than ever.

Since my election, I have enjoyed a busy few months introducing myself to many stakeholders within the Paralympic and Olympic Movements. This has included meetings with IOC President Bach, IPC commercial partners and broadcasters, IPC staff and committee members and the leaders of the PyeongChang 2018 and Tokyo 2020 Organising Committees.

Despite the busy start, I have not taken my focus off the fact that as IPC President I am responsible for leading the Governing Board in setting the strategic direction of the organisation.

Next year we will start a full review of the IPC Governance Structure where the whole of the membership and every one of our constituencies, mainly the athletes, will have the possibility to contribute and be listened to.

This edition of The Paralympian looks back at a busy summer of World Championships, looks ahead to upcoming Paralympic Games and profiles the outstanding work that is being done by the NPCs of Laos and Peru. There is also advice on how to live stream a sport event and details of the latest beneficiaries of the Agitos Foundation's Grant Support Programme.

Finally, this magazine also pays tribute to Jose Luis Campo, one of the Paralympic Movement's most valued members who sadly passed away in October. I called him “Maestro” as he taught me so much about Para Sport and I hope in the years to come I can display the same levels of passion and enthusiasm he had for the Paralympic Movement. He led the way in supporting athletes with high support needs and it is fitting that in this edition we look at what more can be done to create more opportunities for this particular group of athletes.

Happy reading!

Andrew Parsons  
IPC President



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THE PARALYMPIAN

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Athletes with high support needs are one of the smallest groups in the Movement. What can be done to increase their participation?

70 THE LAST WORD

In memory of Jose Luis Campo, a legend for the Movement in the Americas.



# IPC wins major international award



The IPC was named one of three laureates for the prestigious LUI Che Woo Prize – Prize for World Civilisation, winning the Positive Energy category, with the Specific Area of Focus on “Promotion of Harmony among Diverse Groups.”

The Paralympic Movement’s global governing body was recognised for its outstanding work in encouraging Para athletes around the world in celebration and competitive participation in sports, changing the society’s long-held biases towards people with an impairment, and offering hope to them.

Sir Philip Craven, former IPC President, received the award on behalf of the IPC during a ceremony in Hong Kong in October. The event was

attended by more than a thousand esteemed guests who believe in the value of sharing harmony promoted by the Prize. Representatives and athletes from NPC Hong Kong were also in attendance.

“I would just want to say how proud I am of what the IPC and Paralympic Movement has achieved to date. Thanks to this prize we can do even more to show to the world that with positive energy absolutely anything is possible in life,” said Sir Philip.

Each laureate received a cash award of HKD 20 million (equivalent to approximately USD 2.56 million), a certificate and a trophy.

“The three laureates of the LUI Che Woo Prize this year, coming from

different countries, are all role models in their respective fields,” said Dr. Lui Che Woo, Founder & Chairman of the Board of Governors cum Prize Council of the LUI Che Woo Prize. “The three laureates not only contribute to advancing world civilisation, but also fully demonstrate the spirit of ‘gratefulness,’ ‘unity’ and ‘harmony.’ I hope that you will continue to support the LUI Che Woo Prize and share our vision for building a peaceful and loving world, so that this seed will grow sustainably and spread more positive energy in the society.”

The LUI Che Woo Prize is an international, cross-sector, innovative prize. In order to address ever-evolving global needs and challenges, each year the Prize will set a Specific Area of Focus under each Prize Category.

## Channel 4 Rio 2016 advert recognised



British broadcaster Channel 4 received more worldwide recognition for their Paralympic advert “We’re the Superhumans,” scooping the Cannes Lions Award in Entertainment Sports: Film, Series and Audio.

Channel 4’s campaign beat out Pepsico’s “The Rugby Boys of Memphis” and Budweiser/ESPN’s “The Debut” documentary. The award was one of several handed out during the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity.

It recognises excellent examples of sports entertainment in films, documentaries, series, livestreams and audio content. Winning entries have sport at their core and aim to amplify a brand’s message and increase audience engagement.

Channel 4’s advert also took the Silver Lion in Excellence in Sponsorship or Partnerships in Sports Entertainment.

The ad brought together a world record 160 different people with an impairment.

Dancers, gymnasts, rock stars, a rally driver and a rock climber, and a child with prosthetic limbs all featured alongside British Para athletes who went on to star at Rio 2016.

## IPC Commercial and Marketing Director named young leader



IPC Commercial and Marketing Director Alexis Schaefer was among those named to the prestigious Leaders Under 40 Awards Class of 2017 in the ‘Leadership category’ by the Leaders and Aspire Academy.

A black tie Awards Dinner was held at the iconic Natural History Museum in London, Great Britain, on 3 October during Leaders Week. With an audience of over 500 established and inspiring leaders in the room, all 42 candidates selected for the Class of 2017 were recognised for their achievements and for the impact they have made to their discipline, organisation and sport.

Around 580 nominations were received over the nine-month campaign. The categories included this year were Digital, Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Marketing & Communications, Sales, and Legal & Governance.

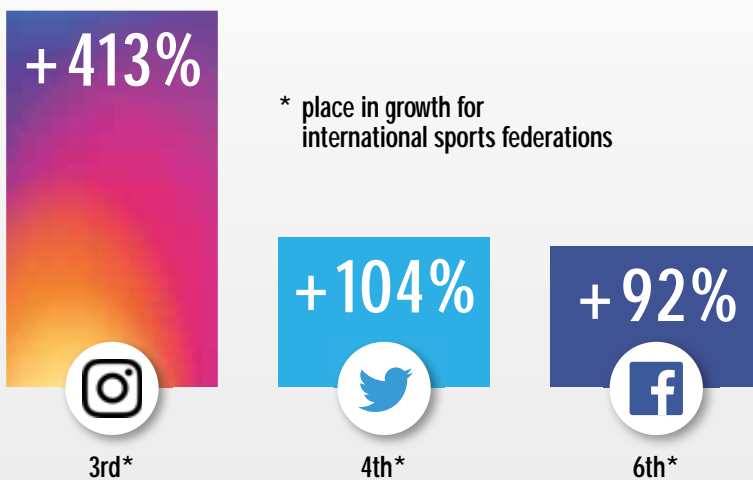
“To be recognised by such a quality jury for this prestigious award is an honour for me,” said Schaefer, who has worked at the IPC for 14 years. “This is a consequence of the huge effort made not only by the IPC Commercial and Marketing Team, but also by the entire IPC Management Team during 2017, which was both exhausting and rewarding.”



# @Paralympics among most followed sports accounts



## PERCENTAGE GROWTH OF @PARALYMPICS



The IPC's social media accounts enjoyed one of the biggest growths among sports governing bodies, breaking into the top 10 in the most followed accounts in the world.

A report from Sportcal Social Media Index 2017 analysed the growth and development of the top 65 sports governing bodies' media accounts across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

The IPC was the only major mover in the top 10 in the overall rank and percentage growth for international sports federations, as it moved up seven places

to No. 9, recording close to 99 per cent growth across all four platforms.

There was significant development in @Paralympics on Instagram, which saw the third highest growth rate with 413 per cent; its Twitter account was the fourth highest among international federations with a 104 per cent growth rate; and Facebook enjoyed a 92 per cent growth rate, the sixth highest.

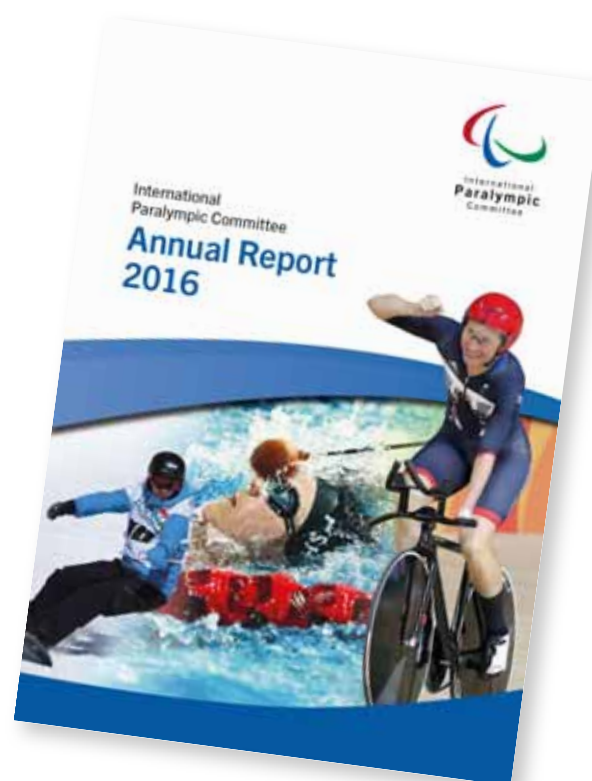
In the lead-up to and during the Rio 2016 Paralympics, the IPC's social media activity ultimately reached 1.6 billion people through various content, such as feature series and event-based materials.

# IPC publishes Annual Report

The 2016 Annual Report was published online, providing an update on the IPC's progress in meeting the six strategic objectives outlined in its Strategic Plan 2015-2018. The report also highlights the progress made by the 10 Para sports for which the IPC acts as international federation during the last 12 months.

## Key highlights include:

- Successful delivery of **Rio 2016**, the best **Paralympic Games** to date in terms of athletic performance
- Record growth in **global TV** audiences for the Paralympics to a cumulative audience of **4.1 billion people in 154 countries**
- Record **digital engagement** for the Paralympic Movement with activities reaching **1.6 billion people**
- Participation at Rio 2016 of the Independent Paralympic Athletes team featuring **two refugee athletes**
- Strong and effective governance in the face of one of the biggest ever crises in the Paralympic Movement
- Renewal of **partnership** agreements with **Ottobock**, **Allianz** and **BP** through to 2020, and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the **IOC** through to 2032
- The continued work of the **Agitos Foundation** in developing Para sport around the world.



# Russian Paralympic Committee suspension update



Andy Parkinson is the independent chairperson heading the Taskforce that assists the IPC in determining whether the RPC has met the reinstatement criteria.

The IPC Governing Board decided to maintain the suspension of the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC), with a further review due later this year following the WADA Foundation Board meeting.

However, it has put in place a limited interim measure for Russian athletes to compete as neutrals in qualification events across four sports for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, subject to meeting certain published conditions.

This limited interim measure is intended to preserve the ability of the RPC to enter its qualified athletes into PyeongChang 2018 should it have its suspension lifted in time. The IPC also hopes this decision will further encourage the RPC and crucially the Russian authorities to meet the remaining reinstatement criteria as soon as possible.

The sports where Russian athletes meeting the pre-determined conditions will be allowed to compete as neutrals in alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing and snowboard. Under the sport rules for Para ice hockey, Russia has already missed the opportunity to qualify for PyeongChang 2018.

In an update to the IPC Governing Board on 3 September, the IPC Taskforce – responsible for monitoring the RPC's progress in meeting

the reinstatement criteria – highlighted that seven key measures still need to be met before it is able to recommend the reinstatement of the RPC:

- The finalisation of the RPC Anti-Doping Rules, to be approved by the Taskforce
- The approval of the RPC's constitution by the IPC membership department
- Completion of all budget-related aspects of the reinstatement criteria
- The provision and confirmation of certain additional information by the RPC regarding personnel and governance (reinstatement criteria 10 and 14.2), as specified by the Taskforce
- The provision of further information relating to the composition of the RPC board, to be defined by the Taskforce (reinstatement criterion 12)
- The full reinstatement of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
- The provision of an official response specifically and adequately addressing the findings made by Professor McLaren.

The IPC will provide its next update on the RPC in late December.

Full details and background on the RPC's suspension:

➔ [www.paralympic.org/russian-paralympic-committee-suspension](http://www.paralympic.org/russian-paralympic-committee-suspension)

## ++ NEWS IN-BRIEF ++

+++ **KAZAKHSTAN, BELGIUM:** Toyota Motor Kazakhstan and NPC Kazakhstan signed an agreement. The two will work together to promote the brand of the nation's Paralympic team at Paralympic Games and other sporting competitions until 2024. NPC Belgium and Toyota signed an agreement until the 2024 Paralympic Games which will benefit the country's Para athletes in their preparations.

+++ **USA:** BP will sponsor the US national teams for cycling, swimming, track and field, alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and snowboarding in their respective preparations for PyeongChang 2018 and Tokyo 2020.

+++ **WADA:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published the 2018 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods. The list can be found at [www.wada-ama.org](http://www.wada-ama.org) and takes effect on 1 January 2018.

+++ **SWITZERLAND:** NPC Switzerland extended its partnership with Swiss International Airlines (SWISS) until 2020.

+++ **NEW ZEALAND:** NPC New Zealand and its commercial partners ACC, Cadbury and Sanford took top honours in the commercial partnership category at the 2017 New Zealand Sport and Recreation Awards, the country's most prestigious sports industry awards.

+++ **BROADCASTING:** TVNZ and Attitude Pictures, who brought live and free-to-air coverage of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games to 2.2 million viewers last year, extended their media partnership with the IPC to bring key Para sport events to New Zealand audiences until 2020.

+++ **IPC:** DB Schenker and Nielsen Sports both extended their agreements with the IPC until the end of 2020. Nielsen is the global leader in insights, analytics and consulting solutions in sport and will help the IPC optimise its commercial strategy leading up to the 2020 Paralympics. DB Schenker will provide logistics, courier services, freight forwarding and customs clearance services for a number of IPC events, including the upcoming Paralympics.

+++ **EUROPE:** The IPC struck an agreement with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) that covers media rights on all platforms for PyeongChang 2018 and Tokyo 2020. The new agreement covers all EBU territories, except the Russia and the United Kingdom; Channel 4 secured exclusive UK broadcast rights until after Tokyo 2020.



# VISTA 2017 provides forum for sports scientists, researchers on Para sports



Victoria Goosey-Tolfrey was awarded the Scientific Award and delivered a keynote speech at VISTA 2017



The eighth and largest VISTA Conference gathered more than 300 sports scientists and researchers from 41 countries to provide a forum for exchange on current information, expertise on Paralympic sport science and the Paralympic Movement. It concluded in Toronto, Canada, on 24 September, and was organised through a partnership between the IPC, the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) and the Canadian Sport Institute Ontario (CSIO) and was presented by Pfizer Canada Inc.

"This conference was very successful," said Marc-André Fabien, president of the CPC. "We thank the Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto for their exceptional support. And also Pfizer Canada Inc. for being a fantastic partner."

The theme of this year's conference was: "Opportunities and challenges in Paralympic sport science and medicine support."

"It was a fantastic conference," said Dr. Yves Vanlandewijck, chairperson of the IPC's Scientific Committee. "I would like to thank all the contributors for the quality they bring to the conference. Science is important because science brings knowledge and brings understanding and brings debate."

Britain's Victoria Goosey-Tolfrey was presented with the Scientific Award on the opening night and each day's sessions were launched by major international Paralympic sports researchers and scientists as the keynote speakers.

Those keynote speakers were Dr. Cheri Blauwet of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Rory Cooper of the University of Pittsburgh and Canada's own Dr. Laura Misener from Western University.

In total there were 132 oral and poster presentations, and 10 interactive workshops.

The next VISTA conference will be held in 2019 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

# Toyota Launches "Start Your Impossible" Global Corporate Campaign



## TOYOTA

Toyota Motor Corporation launched "Start Your Impossible" — a global corporate campaign that aims to inspire Toyota employees, partners, and customers and connect them with the company's core beliefs.

Toyota believes that mobility goes beyond cars; it is about overcoming challenges and making dreams come true. The "Start Your Impossible" campaign reflects these values and highlights the company's goal to provide freedom of mobility for all.

As the first mobility sponsor of the Olympics Games and Paralympic Games from 2020,

Toyota aims to offer mobility services and logistics expertise. The first "Start Your Impossible" film, "Mobility for All," introduces transportation solutions that are being developed for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. Going forward, "Start Your Impossible" will also include a variety of additional programmes focused on employees, dealers and consumers, as well as an ongoing commitment to developing mobility solutions, including in collaboration with the Toyota Mobility Foundation.

Toyota also launched a new website built to be accessible for users with various impairments and to allow all users to experience the site and all its content.

[www.MobilityForAll.com](https://www.MobilityForAll.com)





# 2017 Paralympic Award Winners

The 2017 Paralympic Sport and Media Awards, supported by Allianz, honouring achievements from the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games were announced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

**BEST BROADCAST**

**Canadian Paralympic Broadcast Consortium**

The Canadian Paralympic Committee acquired domestic broadcast and digital rights to Rio 2016, creating the Canadian Paralympic Broadcast Media Consortium. The group included high profile media organisations working together in Paralympic coverage.

**BEST MALE**

**Siamand Rahman (Iran) powerlifting**

World's strongest Paralympian broke his own world record by lifting 310kg to claim his second consecutive Paralympic title.

**BEST OFFICIAL**

**Kate McLoughlin, Australian Paralympic Committee (APC)**

The APC's first female Chef de Mission of any Paralympic team. Her leadership and support for the 177 athletes and 150 officials leading up to and during Rio 2016 helped Australia achieve fifth place in the medals table.

**BEST FEMALE DEBUT**

**Beatrice Vio (Italy) wheelchair fencing**

Captured gold in the women's individual foil category B aged 19. Was the only quadruple-amputee in international wheelchair fencing and also led the Italian team to a bronze medal in the team foil.

**BEST MALE DEBUT**

**Laurens Devos (Belgium) table tennis**

Became the youngest male Paralympic table tennis champion aged 16 after winning gold in the men's singles class 9 without dropping a single set in the finals.

**BEST FEMALE**

**Omara Durand (Cuba) athletics**

The world's fastest female Paralympian won a trio of gold medals, smashing her own world records in the 100m and 400m T12 and setting a Paralympic record in the 200m T12.

**BEST WRITTEN**

**Marca (Spain)**

Spectacular daily coverage of the Games, including two full pages in print about the competition. They told inspiring human stories, including four pages on the day of the Opening Ceremony.

**BP COURAGE AWARD**

**Ammar Hadi Ali (Iraq) wheelchair fencing**

Persevered despite personal challenges and adversity due to the Iraqi conflict; won Iraq's first Paralympic medal in the sport.



**BEST TEAM**

**Turkish women's goalball team**

In their first appearance at a Paralympic Games, Turkey upset favourites and three-time Paralympic silver medallists China 4-1 to claim their maiden Paralympic title.

**PARALYMPIC ORDER RECIPIENTS**



**1 SIR PHILIP CRAVEN**

Five-time Paralympian, former President of IWBF and IPC President 2001-2017

**2 ANN CODY**

Three-time US Paralympian in wheelchair basketball and athletics and IPC Governing Board member 2005-2017

**3 KARL VILHELM NIELSEN**

Three-time Paralympian and Chairperson of the Danish Sports Organisation for the Disabled Executive Board

**4 MIGUEL SAGARRA**

Secretary General of NPC Spain; IPC Vice President 2005-2009; Member at Large IPC Governing Board 2009-2017

**5 PAUL DEPACE**

International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) President

**6 GERARD MASSON**

Former President of NPC France and President of French Handisport







## First women's football 5-a-side tournament concludes

Japan made its mark in football 5-a-side history after it won the inaugural International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Women's Blind Football Tournament. The competition was held in Vienna, Austria, in May.

Japan defeated an IBSA select team 1-0.

The IBSA team featured players from Austria, Belgium, France and Germany. Great Britain and Greece tied for third.

The tournament followed a football 5-a-side training camp, which brought together 74 participants from 16 countries, including 60 women.

Both the camp and the tournament were part of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)-backed IBSA Blind Football Development Project Europe and were held in partnership with the Austrian Disability Sports Federation.

## World Para Athletics, Allianz continue partnership

World Para Athletics and world leading insurer and financial services provider Allianz SE have extended their global partnership agreement until the end of 2018, and secured an option to continue the deal through to 2020. The international federation for Para athletics also signed an agreement with Sportissimo to become an official supplier of the sport until at least the end of 2018.

Under the agreement, Allianz will support the 2018 European Championships in Berlin, Germany. This is the second time Allianz has renewed its partnership with World Para Athletics; the company became the first global partner in 2014 and extended its agreement in March 2015.

Sportissimo became the first Official Supplier of the sport's International Federation. The agreement will see the Italian manufacturer provide athletics-specific equipment, devices and accessories to Local Organising Committees of World Para Athletics.



BBC Radio 5 Live's Tim Peach takes part in a 'virtual reality' wheelchair race at the World Para Athletics Championships in London, Great Britain, in July

## Summer sports strategies

The IPC published a Strategic Plan detailing how it plans to develop the four summer World Para Sports between now and 2020. It acts as international federation for athletics, powerlifting, shooting and swimming.

The document aims to build on the achievements of the 2013 IPC Sports Strategic Plan and focuses on six goals:

1. Competition development
2. World Para Sport and athlete development
3. World Para Sport brand
4. World Para Sport funding
5. Organisation infrastructure
6. World Para Sport partnerships

In addition, all four World Para Sports developed their own strategic objectives and key measures which will help them track performance and deliverables between now and 2020.

[paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/athletics](http://paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/athletics)

[paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/powerlifting](http://paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/powerlifting)

[paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/shooting](http://paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/shooting)

[paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/swimming](http://paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications/swimming)



## IPC, VISA extend partnership until 2020

As part of the new agreement, the IPC and Visa will work together over the coming years to create engaging digital media campaigns that support the Games and athletes, and highlight innovative payment technologies around the world.

Visa's Worldwide Paralympic Partnership with the IPC dates back to 2003 and under the agreement Visa retains exclusive marketing and promotional rights within the Payment Services category and activation opportunities for financial institution clients and merchants throughout the world.

As part of its support of the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, Visa announced its global roster for Team Visa.

The USA's Para biathlete and Para cross-country skier Oksana Masters, Canada's Para alpine skier Mac Marcoux, South Korea's Para ice hockey player Seung-Hwan Jung and China's Para cross-country skier Beibei Chu are the four Paralympic athletes and hopefuls included in the team, alongside a number of Olympic winter athletes.

Visa founded its Team Visa programme in 2000 with the aim of providing Olympic and Paralympic athletes and hopefuls with the tools, resources and support they need to achieve their lifelong dreams, both on and off the field of competition and regardless of their origin or background.



Oksana Masters  
USA



Mac Marcoux  
Canada



Seung-Hwan Jung  
South Korea



Beibei Chu  
China

## ++ NEWS IN-BRIEF ++

+++ **TABLE TENNIS:** The Slovenian towns of Celje and Lasko will host the 2018 World Para Table Tennis Championships from 15–21 October. Around 330 athletes will compete in 21 medal events.

+++ **USA:** The USA's wheelchair basketball player Steve Serio and swimmer Rebecca Meyers have won ESPN's 2017 ESPY Awards for 'Best Male Athlete with a Disability' and 'Best Female Athlete with a Disability.'

+++ **SWIMMING:** Ireland will stage its first major Para sport event when Dublin hosts the 2018 World Para Swimming European Championships, set for 13-19 August.

+++ **ALPINE SKIING, SNOWBOARD:** World Para Alpine Skiing and World Para Snowboard appointed the USA's Erik Petersen as Chairperson of their Sport Technical Committee. Brazilian Stefano Arnhold was named Head of Snowboard. The USA's Ted Martin was appointed as Snowboard Race Director.

+++ **SHOOTING:** World Shooting Para Sport announced that Para trap is now an official discipline following the IPC Governing Board's approval. The sport's international federation also expanded its partnership with electronic scoring systems provider SIUS to include the shotgun discipline.

+++ **SITTING VOLLEYBALL:** Sixteen men's and 16 women's teams will compete at the 2018 Sitting Volleyball World Championships next July. Host nation Netherlands and Japan, home to the 2020 Paralympics, secured spots at both events.

+++ **POWERLIFTING:** Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Eger, Hungary, will stage the 2019 and 2021 senior and junior World Para Powerlifting Championships respectively.

+++ **BOCCIA:** Liverpool, Great Britain, will host the Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed) 2018 World Championships from 9–19 August.

+++ **TAEKWONDO:** World Taekwondo added a new four-point technique for spin kicks. The additional point for the move aims to make Para taekwondo more entertaining and television-friendly, as well as follow the competition rules for the Olympic counterparts.

+++ **CYCLING:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, will stage the 2018 UCI Para Cycling Track World Championships. The event will take place in the Rio Olympic Velodrome, the same venue where the sport was contested during the Rio 2016 Games.



PYEONGCHANG 2018

9-18  
MARCH

# GO experience the Paralympic Winter Games!

Tickets for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games are now on sale.

From 9-18 March, sports fans from around the world will come together to witness more than 670 of the finest Paralympic Winter athletes compete in 80 events across six different sports.

With a total of 280,000 tickets for sale, prices range from KRW 16,000 (approximately EUR 13) for a number of events including Para biathlon, wheelchair curling preliminaries and Para alpine skiing; to up to KRW 140,000 (approximately EUR 105) available for the top seating category at the Opening Ceremony. Tickets are sold on a first come, first served basis for fans from around the world, with one person being able to buy a maximum of 50 tickets across all events.

All Paralympic Winter Games tickets will include free access to the Games public transport system, and various entertainment experiences as part of the Cultural Olympiad that will run throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.



The IPC appointed Jet Set Sports/CoSport as the Global Authorised Ticket Reseller (GATR). Therefore, international spectators can buy tickets online at [www.cosport.com](http://www.cosport.com), where they can also find information on their country's designated authorised ticket resellers.

Jet Set Sports, joined by its sister company CoSport, are uniquely qualified to lead this effort thanks to their long and distinguished experience promoting, selling, and distributing tickets to major international sporting events, including for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Tickets were made available for purchase online to South Korean residents on the 200 days-to-go mark on 21 August. Dedicated ticketing counters are also operating at South Korea's two main airports (Incheon International Airport and Gimpo International Airport), among other locations.

The official ticketing website is:  
<https://tickets.pyeongchang2018.com>

Visit [www.cosport.com](http://www.cosport.com) or contact the CoSport team directly to learn more about how you can support and benefit from the partnership with the IPC.

[cosport@cosport.com](mailto:cosport@cosport.com)  
**+1 908 326 2660**



EVENT		SEAT	PRICE (USD)
Opening Ceremony		A	132.00
		B	69.00
		C	32.00
Closing Ceremony		A	69.00
		B	32.00
		C	14.00
Para alpine skiing		A	20.00
Para biathlon		A	20.00
Para cross-country skiing		A	20.00
Para ice hockey	Preliminaries	A	20.00
		B	14.00
	Semi-finals	A	23.00
		B	20.00
	Third-place match	A	32.00
		B	23.00
	Finals	A	50.00
		B	32.00
Para snowboard		A	20.00
Wheelchair curling	Preliminaries	A	20.00
	Semi-finals	A	32.00
	Finals	A	41.00

## Torch revealed

The torch is 700mm in length, representing the altitude of PyeongChang, which sits 700m above sea level, and the sleek curve of the design was inspired by South Korea's traditional white porcelain. The torch is white, representing the Paralympic Winter Games, a festival of snow and ice.

It has also been designed to withstand South Korea's freezing winter weather, with the flame able to keep burning even in strong wind and heavy snow. The four Paralympic values – courage, determination, inspiration and equality – and the slogan for PyeongChang 2018, "Passion. Connected." are also written in Braille on the torch in both Korean and English.







The IPC announced the final medal events programme for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, which will feature 4,400 athletes who will compete in 537 medal events.



1,756  
WOMEN



14  
MEDAL EVENTS



116  
ATHLETES

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- At least **1,756** slots for **female athletes**, the most ever, which represents a 17 per cent increase from London 2012
- Badminton and taekwondo**, the two sports that will make their Paralympic debut, were awarded **14** and **six medal events** respectively
- Canoe**, which made its Paralympic debut at Rio 2016 with six medal events, will have **nine medal events** due to the addition of three va'a class events
- As part of the IPC's drive to increase opportunities for athletes with high support needs, **boccia** was allocated **116 athlete** slots, eight more than Rio 2016



6  
MEDAL EVENTS



9  
MEDAL EVENTS

- 14 sports** will feature the same number of athletes as at Rio 2016. Canoe, judo, shooting, table tennis, triathlon and wheelchair fencing all also have additional slots
- Four sports** – canoe, shooting, table tennis and wheelchair fencing – have more medal events than Rio 2016 while athletics and swimming have fewer events
- The final list of events for athletics, swimming and triathlon will be published at later dates

A full breakdown of the events can be found on the IPC's website:

► <http://bit.ly/2gqaMlm>

## Mascot search

The Tokyo 2020 mascot panel will have their work cut out for them after receiving more than 2,000 entries for mascot designs by the August deadline.

Among the entries, 1,774 were from individual applications and 268 were group entries.

A Tokyo 2020 mascot review panel will select a shortlist from the submitted design sets by the beginning of December, and schoolchildren at every elementary school across the country, including international schools, will be given the opportunity to cast their vote and select their preferred set of designs. Tokyo 2020 will select the design which attracts the largest number of classroom votes and announce the winner in February 2018.



Japanese Para athletes celebrated three-years-to-go in Tokyo by showing off their sporting skills to a crowd of nearly 3,000 people.

## Counting down to Tokyo 2020

Around 3,000 people turned out to celebrate the three-year-to-go mark for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

The event was held along a scenic waterfront deck venue overlooking Tokyo Bay, and staged in conjunction with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Japanese Paralympic Committee on 25 August.

Tokyo 2020 used the event to highlight its commitment to deliver a fully inclusive Games. It included some amazing performances by Paralympic athletes, including Kento Kato, a leading member of the Japanese football 5-a-side team, who wowed the crowd by scoring an incredible goal. Hiroshi Miura, a two-time Paralympian in powerlifting, was challenged by the event

organisers to see how many times he could lift a 100 kg barbell. With the crowd cheering him on, he managed to lift it 12 times.

"I feel the weight of expectation for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games from all those who attended today's event. Also, the Paralympians' powerful demonstrations allowed us to appreciate their amazing abilities," Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto said.

"And we believe that by improving accessibility for those with impairments, for the elderly and for those with young children, we can create a fully-inclusive community that provides all people with equal opportunity."



## BEIJING 2022

The Organising Committee of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (Beijing 2022) announced Official Partners since launching their marketing programme in February 2017.

Chinese company Anta became the latest to support Beijing 2022, this time as the official supplier of sports apparel.

Anta joined domestic partners Bank of China, Air China and Yili Group as the Official Commercial Banking Partner, the Official Passenger Air Transportation Services Partner and the Official Dairy Products Partner, respectively.



Paris and Los Angeles were awarded the 2024 and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, respectively, after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) ratified a tripartite agreement during September's IOC Session in Lima, Peru.

**PARIS 2024**  
PARALYMPIC GAMES



**LOS ANGELES 2028**  
PARALYMPIC GAMES



## PARIS 2024: Committed to change

When the Games come to Paris, France, in 2024, one item is high on the list.

"Changing the perception of impairment ranks among the top priorities of Paris 2024," said Emmanuelle Assmann, President of NPC France.

"This victory is more important than ever. It means increased legitimacy, visibility, opportunity as well as responsibility for Paralympic sport in France."

The news of Paris 2024 was a special moment for Assmann, who won team epee bronze at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games.

"When I heard Paris announced as host city of the 2024 Games, I was delighted, it was very emotional," Assmann said. "We worked so hard for this moment and we succeeded, thanks to a clear vision and a strong plan that placed strong emphasis on the Paralympic Games. Now that the dream has come true, a huge but exciting challenge lies ahead!"

Paralympic and world champion sprinter Marie-Amelie le Fur is clear about what she wants the Paris 2024 Paralympics to accomplish.

"We want the Paralympic Movement to receive the same celebration as the Olympics, and leave unforgettable memories for athletes and spectators," Le Fur said. "We want a lasting legacy



for the Paralympic Movement: an avant-garde and winning France!"

France hosted the 1992 Winter Games in Tignes-Albertville, which was the first time both the Olympics and Paralympics shared a host city for the winter edition following an agreement between the IOC and IPC.

Paris hosted the Olympics in 1900 and 1924, but 2024 will be its first summer Paralympics. Assmann said work is already being done to change people's perception on impairments at home.

The Olympic and Paralympic school week debuted in 2017 and introduced two million children to the practice of Paralympic sport.

"We will keep targeting this key demographic, which is the future of our country," she said. "Our communication campaign over the next seven years in France and abroad will also aim to demystify Paralympic sport and showcase the thrilling performances of our Para athletes."

As for the Games plans themselves, Assmann knows another priority is ensuring a good athlete and spectator experience that will last forever.

"We have committed to providing fully accessible Games in 2024, both at the competition venues and the live sites," she said. "This is particularly important for our existing venues which will be upgraded to accommodate all spectators. Furthermore, all new metro lines (already under construction) will be accessible too. In terms of infrastructure, the Games can help us gain 20 years and make accessibility the 'new normal' for public spaces."

Le Fur serves as Co-Chair of the Paris 2024 Athletes Committee. From an athlete's perspective, she said the key to hosting a successful Paralympic Games is "work and pleasure."

"Without work one cannot progress, without pleasure one cannot succeed," she said. "Pleasure in the realisation, pleasure in the celebration, pleasure in the collective ... it is essential."

## LOS ANGELES 2028: "Perfect match" for Paralympics



The Olympic Games are returning to Los Angeles, USA, for the third time after 1932 and 1984. But like Paris, it will be the city's first Paralympics. For Rick Adams, the USOC's Chief of Paralympic Sport and National Governing Body Organisational Development, the 2018 Games will be a "celebration of how much the Paralympic Movement has grown."

"The Paralympic Movement has been growing steadily in the United States, but there is nothing else like the opportunity to host the Games here on US soil that will energise this Movement and increase awareness in popular culture in the US," Adams said.

He described LA as a city of creativity, innovation and progress – all a "perfect match for the Paralympic Games."

"LA is the best city in the world to host a truly modern and technically advanced Games, and it will be the first time we've hosted the Games since we entered this digital era," Adams said. "When people in the US are able to witness the speed, skill and tenacity of the Paralympic athletes first-hand, it is going to transform this Movement for our country."

LA 2028 will particularly be special for US Para athletes.

Multi-world and Paralympic long jump medalist Lex Gillette has competed at four Games. At Rio 2016 – dubbed the People's Games – the Brazilian fans made their presence and support felt and heard. Gillette knows the "competitive advantage" and pride Brazilian Para athletes felt with the home crowd behind them and hopes it can be replicated for US Paralympians in LA.

"I've never experienced being able to compete in my home country," said Gillette, who is on the LA 2028 Athletes' Commission. "And I think that for an athlete aspiring to go to the Games, that in itself (competing at home) would really motivate them because you're pushing for a particular goal and the idea that you may be able to achieve your goal in front of your home fans, that is huge."

The Games take place 11 years from now, which Gillette says is plenty of time to strengthen the public's awareness of the Paralympic Movement.

This can be done not only with more media exposure and sponsorship support, but also by Para athletes taking an active role in sharing their stories and promoting the Games.

Adams said 11 years will go by in the "blink of an eye." While there will be a lot of work to do for the organising committee between now and then, the excitement and atmosphere that comes when LA 2028 arrives will be worth it all.

"I wouldn't want to put any limits on the Paralympic Games with my own expectations," Adams said. "But at the core of the Games, I think we can expect to see thrilling performances from athletes who will break limits that seem impossible now. We will see the Games embraced by the US and the people of LA with an excitement that we've never had in this country before. And I think we will see a Games that unite and inspire a generation around the world. And to have all of that with a backdrop of beautiful sunsets over the ocean doesn't hurt either."





The IPC and the Agitos Foundation launched a global fundraising campaign to support UNICEF's humanitarian efforts in Mexico following the country's devastating earthquake.

Following the 19 September quake, the IPC postponed its World Para Swimming and World Para Powerlifting Championships in Mexico City which were due to begin on 30 September. Due to the emotional connection the Paralympic Movement feels with Mexico – around 1,400 athletes, coaches and officials were due in the capital between 30 September and 6 October – the IPC and Agitos Foundation decided to raise funds to support the ongoing work of UNICEF in the country.

Andrew Parsons, IPC President, said: "The whole Paralympic Movement is united in our support for the Mexican people at this difficult time. Following this terrible tragedy, we are all committed to doing what we can to help the people affected by this earthquake."

"When we postponed our World Championships, a number of members within the Paralympic Movement asked how they could support the relief efforts. We believe working with UNICEF to launch this fundraising campaign is the least that we can do at this difficult time."

The 7.1 magnitude earthquake left hundreds dead and caused major damage to buildings and infrastructure in Mexico City and neighbouring states of Morelos and Puebla.

Both World Championships were rescheduled for between 2–8 December.

## I'mPOSSIBLE goes global

After pilots in three countries, the Agitos Foundation will go global with its education toolkit I'mPOSSIBLE. The global launch will be on 3 December 2017, coinciding with the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and a dedicated website will also go live during the launch.

I'mPOSSIBLE aims to raise awareness and engage young people, educators, and key influencers about the Paralympic Movement; and also show the next generation of Para sport fans that 'impossible' is just a word. By changing their perceptions of people with an impairment, they can help bring about a more inclusive society.

In the lead up to PyeongChang 2018 and Tokyo 2020, I'mPOSSIBLE is intended to be the core education programme for students aged from 6-12 years. The toolkit will provide free teaching resources which include easy-to-use lesson plans, worksheets, inspirational videos and teacher training. The resources available through the programme feature different Para sports and the inspirational achievements of Para athletes to showcase ability. NPCs Japan, Colombia and Armenia have been piloting the programme since February 2017, and will be able to share their success stories with other NPCs.



## Para ice hockey growing

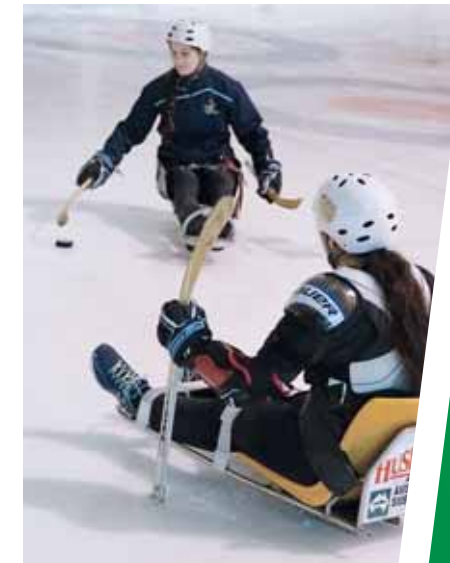
Thanks to PyeongChang 2018's Actualising the Dream project, a partnership between the Agitos Foundation and the PyeongChang 2018 Organising Committee, the Netherlands, Armenia, Australia and Kazakhstan received Para ice hockey equipment.

"We are very grateful to be selected as one of the countries for the Actualising the Dream Project," said Joris van Impelen, sport co-ordinator at Gehandicapsport Nederland. "With this support we can make a new start in the Netherlands for this amazing and challenging sport."

In Armenia, Australia and Kazakhstan, the Actualising the Dream project will enable Para ice hockey to begin developing.

Australian Paralympic Committee Performance Talent and Para Sport Manager Tim Matthews said: "The hope is that this equipment will be a catalyst for the development of a Para ice hockey programme in Australia."

"The Australian Paralympic Committee is very grateful to receive this support and we're now really excited to help grow Para ice hockey here and highlight why it is one of the most popular sports at the Paralympic Winter Games."



"Come and Try Day" was held in Australia in August, giving people a chance to play Para ice hockey.

"As one of four countries to be chosen to receive the EUR 12,500 grant (approximately AUD 18,000), the Australian Paralympic Committee will work with Ice Hockey Australia to develop a deep pool of players from which regular training and other programmes can evolve."

## Development projects receive grant support

The Agitos Foundation announced 31 Para sport development projects that will receive over EUR 600,000 through the 2017 edition of its Grant Support Programme (GSP).

Grants of up to EUR 40,000 were made available for the projects by IPC members for initiatives such as awareness campaigns, athlete development and capacity building.

Twenty NPCs, two Regional Organisations, one International Organisation of Sport for the Disabled, and eight International Federations were among the projects awarded. Six NPCs will be first-time recipients of the grants – Costa Rica, Cyprus, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Korea and Suriname – as well as the Asian Paralympic Committee and the International Canoe Federation.

Para sport projects in Africa are on the rise, with 11 projects being allocated funding this

year compared to four in the 2016 edition. GSP will also support eight projects in the Americas, four in Asia, four in Europe, two in Oceania and two global projects.

Greece and Cyprus NPCs received funding to provide training opportunities for refugees with an impairment, following on the success of the GSP 2016 project in Greece.

Since its launch in 2013, the GSP has invested over EUR 3 million in supporting 156 Para sport development projects across the world, making a significant impact on the growth of the Paralympic Movement.

A complete list of funded projects for the 2017 edition can be found at:

[www.agitosfoundation.org](http://www.agitosfoundation.org)

AGITOS  
Foundation

### + + NEWS IN BRIEF + +

+++ **AFRICA:** Representatives from NPCs of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo took part in the Agitos Foundation's Organisational Capacity Programme (OCP) meeting in Cotonou, Benin. Leadership representatives attended the sessions, seeking to start the OCP in their NPCs this year and gain further knowledge about Para sport development. The OCP is designed to strengthen NPCs in areas such as governance, marketing and athlete development and diversify their funding streams.

+++ **ASIA:** The NPCs of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan received valuable training on Para sport development during a four-day workshop organised by the Agitos Foundation, with support from Worldwide Partner, Toyota. Two representatives from each NPC attended training sessions in Astana, Kazakhstan, as part of the OCP.

+++ **PROUD PARALYMPIAN:** Around 100 youngsters took part in a two-day Proud Paralympian workshop held ahead of the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland, in August. Proud Paralympian is the IPC's athlete education programme and aims to give Para athletes the tools they need to give their best on and off the field of play.

31

FUNDED  
PROJECTS



< € 600,000  
AVAILABLE TO DEVELOP  
PARA SPORTS



CASE STUDY

# Laos looks to develop Para sports beyond powerlifting

The Southeast Asian country has only competed in powerlifting at the Paralympic Games so far.

Laos’ Paralympic history dates back to the Sydney 2000 Games, where Dalouni Xaythanith and Eay Simay represented their country. Simay went on to compete at Beijing 2008, where he won bronze in the men’s up to 48kg with a 157.5kg lift, and then London 2012. Laos’ most recent representative at a Games was Pia at Rio 2016, where he finished sixth in the men’s up to 49kg.

But the Lao Paralympic Committee (LPC), which became an official Member of the IPC in 2001, is now seeking to develop new sports with the support of the Agitos Foundation. Its aim is to bring more people into the Movement and increase the number of Laotian athletes competing at Paralympic Games.

In late-2016, the LPC and the Agitos Foundation implemented a programme to search for potential Para athletes across the country in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Lao Disabled People Association.

Their research led to dozens of people with an impairment being invited to the capital city of Vientiane to test their abilities and potentially recruit them to compete in one of the sports.

At the same time, the rules and regulation for athletics, goalball, blind football and wheelchair basketball were translated to Lao language for better understanding. Furthermore, a number of professionals attended educational courses to learn about the Paralympic Movement.

Project lead Yuki Nakamura said: “There are still many challenges ahead, but this strong initiative is helping start develop a platform for Para athletes, trainers and coaches.

“So far, only powerlifters have competed for Laos at Paralympic Games. We are hoping that can change at Tokyo 2020 and we can have more Para athletes representing the country.”

Nine players and eight coaches were part of the blind football training camp, led by Japanese educators provided by the Japan Blind Football Association.

Greatly motivated by the workshop, players and coaches set up the first Laos blind football team to compete on the international stage. In December 2016, they faced India and Malaysia at the Tri-Nations Blind Football Tournament in Kochi, India. They even achieved their first win, beating the hosts 1-0 in their opening game. Even though they lost twice to Malaysia, Laos ended in a much-celebrated second place.

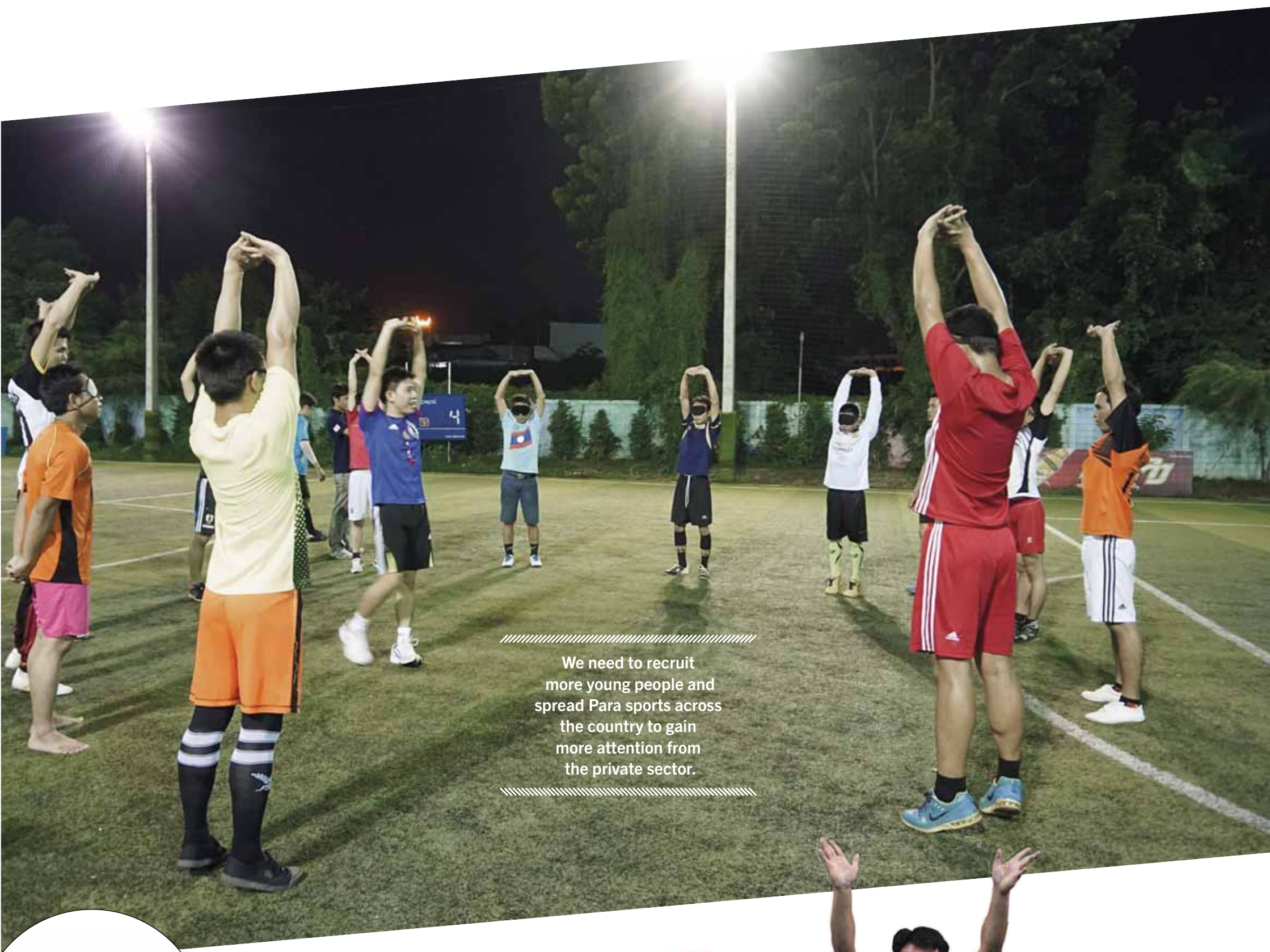
The other sport now being developed in Laos is wheelchair basketball following an intensive training camp held in November 2016. Fifteen players and five coaches and referees attended. They also set up a team and are planning to compete at future regional and international competitions.

“We want to promote gender equality and have more women taking up Para sports. Take the wheelchair basketball women’s team for example,” said Nakamura. “But we need more intensive training and to compete in more international events.”

Early in 2017, Japanese Olympic runner Dai Tamesue and Para athletics coach Hiroyuki Hane led the athletics workshop. Tamesue highlighted the importance of having able-bodied and disabled athletes training together, and the Lao Olympic and Paralympic Committees decided to work closely in the future.

Nakamura added: “We need to recruit more young people and spread Para sports across the country to gain more attention from the private sector.

“But we are sure in the future Laos will be able to send larger delegations to the Paralympic Games. Everyone is working hard to see the country’s dream come true.”



////////////////////////////////////  
We need to recruit more young people and spread Para sports across the country to gain more attention from the private sector.  
////////////////////////////////////



LAOS AT A PARALMPYC GAMES

NUMBER OF ATHLETES/SPORT  
Sydney 2000: 2 / powerlifting  
Beijing 2008: 1 / powerlifting  
London 2012: 1 / powerlifting  
Rio 2016: 1 / powerlifting



Powerlifter Eay Simay won Laos’ only Paralympic medal, taking bronze in the men’s up-to-48kg at Beijing 2008.





The Rio 2016 Paralympic Games left a legacy not just for Brazil but for the whole world.



We, Paralympic athletes, showed the world that our lives are not just about struggling and overcoming obstacles but we can also achieve big things. Everything is possible.



I imagine myself competing and giving my best at Tokyo 2020. I will try to improve my performance and top the podium again as at Rio 2016.



Winning a title depends on our faith and determination. If we dream about something, we have to work hard to achieve it.



I give the best of myself at every daily practice. Knowing that it is through sports that I can provide to my family is what gives me the necessary impulse to make sustained efforts and aim high.



**Petrucio Ferreira**

The 20-year-old broke the 100m T47 world record at his home Games in Rio, then lowered it at the 2017 World Championships.





# ► DIGITAL DYNAMICS

Five winter sports athletes to follow on social media!



**Jeroen Kampschreur (NED)**

The 18-year-old triple world champion alpine skier loves showing off his workouts, travels and medals.

► [@Jeroenkampschreur](#) on Instagram



**Greg Westlake (CAN)**

World title winning Canadian ice hockey captain is also a sideline reporter for CBC Sports.

► [Twitter.com/GWestlake12](#)



**Markus Salcher (AUT)**

Alpine skier is ambassador for the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, speaks at Human Rights Festivals, chops wood on weekends and hangs out with Nascar drivers.

► [Facebook.com/SalcherSkiingforgold](#)



**Amy Purdy (USA)**

One of the most famous Paralympians' Instagram account is full of wisdom and outdoorsy hikes. She also takes you behind the scenes of her snowboard adventures!

► [@AmyPurdyGurl](#) on Instagram



**Oksana Masters (USA)**

Nordic skier won an ESPY, writes for ThePlayersTribune.com and hangs out with US gymnast Gabby Douglas.

► [Facebook.com/OksanaMastersUSA](#)





# HER LAST HURRAH



One of alpine skiing's most successful competitors says she will retire after PyeongChang 2018. Can Anna Schaffelhuber go five-for-five again before she bows out of the sport?



**The Paralympian:** You seem to travel a lot more in the off-season. What have you been up to?

**Anna Schaffelhuber (AS):** Oh yes... The last couple of years the summer months were almost as busy as the winter season because of many meetings, media events, training and university exams.

I've tried some new things like paddling or tennis – it's a lot of fun! But of course that was just for fun and I am looking forward to being back on snow.

**How would you sum up the 2016-17 season? Were you satisfied with your performances in Tarvisio 2017?**

**AS:** All in all I was very happy with my last season. In fact my result at Tarvisio was my best performance at a World Championships in my career and I was the first winning every single globe that was possible. Of course there were some races and runs I was not happy with. For example my slalom racing was not as good as in the past years. I had several problems with the timing. But at this time, looking forward to PyeongChang, my performance was very good.

**For your two silvers (giant slalom, super-G), is there anything you would have done differently to have gotten gold?**

**AS:** No, not in super-G. I raced a very good run and my performance was good. Of course it was very close to the first and I would have loved to win the gold. But this time Claudia (Loesch) was a little bit faster and deserved the gold. For me there is nothing to complain about because the run was really good.

## ANNA SCHAFFELHUBER (GER)

Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games



Tarvisio 2017 World Para Alpine Skiing Championships



PyeongChang 2018



In giant slalom of course silver is a pretty good performance. But I was much too slow in the first run and did not attack like I normally do. The whole season except in Tarvisio, I showed quality in GS. So I am not happy with that race. But it's a big motivation for next year!

**What are your takeaways from the past season? And how would you apply them for this season?**

**AS:** In a couple of races and runs I realised some things to improve and that's perfect because it's a new challenge for me. I really have to improve myself in slalom on steep courses and on flat courses in the rest of the disciplines. But I still have some ideas for that.

**What are your goals and expectations for PyeongChang 2018?**

**AS:** Next season I want to show my best in each single race. That's for the overall (2017–18) season and for the races in PyeongChang.



**Who inspires you, and why?**

**AS:** I have always been inspired by multi-world and Paralympic alpine skiing champion Martin Braxenthaler because in most of his races he found the right tactic between taking the risk and not racing above the limit.

**What are your hobbies?**

**AS:** I love reading! And I also love every other sport and like to test some new things.

**Do you have a job while competing?**

**AS:** I am studying to become a teacher in mathematics, law and economy. After PyeongChang I will be finished.

I know I can be very fast next year but I have to learn to show this in races. So there is all or nothing for next season.

**What are your thoughts on the course after the Test Event in March?**

**AS:** I really like the course in PyeongChang. In fact it's a little flat except slalom but with a lot of rollers etc. which I think is a lot of fun! So I think from the start gate to finish area it looks pretty good. I think a problem is the distance from the Paralympic Village to our race course. It's very far and each single day travelling there for two weeks will be laborious. But OK, there is nothing to change yet. We have to make the best out of this situation now. And I think there should be some more toilets close to the athletes' area.





# LIVE STREAM A SPORTING EVENT

The IPC, BISFed and CBDV share their insights on how to live stream Para sport competitions.



## International Paralympic Committee (IPC)



*“LIVE STREAMING IS A GREAT WAY TO PROMOTE PARA SPORT.”*

These days, many mainstream TV channels do not have a lot of space in their schedules for hours of sports coverage. Getting commitments from broadcasters can be difficult, however, live streaming on your own platforms can be a great way to promote Para sport events without the support of broadcasters. The IPC's Broadcasting Manager Sascha Beck explains more.

### ► What type of production do you need?

Just because a sporting event will be live streamed online rather than on TV does not mean you should settle for average production quality. In the digital age, with Internet access readily available, people are watching sports more on smart devices (phones, tablets and even TVs) where content is readily available in high-definition.

Considering this, Beck suggests the first factor people should think about when live streaming an event is what level of production they want.

There is “bare bones” production with just cameras streaming the competition. Then there is full production that includes graphics and commentary, as well as a distribution signal to reach the masses.

“To have a full production you have to consider pictures, the sound, the information that is going to be displayed on the pictures so the graphics. Then you need someone helping the viewers along in telling the story, so commentary.”

A lot will depend on the event's budget. Of course, a solid production level will cost money. So wise planning is a must.

Even if a sporting event is not picked up by a major broadcaster, producing good quality

pictures can be used for news and highlights coverage for broadcasters to share.

“You can distribute these images to all news agencies and rights holders who might not air your programme on live TV but cover it as highlights. Then you still have the live viewing potential on YouTube and Facebook. Once you start that process your sport will get greater recognition and it could eventually lead to television coverage.”

### ► What is your territory? What is your sport?

Beck suggests event organisers should consider how many territories are represented in the event because those territories are the targets of the content.

Additionally, what sport are you streaming?

Is it athletics with track and field events happening simultaneously? Is it sitting volleyball or wheelchair basketball that is played on a confined court?

This will determine how many cameras are needed and their operation points.

But if you have someone running across a line and need immediate results, this is an expense that comes with the on-venue results provider. In the end, it will all take a bite out of the budget. But it can be worth the risk, especially if the goal is to promote and raise awareness of Para sports.



“Sometimes you need to take the risk to see the reward because unless you show somebody what you have to offer, they may not ever commit to you. But once you jump into the deep end of the pool, you might get the response you're looking for. You might catch their eye. And you can build momentum from there.”

### ► Consider your competition

Where is the event being live streamed?

What sporting event is it?

Another big factor to consider, especially if a lot of money is being invested for good production, is when is the event happening? Does it conflict with another major competition around the world or in the territory?

“What are you competing against? You're not going to have the World Para Swimming Championships at the same time as the FINA World Championships. But you might want to piggy back off the momentum of able-bodied competition. I wouldn't want to go head-to-head with them.”



## Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed)



*“TRY TO PICK THE MOST ENTERTAINING GAMES FOR SCREENING.”*

The Boccia International Sports Federation (BISFed) listened to their supporters. Over the last three years, one of the main pieces of feedback the International Federation received was the desire for live streaming and scoring at major events.

As part of their contract with the competition Local Organising Committees (LOCs), BISFed has required the LOCs to provide livestreams and results.

### ► Event hosts take control

At boccia events, the LOC must provide a livestream on at least one court.

Giving the LOC live streaming responsibility does carry some uncertainties, such as managing the quality displayed on the screen, which Richard Mallon, BISFed administrator, has admitted varied from competition to competition. But lots can be learned from each host.

“Our hosts have partnered with some fantastic companies in the past to provide the streaming service,” said Mallon. “Great Britain in particular did a great job at the 2015 European Championships. They provided two commentators, on screen graphics for scores and had two on-court cameras on their show court to show the action from various angles.”

While the LOC live streams the competitions on site, Mallon works remotely to ensure links and embed codes are up to date, which he admits is a challenge and something they are looking to improve moving forward.



As BISFed would like to have the best quality production for all of its sanctioned competitions, they are always conscious not to put too much pressure on their hosts especially with event costs increasing.

“We’ve really just been leaving it to the discretion of the (hosts) and will in the future look to ‘set a standard,’” Mallon said.

### ► Tricks to live streaming boccia

While there are multiple games happening at once, boccia is played on a small court, and BISFed sees that as an advantage in live streaming and saving costs.

But that advantage came with a drawback, which they recognised and made the necessary adjustment.

“There have been examples where hosts have set up a static camera and left it running throughout,” Mallon said. “...this isn’t great and in the early days, an empty court was filmed many times.

“But we quickly learned that we needed to put a volunteer on the ground to oversee the streaming and got our TD (Technical Delegate) involved in the whole process to ensure that there were no scheduling issues.”

The Technical Delegate also plays an important role in the live streaming.

They decide which matches are played on the “show court,” with the aim to show a mix of classes and athletes from different countries.

“We leave it to their discretion to pick the games they feel will be most entertaining!” Mallon said.

### ► Spectator feedback and challenges

Mallon said spectators have enjoyed the commentary, on screen graphics of scores and when multiple cameras are used on the courts.

They have taken that feedback to hosts, recommending they set up two cameras on each court, versus the option of selecting from two poorly positioned static cameras, on separate courts.

One of the biggest challenges has been getting the links in a timely manner to help promote the availability of the stream.

“Thus far we haven’t really got a solution but we have asked our hosts to nominate a volunteer who is responsible for photos, links, news etc,” Mallon said. “So far this hasn’t been greatly successful but we are getting better.”

## Brazilian Confederation of Sports for the Visually Impaired (CBDV)



*“LOOK FOR PARTNERSHIPS TO SHARE LINKS FOR GREATER REACH.”*



There is one important aspect to consider when it comes to live streaming sports for athletes with visual impairments.

“The description of what is happening is very important,” said Tadeu Casqueira, press officer at the Brazilian Confederation of Sports for the Visually Impaired (CBDV). The CBDV manages three Paralympic sports in Brazil: football 5-a-side, goalball and judo. Bearing in mind who their audience is, Casqueira tells commentators for the livestream to be extra descriptive.



### ► Thinking about the logistics

The CBDV has been live streaming competitions for five years.

Each year, they stage nine regional competitions and five national events, four of which they live stream at great effort due to their capacity. They broadcast two of their major events (a football-5 and goalball competition), as well as two stages of the Judo Grand Prix.

To showcase the action from different angles, as well as capture athlete reactions, the CBDV aims to have three cameras covering football 5-a-side and goalball competitions. While judo bouts happen on one mat, they still aim to have two cameras.



When finding a commentator, they prefer to have one who is an expert in the sport. But there is another area to consider.

“Another point to take care about is the translation of the international events,” said CBDV President Jose Antonio Ferreira Freire. “We must make sure that everyone can understand what is happening.”

The broadcasts are displayed on the organisation’s YouTube channel (CBDVTV) and on their Facebook page (/CBDCoficial). Live streaming on these platforms has its advantages, such as direct engagement with the audience.

The CBDV further audience engagement by organising sweepstakes for shirts or encouraging viewers to send messages to the athletes.

“With this interactivity the audience can also participate in the event in some way, encourage the athletes during the competitions and publicise the Para sport,” said Freire. “Another practice is to look for partnerships to help us share the link and the event so that it has greater reach.”

### ► Big gains for live streaming

The competition to pick up broadcasters is high in Brazil. While the CBDV has not had any major TV broadcaster take on their sports, CBDV’s own coverage and promotion might lead to bigger gains in the future, such as potential sponsors.

While media have come to certain events, the coverages have been limited to news or feature stories versus full competition coverage. But with livestream, the CBDV has been able to showcase the sports in full, Casqueira said.

“Our goal is to reach the largest number of fans, athletes, family members, friends and stakeholders,” Casqueira said.

Although live streaming does not come cheap, according to Casqueira it is worth the cost.

“The broadcasts have had a very positive acceptance from both athletes and the public in general, so we will work to broadcast our events as long as possible and thus allow everyone who has interest to watch. Attracting sponsors and punctual partners could be a way out of this high cost,” he said.



# A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF... **JETZE PLAT**

3.86KM  
SWIM

180.2KM  
CYCLE

42.2 KM  
RUNNING  
(RACING CHAIR)



The Dutch dual-sport machine initially planned to take 2017 off after winning triathlon gold and handcycling bronze at Rio 2016. But his plans changed.

In September alone, Plat won two golds at the UCI Para Cycling Road World Championships, gold in the ITU Para Triathlon World Championships and finished first in the handcycling division at the Berlin marathon.

The 26-year-old took us through his week as he prepared for his last race of the season: the Ironman World Championships on 14 October in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, USA.

Amsterdam

> 20 HRS  
TRAVEL

Hawaii

## SUNDAY

Departure day from Amsterdam to Hawaii! We had to gather the luggage (e.g. handbike, racing chair, day chair) and head to the airport. Our flight included 10 hours to Seattle, USA; a four-hour layover; then another six hours to Hawaii. We arrived at 21:00 local time in Hawaii, picked up the rental car and finally got to the apartment at 23:30.

15 KM  
HANDBIKE

45 MINUTES  
RACING CHAIR

## MONDAY

Six hours of sleep, not bad! Unpacked and put together the bike and racing chair for a mid-morning ride to wake the muscles up. Had to squeeze in a trip to the supermarket for food and other essentials.

90 KM  
HANDBIKE

2 KM  
SWIM

## TUESDAY

This was a full training day. We headed over to Kona (the site of the Ironman) with my coach by bike; it was about 45km away. We toured the race course on the bike, got a 2km swim in, then biked back to the apartment.

95 KM  
HANDBIKE

1 HR  
RACING CHAIR

7 L  
IN 4 HRS

## WEDNESDAY

One of the hottest days! Around 33-34 degrees, with the burning sun and a lot of wind. Tested the second part of the bike course (95km), and then one hour on the racing chair. After a shower and seven bottles of fluids, it was time to relax in the swimming pool. The rest of the evening was easy with a few media interviews via phone.

100 KM  
HANDBIKE

30 MINUTES  
RACING CHAIR

## THURSDAY

A last check on the bike course before we picked up my uncle and filmmakers from the airport later in the day for more media.

4 KM  
SWIM

## FRIDAY

Rest day! With the exception of one lap in the open water swimming course. Since we drove to the course instead of cycling, we used the car to tour the city, found a lunch spot, then returned to the apartment for my favorite activity – napping!

90 KM  
HANDBIKE

1 HR  
RACING CHAIR

## SATURDAY

Exactly one week before race day. Three hours on the bike and one hour in the racing chair, and repeat on Sunday before tapering five days before the big day!



# The dawn of a new era

Meet IPC President Andrew Parsons







Andrew Parsons reacts after winning the IPC Presidential election.

**“You have a new President. And I would like to formally announce and congratulate from Brazil Mr. Andrew Parsons,”**

*announced the IPC’s first President Dr. Robert Steadward during the elections held at the IPC General Assembly on 8 September in Abu Dhabi, UAE.*



In his first week of presidency, Andrew Parsons met with IOC President Thomas Bach in Lima.

Andrew Parsons pounded his fists on the table. A water bottle toppled over, glasses clinked with the force, and his wife ran over to embrace him.

Tension that once filled the room was suddenly released. Replacing it was celebratory applause, handshakes and many more emotional embraces for Parsons – the third President in the history of the IPC.

With 84 votes, he was chosen ahead of fellow candidates China’s Haidi Zhang (47 votes), Denmark’s John Petersson (19) and Canada’s Patrick Jarvis (12).

“Now it is time to roll up the sleeves and work really hard with the membership and the new Governing Board,” Parsons said after the elections.

## Strengthening relationship with the International Olympic Committee

It was anything but a quiet start to life as IPC President for Parsons.

“A very busy one,” he said about his first week. “Really busy, but fantastic.”

Just days after winning the election, Parsons flew to Lima, Peru, to attend the 131st IOC Session.

It was a time filled with meetings including with IOC President Thomas Bach, site visits with the organising committee of the Lima 2019 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, introductions with the “Olympic world” and “fantastic moments,” especially the ratification of Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 as the next Olympic and Paralympic hosts.

Attending the IOC Session was more than a formality. It was the start of his presidency for building on the IPC’s relationship with the IOC. Back in June 2001, a co-operation agreement was signed aimed at protecting the organisation of the Paralympic Games and securing the practice of “one bid, one city.” It is an agreement that has been extended over the years and in 2016, principles for a new agreement through to 2032 were agreed upon. These included increasing the visibility of the Paralympics and enhancing its brand; and ensuring the financial stability and long-term viability of the IPC, the Paralympic Games and the Paralympic Movement.

But Parsons said the IPC-IOC relationship is “not only about the Games.”

“We want to have a closer relationship with what I would say is the Olympic Movement as a whole because I think that, for example, the regional organisations can benefit from the partnership – for example – with the Americas Paralympic Committee and PASO (Pan American Sport Organisation) when it comes to the Parapan American Games,” Parsons said.

He has seen how a partnership with both Movements made a difference at a regional level, for example, in the National Olympic Committee (NOC) in Chile helping in build a NPC for the country from scratch.

“We saw how the support of the NOC was important from the beginning,” Parsons said. “So it’s not only about the IOC-IPC, it’s broader than that.”

## TIMELINE OF IPC PRESIDENTS





Supporting members,  
supporting Para athletes

Parsons said one of the changes he would make with the IPC and the Paralympic Movement is how the IPC supports its 202 members, which include NPCs, International Federations (IFs), Regional Organisations and International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs).

He wants the IPC, as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, to be more proactive rather than reactive to its members, and to better understand their needs and challenges.

“As a member organisation, we exist to serve our membership, and together we can provide the best path for the Para athletes of the world,” Parsons said.

It is a belief that stems from his nearly 20 years working at an NPC. Additionally, with his educational background, Parsons also said to expect more communications and marketing initiatives from the IPC to help members develop.

“It’s not only about communication and marketing with the IPC, but how we can better support the NPCs and IFs in these fields ... We have members who are very well established in these programmes but I would say a huge majority of our members still don’t have it.”

He wants to see the IPC provide more solutions and co-ordinate efforts between IFs and NPCs, between NPCs and regions, and so on, not only in communications and marketing, but “everything to do with development and high performance.”

Introducing new ideas

In his manifesto, Parsons introduced two new points that would be new for the Paralympic Movement: professionalising the athlete classification process, with closer monitoring of classifiers and performances; and a Youth Paralympic Games.

“None of them will be easy at all,” Parsons said. “We see more and more issues around classification. As we are a more relevant organisation, we are more open to the external world discussing classification, challenging classification. ... It is very important for them that classification is understandable, that it can be trusted. So I think we have a lot to do when it comes to classification being more friendly.”



ANDREW PARSONS

NATIONALITY  
Brazilian

DATE OF BIRTH  
10 February 1977  
in Rio de Janeiro

EDUCATION  
Fluminense Federal University –  
Bachelor’s in  
Marketing & Communications

LANGUAGES  
Portuguese, English and Spanish

PREVIOUS MAJOR APPOINTMENTS  
IPC Vice President  
(2013–2017)

President of NPC Brazil  
(2009–2017)

Member of Rio 2016 Executive Council  
(2009–2017)

President of Americas  
Paralympic Committee  
(2005–2009)

IPC Governing Board Member  
2009–2013



NEW IPC VICE PRESIDENT  
Duane Kale (NZL)

Parsons said it is not only the outside world, but also within the Movement where classification issues need to be tackled.

To do so, he said the IPC needs to work very close with IFs and the Classification Committee to find solutions. As part of his first weeks in the Presidency, Parsons attended the VISTA 2017 conference in Toronto, Canada, and took the opportunity to meet with the IPC Classification Committee and “debate with them these challenges.”

“We also have a problem with how we communicate classification, and how we position classification within the Paralympic Movement and the outside world,” Parsons said.

As for the first Youth Paralympic Games, Parsons said he is proposing to simply start discussions about those Games. First he needs to understand what the membership expects from these Games, such as how many sports should feature and whether there should be collaboration with the Youth Olympic Games.



Succeeding a ‘legend’

Parsons, 40, takes the torch from Sir Philip Craven who has served in the role for 16 years.

“Philip is a legend. He is a role model. I keep saying it will take time for the Movement to realise his legacy,” Parsons said. “We went from a disability organisation to one of the top sport organisations out there. We are stronger than ever. And this was through the work of many people but also through his vision and the direction he set for the NPCs and he was so strong in making the IPC follow that direction.”



Top back from left to right: Mohammed Alhameli, Chelsey Gotell (IPC Athletes’ Council Chair), Leonel da Rocha Pinto, Andrew Parsons, Debra Alexander, Tim Reddish, Xavi Gonzalez (IPC CEO), Rita van Driel, Sung Il Kim, Yasushi Yamawaki  
Bottom from left to right: Sir Philip Craven (IPC President 2001–2017) Muffy Davis, Luca Pancalli, Duane Kale, Juan Pablo Salazar

NEW IPC GOVERNING BOARD

10 Members at Large were elected and will serve a four-year term until the next elections in 2021



Mohammed Alhameli  
United Arab Emirates



Leonel da Rocha Pinto\*  
African Paralympic Committee



Debra Alexander\*  
International Triathlon Union



Tim Reddish\*Great Britain



Rita van Driel The Netherlands



Sung Il Kim\*South Korea



Yasushi Yamawaki Japan



Muffy Davis\* USA



Luca Pancalli\* Italy



Juan Pablo Salazar\* Colombia

\* first time on the Governing Board



# BUILDING AN NPC FROM THE GROUND UP – THE WOMAN WHO CHANGED PARA SPORTS IN PERU



Peruvian delegation at the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

**The 2019 Parapan American Games are heading to Lima, Peru. But at the time of the announcement in 2013, the nation had a NPC that was struggling.**

It did not have a well-established entity to promote and develop Para sports across the country ahead of Lima 2019. Athletes had to fund themselves to compete. When they would compete, they were reliant entirely on financial support from public or private institutions, or personal investments.

In early 2015, the IPC suspended the NPC of Peru.

Acknowledging the problem, Lucha Villar, a physical education teacher in Peru, began working to build an NPC from scratch.

“It was very hard, we had to push for that and not many people paid attention or cared about what we were trying to make,” she said.

“How can disabled people start practising sport if they live in cities which are not accessible enough for them to even take the bus to training?” Villar said. “Our aim goes way beyond the competitive field. We want to help create a more equitable society and a country which is accessible for all.”



*“The country needed a national organisation responsible for promoting sports among people with an impairment...”*

## Getting people to care

Villar got involved with the Paralympic Movement in the 1980s, when she met Peru’s Toronto 1976 Paralympic bronze medal swimmer Jose Gonzales, who explained the Movement to her. This led to different initiatives to promote Para sports in the country in the following years, such as explaining what Para sports are to her physical education class.

But how could they promote Para sports if their own athletes were not showing enough podium results?

In 2014 at the first Para South American Games in Santiago, Chile, Peru won just five bronze and ended last in the medals table. The following year, 16 Peruvian athletes competed at the Parapan American Games in Toronto, Canada, but left without a medal.

After much struggle, the National Paralympic Association of Peru (ANPP) was founded at the end of 2015, with Villar elected its first President. It was recognised by the Peruvian Institute of Sports; and in February 2016 it became a provisional IPC member prior to ratification at the 2017 IPC General Assembly.

“Before the ANPP was founded, Paralympic sports in Peru were left aside. No one at the Peruvian Institute of Sports was actually thinking about them,” said Villar. “Since we did not have a structure, athletes did not have any kind of support and used to face many obstacles when trying to qualify for and compete in international events.”



Lucha Villar with the Lima 2019 mascot Milco



“In fact, if it was not because we won the bid to organise the 2019 Parapan American Games, I believe we would still be on a deadlock, left aside,” Villar said.

The ANPP has stepped up in promoting Lima 2019 in Peru.

They have been active on social media, posting often on their Facebook and Twitter pages @PeruParalimpico, and even on Instagram @ParalimpicoPeru. In 2016, they launched their NPC’s website [www.anpperu.org/](http://www.anpperu.org/) to raise awareness of Para sports in the country ahead of Lima 2019. Additionally, the NPC sought out local talents to become ambassadors for Lima 2019. Swimmer Alejandra Callirgos, cyclist Israel Hilario Rimas and track and field athlete Luis Miguel Sandoval are among those signed up. Additionally, the NPC led efforts in finding the event’s mascot; a contest was held in which school children would help in designing the mascot.



The NPCs of Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Peru extended a partnership agreement, in which the Brazilian NPC would support the development of the other three.





2013

Lima awarded  
2019 Pan and  
Parapan American  
Games

2015

Former NPC Peru  
has IPC membership  
terminated

2016

NPC Peru  
approved as  
provisional IPC  
member

2017

NPC Peru  
ratified  
as full  
IPC member

In contrast to the 16 athletes who represented Peru at the 2015 Parapan American Games in Toronto, Canada, Villar said the country is hoping to send a delegation of 180 to Lima 2019 and be represented in all 17 sports.

“We are growing but it is a hard and expensive process. It is a big challenge which is why our goal is not just for the two weeks the event lasts,” she said.

Despite the challenges, Peruvian wheelchair basketball player Pilar Jauregul has seen a change in awareness: “Since Lima was announced as host city for the 2019 Parapan American Games, we have noticed that Paralympic sports have started a steady growth not just in Lima, but all around the country.”

Peruvian swimmer Maria de Jesus Trujillo said: “Up until 2015, I had no idea Paralympic sports existed. Actually, I did not practice any kind of sport when I was a little girl.”

Two years later, she won a silver medal at the Youth Parapan American Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

### Outside the competitive field

The ANPP has been offering workshops at high schools, universities, hospitals and sport institutes, inviting all who are interested to try Para sports.

“We want to show them they are as fun and challenging as sports for able-bodied people,” said Villar, who is also working towards changes to the national sports law. “We want everyone in the country, including people with impairment, to have the right to practice sports.”

This year, the ANPP, together with the Peruvian Institute of Sports and the Ministry of Economy and Finance, launched ‘Meta 20’ (Goal 20) to develop Para sports from the grassroots. Villar said the initiative allows municipalities in Lima who develop Para sports to receive an economic incentive by the end of the year given by the Peruvian Institute of

Sports through the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Other partnerships in Latin American have also been key for the ANPP.

In March this year, the ANPP renewed their co-operation agreement with the Brazilian Paralympic Committee (CPB). Under its terms, the CPB will continue exchanging information, and technical and organisational knowledge with the ANPP to help them develop in various areas.

“They have been supporting us for some time already and have helped us develop the Paralympic Movement in Peru,” Villar said. “I see Brazil as a great example of how to make the Paralympic Movement grow. The work they have done with schools, municipalities and their talent search is something I pay close attention to in order to replicate it in Peru.”

# I’M NOT MISSING ANYTHING. WELL, MAYBE ANOTHER MEDAL.

To reach your goals, dare to break down barriers.

Ellen Keane, Paralympic Swimmer



International Partner



**Allianz** 





» No win is ever done alone.

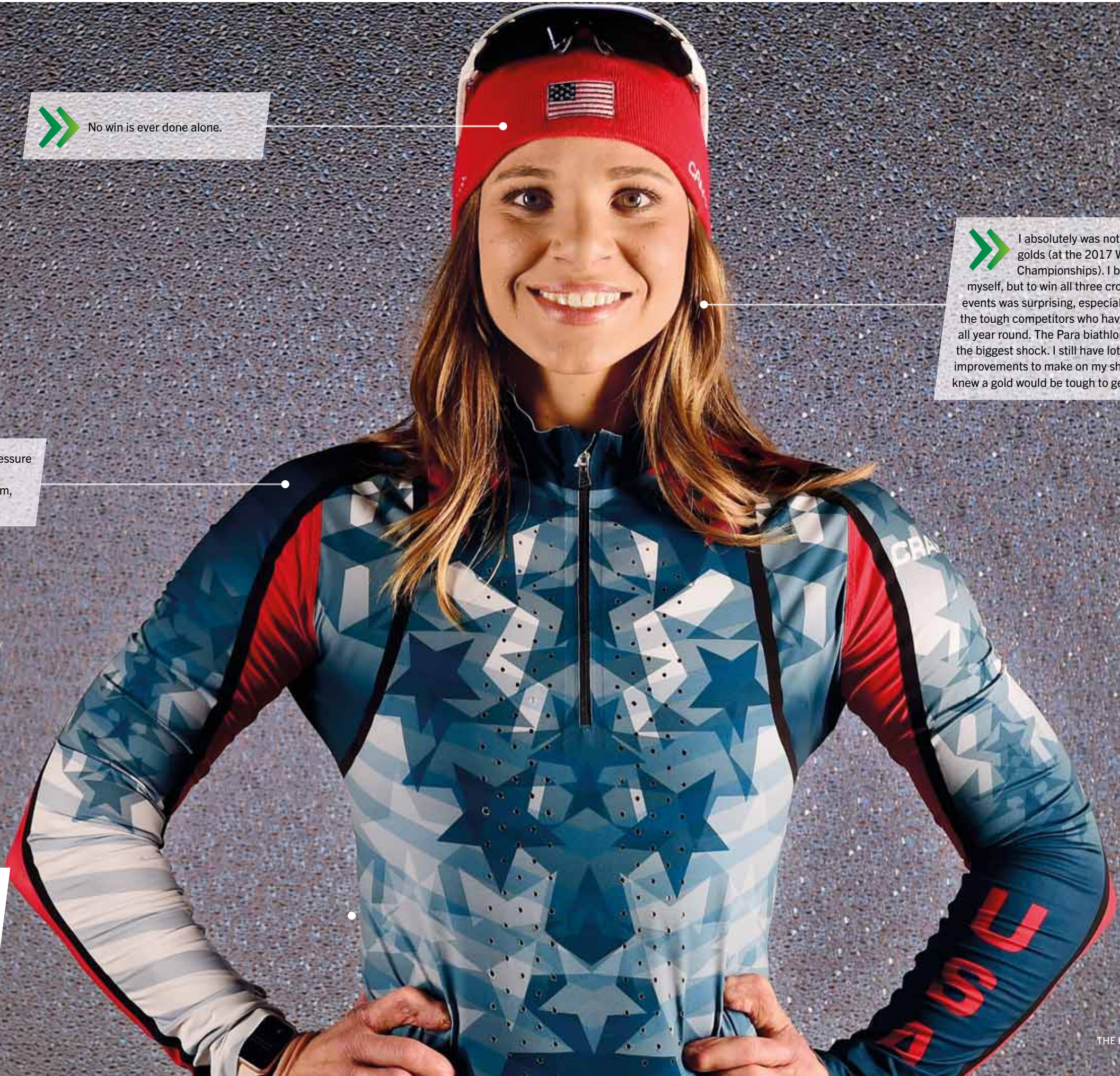
» I am not going to put any pressure on myself in PyeongChang. My biggest goal is to race calm, relaxed and in control.

» I absolutely was not expecting four golds (at the 2017 World Championships). I believed in myself, but to win all three cross-country events was surprising, especially with the tough competitors who have been training all year round. The Para biathlon gold was the biggest shock. I still have lots of improvements to make on my shooting so I knew a gold would be tough to get.



### Oksana Masters

🏅 Paralympic rowing medallist swapped her oars for ski poles; swept Para cross-country events at 2017 World Championships.





14–23 July  
World Para Athletics Championships



The 2017 World Championships were held at the London Stadium, the site of Para athletics competitions during the London 2012 Paralympics.



Morocco's defending champion Mohamed Amguoun set a world record in the men's 400m T13.



Great Britain's Aled Davies broke his previous world record in the shot put F42, throwing 17.52m, 1.39m farther.



Mexico's Diana Laura Coraza Castaneda charged down the home straight passing all three of her rivals to take gold in the 800m T11.

MEDALS TABLE			
China	30	17	18
USA	20	19	20
Great Britain	18	8	13

The eighth edition of the World Para Athletics Championships marked the first time the event was held back-to-back with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) equivalent.

Para athletes returned to the iconic London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the same venue that staged athletics events during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. And the 10-day competition saw the London 2012 Paralympics legacy live on.

Around 1,300 athletes from 100 countries took part in this year's Worlds, contesting 213 medal events. A grand total of 33 world records were broken in front of record breaking vocal crowds and masses of media. Around 305,000 tickets were sold, with the total fans in attend-

ance eclipsing all previous editions of the event combined. London 2017 saw 23 rights holding broadcasters (RHBs), five more than the 2015 Worlds in Doha, Qatar. They covered 87 territories, up 20 from Doha.

Tunisia's Walid Ktila and Canada's Brent Lakatos secured four world titles each, while Great Britain's Hannah Cockroft became a 10-time world champion on home tracks. Brazilian Petrucio Ferreira delivered more standout performances, leaving London 2017 as a double world record holder in the men's 100m and 200m T47.

Meanwhile, Morocco's Youssef Benibrahim clocked 14:20.69 in the men's 5,000m T13, a 13-second improvement on the mark set by Tunisia's Bilel Aloui at Rio 2016.

China finished topped of the medals table, highlighted by Zhou Hongzhuang's triple gold (women's 100m, 400m and 800m T53).



SPOTLIGHT ON

**TATYANA MCFADDEN (USA)**  
Despite missing much of the build-up to the World Championships after being hospitalised due to blood clots in her legs, she claimed four golds in the 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m T54.



8-10 June; 13–16 July; 7–10 September

French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open



Japan's Yui Kamiji won three Grand Slams to sit at No. 1 in the women's singles.



Alfie Hewett followed up his Paralympic debut with his first Grand Slam title.



**SPOTLIGHT ON**  
**STEFAN OLSSON (SWE)**  
Defeated Argentina's No. 1 Gustavo Fernandez at Wimbledon for his first Grand Slam success in 19 years of playing the sport.

All three Grand Slam events saw a different title winner in the men's singles.

Great Britain's Rio 2016 silver medallist Alfie Hewett and Sweden's Stefan Olsson won their first Grand Slam titles at the French Open and Wimbledon respectively, while France's Stephane Houdet won his fourth at the US Open.

Japan's Yui Kamiji wrapped up a fantastic year, winning the French Open and the US Open, to add to her Australian Open title earlier this year. The Netherlands' Diede de Groot won her maiden Grand Slam at Wimbledon.

In the quad singles, USA's David Wagner celebrated on home soil as he lifted the US Open trophy.

[www.itftennis.com/wheelchair](http://www.itftennis.com/wheelchair)

31 August – 3 September

Para Cycling Road World Championships



After three rounds of the 2017 UCI Para Cycling Road World Cup, the world's top cyclists finished the season in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, for the Road World Championships.



India sent athletes for the first time to a UCI Para Cycling Road World Championships.

Kerstin Brachtendorf's and Tobias Vetter's victories contributed to Germany's total haul to finish atop the medals table in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. Italy were second, swapping positions with Germany from the last edition from the 2015 World Championships in Nottwil, Switzerland.

The USA's double Rio 2016 champion Shawn Morelli also delivered a standout performance by winning both events in the women's C4. Despite being new to the circuit, Sweden's Anna Beck won a four-way sprint in the women's road race C3. Slovakia's reigning Paralympic champion Jozef Metelka continued off his success from Rio 2016 by winning his first World title in men's time trial C4

[www.cyclingsa.com/2017-uci-para-road-world-champs](http://www.cyclingsa.com/2017-uci-para-road-world-champs)

MEDALS TABLE			
Germany	10	4	6
Italy	7	4	3
Netherlands	6	5	4

**SPOTLIGHT ON**  
**TRISTEN CHERNOVE (CAN)**  
Two-time world champion on the track in 2016, Chernove added two titles on the road. His road race C2 title made up for his crash at Rio 2016.





23–26 August

Para Canoe World Championships



Despite saying this year was her toughest, Great Britain's Emma Wiggs still held onto her world title.

MEDALS TABLE			
Australia	5	0	0
Great Britain	3	2	2
Brazil	1	3	1



SPOTLIGHT ON

CURTIS MCGRATH (AUS)

Defended both his world gold medals, five years after he lost both his legs after stepping on a homemade landmine in Afghanistan.

Australia and Great Britain once again showed they are the strongest countries, finishing atop the medals table in Racice, Czech Republic.

After experimenting with rowing, Australia's Curtis McGrath decided to stick with canoe. It proved to be the right decision after winning the KL2 and VL2 world titles.

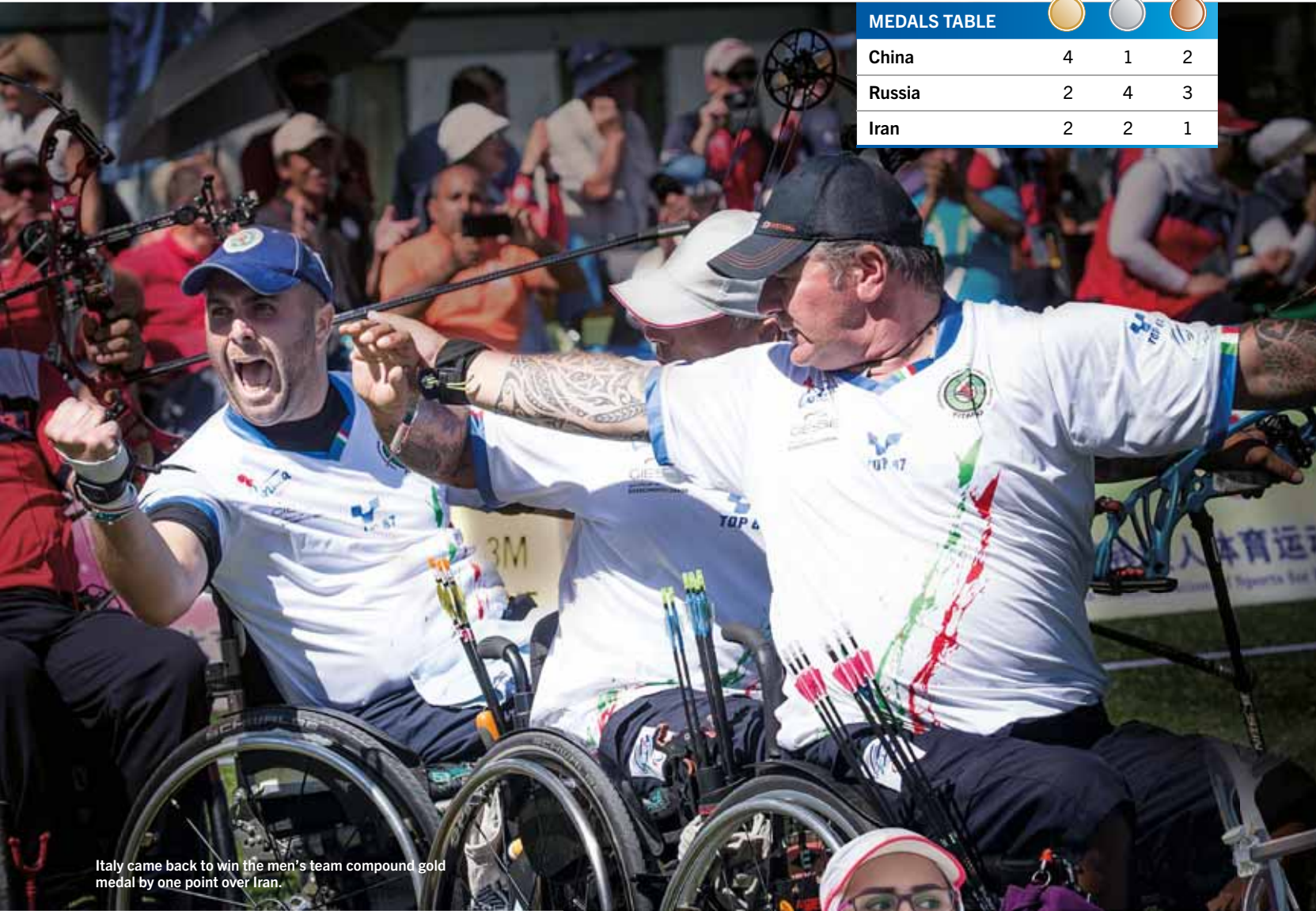
Great Britain's Emma Wiggs has dominated every World Championships since 2013, and this year was no exception as she again took gold in the women's KL2 event. Her fellow Rio 2016 champion Jeanette Chippington took the women's 200m KL1.

As in Rio, Ukraine's Serhii Yemelianov proved he is too strong in the men's KL3 event.

[www.canoeicf.com](http://www.canoeicf.com)

12–17 September

World Archery Para Championships



MEDALS TABLE			
China	4	1	2
Russia	2	4	3
Iran	2	2	1

Italy came back to win the men's team compound gold medal by one point over Iran.

More than 200 athletes from nearly 40 nations competed across 14 medal events in Beijing, China.

The host nation showed their strength by winning four golds through Zhao Lixue in the men's recurve open, Ai Xinliang in the men's compound open, Zhou Jiamin in the women's compound open and the Chinese team in the women's recurve open.

Great Britain performed a clean sweep in the women's W1 event thanks to Jessica Stretton (gold), Jo Frith (silver) and Victoria Rumary (bronze).

The USA's Jeff Fabry won a long-awaited gold in the men's W1 competition with an arrow upgraded in the final end of his 15-arrow finals match with Turkey's Omer Asik.

[www.worldarchery.org](http://www.worldarchery.org)

SPOTLIGHT ON

ZAHRA NEMATI (IRI)

Iranian archer united the Paralympic and world titles with her victory in the women's recurve open.





24 September – 1 October

# World Rowing Championships

Five world champions were crowned in Sarasota-Bradenton, USA, which was the first Worlds held over the new doubled distance of 2,000m.

In a thrilling PR1 men’s single sculls (PR1 M1x) race, Australia’s Erik Horrie powered past Ukraine’s Paralympic champion Roman Polianskyi for the gold.

Norway’s dual-sport athlete Birgit Skarstein won the PR1 women’s single sculls (PR1 W1x), rounding off a great year which saw her

claiming bronze at the 2017 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships.

The Dutch boat of Annika van der Meer and Corne de Koning claimed the PR2 mixed double sculls (PR2 Mix2x). Brazil’s Diana Barcelos and Jairo Klug were the fastest in the PR3 mixed double sculls (PR3 Mix2x) and the British crew of Grace Clough, Giedre Rakauskaite, Oliver Stanhope, James Fox and Anna Corderoy finished first in the PR3 mixed cox four (PR3 Mix4+).

[www.worldrowing.com/events/2017-world-rowing-championships/](http://www.worldrowing.com/events/2017-world-rowing-championships/)

MEDALS TABLE			
Australia	1	0	0
Brazil	1	0	0
Great Britain	1	0	0
Netherlands	1	0	0
Norway	1	0	0

## SPOTLIGHT ON

**BIRGIT SKARSTEIN (NOR)**  
Adapted quickly to the new race distance, winning the gold medal on top of the World Cup II event earlier this year.



21–22 October

# World Para Dance Sport Championships



MEDALS TABLE			
Ukraine	9	4	4
South Korea	2	3	1
Belarus	2	1	0



Karlygash Tynabekova's Bollywood choreography helped secure the Kazakh's first world title.

The fifth edition of the World Championships held in Malle, Belgium, saw the biggest gathering of Para dancers to date. Nearly 170 athletes from 22 countries competed over 18 medals events (up four from the 2015 Worlds), with the freestyle discipline returning for the second time and being a spectator favourite.

Ukraine topped the medals table with 17 total, including a memorable gold medal performance from Ivan Sivak in the men's single class 2. Although a multi-world and European champion, Sivak won his first individual world title without his wife Nadiia, who passed away in October 2016.

The Philippines' Rhea Marquez and Jun Julius Obero captured the heart of the judges and audience in the combi freestyle class 2. They successfully defended their title and also added the combi Latin, an

## SPOTLIGHT ON

**RHEA MARQUEZ AND JUN JULIUS OBERO (PHI)**  
Marquez fought through a shoulder injury as the Filipino pair defended their freestyle title and added the eluded combi Latin to their golden collection

event they just missed out on the podium for two years ago.

Defending champion Jesus Yermain Fernandez jazzed up the competition with his winning performance in the men's single freestyle class 2. This time he was joined by a bigger and stronger Mexican delegation that took home five medals total.

[www.worldparadancesport.com](http://www.worldparadancesport.com)



19 October

# World Para Taekwondo Championships



Amy Truesdale beat Morocco's Rajae Akermach in the final for the world title.

Multiple-European champion Amy Truesdale did not disappoint on her home mat as she won the women's over 58kg K44 at the seventh edition of the World Championships in London, Great Britain.

In the women's up to 58kg K44, Denmark's Lisa Gjessing won her fourth world title to remain unbeaten at World Championships.

Spain's Alejandro Vidal Alvarez did not let Bopha Kong continue his hot streak in 2017, as he defeated the French fighter in the final of the men's up to 61kg K43. In another standout performance, Iran's Mahdi Pourrahnama continued his domination in the men's up to 75kg K44, winning his fourth consecutive World gold.

The 2017 World Championships was an important step for the athletes to earn vital Paralympic

MEDALS TABLE			
Russia	6	2	5
Turkey	4	4	3
Kazakhstan	2	0	0
Mongolia	2	0	0

Paralympic Kyorugi events only

qualification points. It welcomed over 260 athletes from 59 countries who competed across 14 medal events. While Poomsae (martial art forms) and Kyorugi (sparring) were both contested in London, Kyorugi will be the only discipline contested at Tokyo 2020, where the sport will make its Paralympic debut.

[www.worldtaekwondo.org](http://www.worldtaekwondo.org)

## SPOTLIGHT ON

**LISA GJESSING (DEN)**  
Defeated Russian No. 1 Ayshat Ramazanova for her fourth consecutive world title.





# Gripping Jouko's Games experiences

Amid a glittering career that includes 12 Paralympic gold medals, Finland's Jouko Grip recalls the one that really stood out.

It was his gold in the biathlon race at the 1992 Paralympic Winter Games in Albertville, France.

Why? Because Grip admits he actually would not have won the race if it was not for the help of his Swiss opponent Bernhard Furrer.

Furrer began celebrating as he approached the finish line, too early as it turned out. Grip took advantage of his rival's slowdown, overtaking him to snatch the gold medal by 0.6 seconds.

"I reached him to the end and the feeling after the finish line was memorable," Grip said. "The team leader Jouko Sauro shouted lap times the last 2.5km, and I really appreciated that encouragement. I felt like he was everywhere.

"It was absolutely an awesome feeling when I looked at the scoreboard and saw I won with a 0.6-second difference."

Grip contracted polio in his left hand when he was four. But he has been a sports enthusiast since he was young.

"As a young guy, I found that I was physically talented. In school, I won ski races, even against other skiers who raced with two sticks and I with one," Grip said. "That gave me motivation to compete with able-bodied athletes as an adult. I often won those competitions both in running and skiing."

At his first Paralympics in 1980 in Geilo, Norway, Grip won all three of his cross-country events: the short and middle distances, and relay.

The Paralympics have come a long way since his first Games experience.

"The Opening Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony were smaller and more modest than today," Grip said. "The Athlete Village was a magnificent mountain village.

"The atmosphere among the audience was great. I was a little tense, but after the first ski races I noticed that the hard work I had been doing for several years had made me very competitive. Therefore I did well in the Games."

He then went on to defend his three Paralympic titles at Innsbruck 1984.

When the snow melted and the winter season was over, Grip's competitive nature kept him hungry for more.

So he turned his attention to athletics.

He devoted between two and three hours per day, five days a week, to the sport, and again, he saw his hard work pay off.

At New York 1984, Grip claimed gold in the 400m and 1,500m.

He says the 400m was one of the most exciting race he has ever taken part in.

He was leading until he suffered a hamstring strain. Fellow teammate Reino Peltonen got closer to him but Grip still managed to win by one second.

He could not repeat his success at the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul, South Korea. He turned his

focus on the winter, competing in five more editions between 1988–2002.

"There was no other reason than the fact that the competition was tightening all the time," he explained. "I worked five days a week and I felt that I could not give everything to both sides. Up to a point, they serve each other, but endurance training eventually suffers. In skiing you can also be successful longer at a higher age. As a runner, you get slower forcibly in the top level."

He tried to repeat his 1984 success in the 1988 Paralympic Winter Games but could not medal.

But his passion for the Paralympic Movement remained.

He mentored younger Finn athletes like Paralympic medallists Ilkka Tuomisto, who took cross-country silver at Sochi 2014, and Maija Jarvela, Vancouver 2010 biathlon silver medallist.

Grip's achievements were recognised when he was inducted into the Paralympic Hall of Fame in 2006. He keeps all his medals in a closet at home.

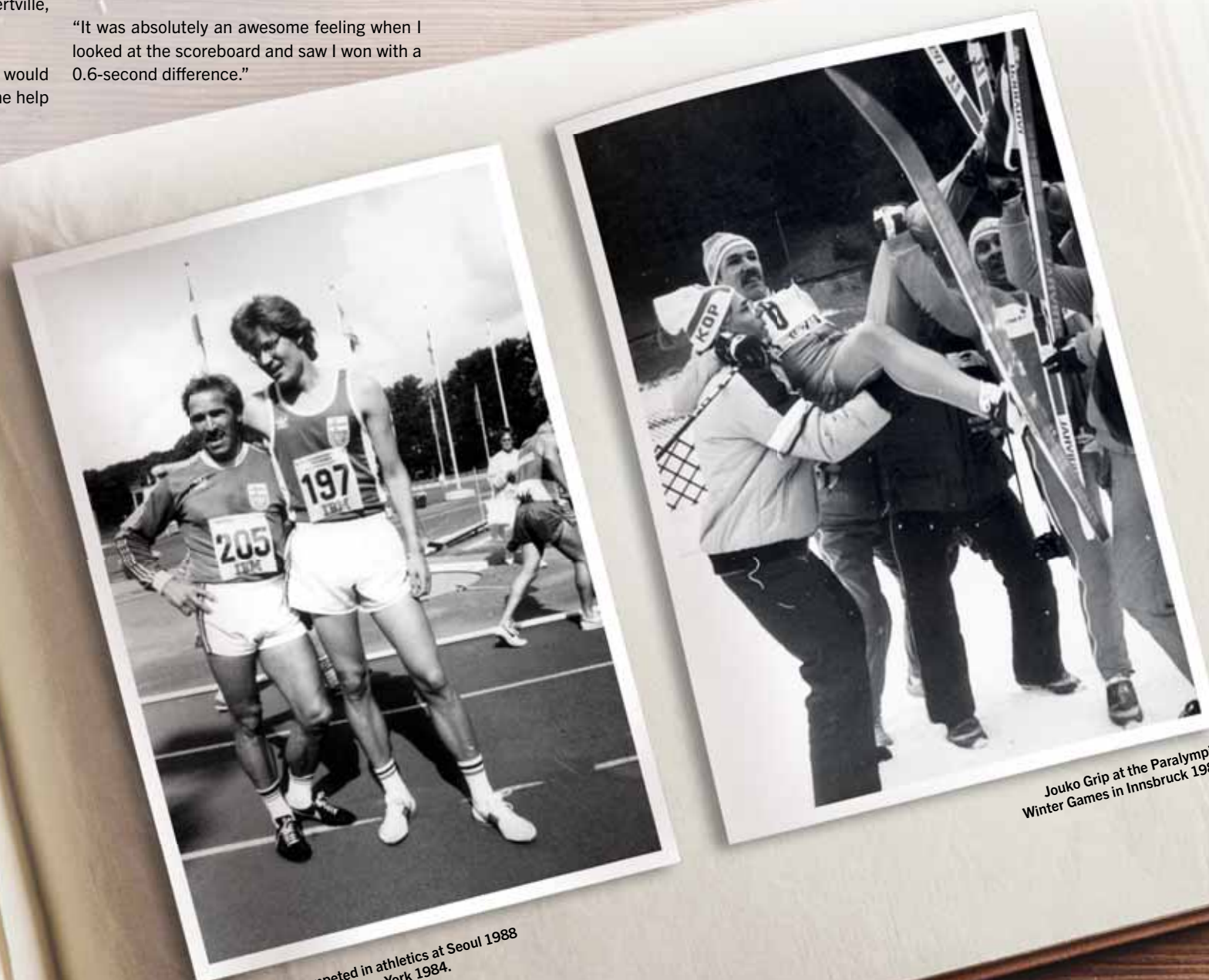
"What makes the athlete a winner? One must have so called internal fire within. Sport needs to go before everything else. If the fire burns out, the athlete will not be able to practice properly and not focus on the essential things of the sport."

 **Jouko Grip**

12-time Paralympic champion in Nordic skiing and athletics



Jouko Grip keeps all his medals in a closet at home.



Jouko Grip at the Paralympic Winter Games in Innsbruck 1984

Jouko Grip also competed in athletics at Seoul 1988 and Stoke Mandeville & New York 1984.



The 2017–18 World Cup circuits in alpine skiing, Nordic skiing and snowboard will be even more important for athletes as they prepare for PyeongChang 2018.

## World Para Alpine Skiing World Cup [www.paralympic.org/alpine-skiing](http://www.paralympic.org/alpine-skiing)



► 11–16 December 2017  
St. Moritz, Switzerland

► 19–22 December 2017  
Kuhtai, Austria

► 8–9 January 2018  
Zagreb-Sljeme, Croatia

► 11–12 January 2018  
Kranjska Gora, Slovenia

► 15–18 January 2018  
Veysonnaz, Switzerland

► 21–26 January 2018  
Tignes, France

► 7–11 February 2018  
Kimberley, Canada  
(World Cup Finals)



**Mac Marcoux**  
Canada

Four-time champion from Tarvisio 2017 proved he is the man to beat in the men's visually impaired, with guide Jack Leitch



**Marie Bochet**  
France

14-time world and four-time Paralympic champion. Can anyone stop her in the women's standing?



**Anna Schaffelhuber**  
Germany

Multi-Paralympic and world champion topped the 2016/2017 World Cup overall rankings in the women's sitting

## World Para Nordic Skiing World Cup [www.paralympic.org/nordic-skiing](http://www.paralympic.org/nordic-skiing)



► 9–17 December 2017  
Canmore, Canada

► 20–28 January 2018  
Oberried, Germany

► 3–9 February 2018  
Vuokatti, Finland



**Benjamin Daviet**  
France

Has a point to prove, having won biathlon World Cup last season, as well as several Worlds medals; only missing Paralympic gold



**Oleksandra Kononova**  
Ukraine

Collected plenty of gold hardware from Finsterau 2017, including three individual world titles in both cross-country and biathlon



**Carina Edlinger**  
Austria

Had an outstanding 2016–17 season as overall World Cup winner and two-time world champion with guide brother Julian

## World Para Snowboard World Cup [www.paralympic.org/snowboard](http://www.paralympic.org/snowboard)



► 15–16 November 2017  
Landgraaf, Netherlands

► 30 November – 2 December 2017  
Pyha, Finland

► 5–8 February 2018  
Big White, Canada



**Matti Suur-Hamari**  
Finland

From 11th place at Sochi 2014 to double world champion in men's SB-LL2 at Big White 2017



**Bibian Mentel-Spee**  
Netherlands

Paralympic legend went unbeaten in the women's SB-LL2 in the last two Worlds editions



**Brenna Huckaby**  
USA

After giving birth to her daughter, was unstoppable at Big White 2017; now seeks first Paralympic title in women's SB-LL1



Live streamed at  
[www.Paralympic.org](http://www.Paralympic.org)



21–26 November

## BWF Para Badminton World Championships



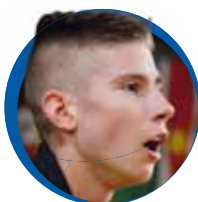
The Korea Badminton Association for the Disabled (KBAD) will host this year's tournament; another important step ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Games in which badminton will make its Paralympic debut.

Ulsan will be the host city of the event, which will gather the world's best Para badminton players. The most recent edition of the Para Badminton World Championships, held in Stoke Mandeville, Great Britain, in 2015, attracted 232 athletes from 35 nations who competed in 22 medal events.

KBAD and South Korea have hosted a number of signature Para badminton events in recent years including the Para Badminton World Championships in 2009 in Seoul, the Asian Para Badminton Championships 2012 in Yeon Ju-Gun and the 2014 Asian Para Championships in Incheon in which badminton was played.

<http://bwfcorporate.com/para-badminton>

### ONES TO WATCH



**Bartłomiej Mroz**  
Poland

Ranked No. 2 in the SU 5, looks to redeem himself from silver at the last edition in 2015.



**Karin Suter-Erath**  
Switzerland

Will look to regain her title after a finals upset in 2015 in the women's singles WH 1.



**Jung Jun Kim**  
South Korea

No. 1 in men's singles WH 2 will have home court advantage.



**Gustavo Fernandez**  
Argentina

Enjoying the best year of his career, having won the Australian Open. Reached the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon, and became world singles No.1 for the first time.



**Yui Kamiji**  
Japan

Went on a 30-match winning-streak that included the Australian Open and Roland Garros titles, between January and June.



**Alfie Hewett**  
Great Britain

After a breakthrough 2016 year, won his first Grand Slam in 2017 at the French Open.

29 November – 3 December

## NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters



For a fourth consecutive year, Great Britain will host the year-end tournament which features the top eight men, top eight women and top six quad players in the world.

After three years at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, this time the tournament moves to Loughborough. Competitions will take place at the Loughborough University's state-of-the-art indoor tennis centre, which was selected by the Tennis Foundation.

The 2017 edition will be the 24th ITF Masters tournament since the inaugural event in the Netherlands in 1994.

[www.itftennis.com](http://www.itftennis.com)

### ONES TO WATCH

2–8 December

## World Para Swimming Championships and World Para Powerlifting Championships



### ONES TO WATCH



**Rebecca Meyers**  
USA

Sealed her first Paralympic titles at Rio 2016 (100m butterfly S13; 400m freestyle S13; 200m individual medley SM13), setting world records in the 100m and 400m along the way.



**Daniel Dias**  
Brazil

Brazil's most decorated Paralympian won nine medals (four golds) at his home Paralympics and returns to his first major competition since then.



### ONES TO WATCH



**Siamand Rahman**  
Iran

The strongest man in Paralympic history, breaking the world record in Rio with 310kg. Will he go further?



**Amalia Perez**  
Mexico

The nation's most popular Paralympian will try to follow-up her Rio 2016 gold, which was her third consecutive Paralympic title.

Athletes will go for swimming and powerlifting titles and records in Mexico City, where around 1,200 athletes, officials and staff from 89 countries will gather for the sports' World Championships.

The World Para Swimming Championships will be held 2-7 December, while the World Para Powerlifting Championships will run 2–8 December; together, they form the 2017 Para

Sport Festival. The Junior World Para Powerlifting Championships will also take place on 2 December.

Mexico City 2017 was postponed following a devastating earthquake near the city on 19 September, almost a week before the competitions were set to begin.

[www.paralympic.org/mexico-city-2017](http://www.paralympic.org/mexico-city-2017)

### OTHER MAJOR EVENTS

25 November–4 December  
**IBSA Blind Football American Championships** Santiago, Chile

30 November – 6 December  
**IWAS World Games**  
Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal



# THE BIG DEBATE

## What can be done to increase participation of athletes with high support needs (AHSN)?

**J**iri Kaderavek is one of the high support needs (HSN) swimmers I train. After his bronze medal from Athens 2004 in 100m freestyle in class S1, he said to me:

“The medal is great, I trained hard for that. But you know, people always ask me ‘How many of you competed?’ When I answer six, then they say ‘Hmmm ...’”

It is possible to say HSN swimmers suffer most from the insufficient number of competitors; they feel it devalues their efforts and achievements.

Jiri woke up every day before 05:00 to train. After training, he went directly to his job and returned for the afternoon session. He put in the work and sacrifice like other high-performance athletes. To reach the Paralympic podium, and for others not understand what the medal meant, is hurtful.

But it is true that there needs to be more AHSN participation.

In my definition, AHSN are perfectly compensated by rehab since childhood (in the case of inborn defects)



**JAN NEVRKLA (CZE)**

Swimming coach, director and founder of KONTAKT bB Swimming Academy beyond Borders

or immediately after an accident, therefore are self-sufficient, notwithstanding they require personal assistance to compete.

We have a small number of swimmers with HSN competing around the world, and only a select few will go to big competitions. The team with more HSN athletes usually has more staff support. But more staff support can be a financial issue. So if the number of AHSN is low at events, teams may decide not to enter them in competitions because of costs.

So how do we change this and increase AHSN participation?

Swimming is my area of expertise, so let us look into HSN swimmers.

AHSN (e.g. Paralympians!) are great motivators and need to get more involved through daily programmes. Then hopefully people with HSN will naturally develop their own desire to train at the top level.

I have organised camps for people who have obtained spinal cord injuries with a lot of tetraplegics like Jiri, who has come by as a motivational speaker. Paralympians like Vojtech Franek and Martin Kovar also helped by sharing their personal stories. AHSN need to serve as inspirations for others. We need developmental and educational camps for coaches, new potential AHSN swimmers and to involve successful AHSN Paralympians as motivators.

Additionally, most swimming programmes are oriented around the top-level athletes and do not cater to the developmental, rehab and socialising level. It is especially hard for people with HSN in the beginning to get motivated to compete at the top level. We need to be more motivating and encouraging at all levels.



Jiri Kaderavek



**JOHN PETERSSON (DEN)**

Former IPC Governing Board member, Chairperson of Athletes with High Support Needs Working Group

**T**he Paralympic Movement is committed to following four athlete-focused values: courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

With this in mind, for me, it is important that the IPC – and the Governing Board in particular – work toward implementing its values and aspiration by taking equal care of the entire pool of athletes. But discussions about what can be done to increase the participation of AHSN always raise questions.

Currently, AHSN represent about 20 per cent of participants at the Paralympics. It is hard to say what the percentage should be, but personally I think it could be higher.

Who is the group of AHSN? Generally speaking this group of athletes requires greater or additional human support or further assistance to participate in their sport. An example may be a swimmer who needs extra support in the call room before the race. The type of support differs per sport and person.

Accessibility in facilities has been a common issue for AHSN. If facilities are not built to support athletes with high support needs, it becomes difficult for them to get around and properly compete. Accessibility is not only important at the Paralympics, but all levels of competi-

tion, especially grassroots. This is one barrier that hinders participation and development.

Proper adaptation of sporting facilities is one way to better support AHSN. Another is to provide better human resource support. But this leads to increased costs. A solution could be lowering entrance fees of AHSN for competitions, or opening funding streams for competition organisers by applying for Agitos Foundation grants to increase the number of staff support for AHSN. Another solution to increasing participation is raising the visibility of AHSN through media exposure.

Whatever solution applied, we need to ensure to address the specific needs of athletes and their sport. Therefore, first and foremost, we need to find a way to better understand the specific needs of AHSN and bring their concerns forward. This is where the IPC Athletes' Council comes in. With a HSN athlete represented on this Council, he/she can help push concerns and ideas to Para sport decision-makers.

The AHSN Working Group was established to tackle issues here. But we must do more and aim not to treat aspects of AHSN independently, but to engage with other IPC structures (e.g. Paralympic Games Committee) to improve the athlete experience.



**GREG POLYCHRONIDIS (GRE)**

3-time Paralympic medallist, European champion in boccia

**A** high support needs athlete is a person with a severe disability that causes very limited range of movements. The type of disability may vary and can be caused by genetic abnormalities, problems during birth or accidents.

In my opinion, a HSN athlete is one who needs assistance to perform daily needs such as eating or going to the bathroom. This assistance could be needed 24/7 or for just a few hours per day.

The Paralympic Movement is probably the greatest tool in the socialisation of persons with impairments. This happens in two ways: First, the publicity surrounding the Paralympic Games demonstrates the skills, possibilities, willpower and achievements of persons with impairments.

This helps change people's feelings from pity and underestimation, to respect and admiration, as well as promoting equalisation and accessibility. Secondly, persons with impairments, especially HSN, are inspired, gain respect, and will strive to give their best.

But it is important a HSN person knows about the opportunity to become an athlete. They need to know there are sports (e.g. boccia) based on the power of the mind, not just the body. It has changed my life. It can change others' lives as well.

To attract more HSN persons to become athletes, there needs to be more TV time for sports other than athletics and swimming. There are a variety of sports that

could attract new athletes if they had seen it on TV.

It is a pity boccia – the sport for the athletes with the most severe disabilities – was not televised during Athens 2004, London 2012 and Rio 2016. Future athletes must watch the sport played at the highest level to be attracted to it, motivated to get involved and inspired to compete.

Secondly, the IPC as well as all the governing bodies of the Movement must pay special attention to the needs of HSN athletes in the fields of assistants, accommodation and special equipment.

In boccia, athletes from all categories are allowed to have an assistant. In one category, the athlete needs minimal help in his/her daily routine, and during the match the assistant is not involved. While in another category the athlete needs help 24/7 in his/her daily routine, and during the matches (sometimes three matches per day) the assistant is also competing as a 'sport assistant.' In this situation the assistant may not be able to perform his/her duties. Problems may occur in accommodation as well, mostly because of non-accessible bathrooms, but also with single rooms for athletes that need assistance during the night.

All these obstacles should be minimised in order to maintain the quality of life for the athletes during every competition and keep current athletes involved. At the same time, it will encourage new HSN athletes not to be afraid when competing in these new environments.



## Para ice hockey and Para dance sport representatives elected

Italian Para ice hockey player Andrea Macri and Belgian Para dancer Sofie Cox were voted the Athlete Representatives for their respective sports.

Macri, 26, will serve on World Para Ice Hockey's Sport Technical Committee (STC), and 23-year-old Cox will do likewise on World Para Dance Sport's STC. They will act as the liaison between the athletes and the STC, as well as the direct link to the Athletes' Council.

"I especially would like to ensure a balanced approach in the representation of athletes' interests, noting diverse needs of the Para ice hockey athletes, from the high-performance to developing levels," Macri said.

Cox said: "As athletes, we experience a Championships or a competition in a totally different way than a judges or the ones who organise it. So I think it is very important to have a voice as athletes in things that they discuss and the choices they make."



## Athlete voices come together



Paralympic champion Annika Zeyen shows participants some wheelchair basketball moves before playing a game.

Para sport athletes from around the world came together for the first IPC Athletes' Forum held 8–11 June in Duisburg, Germany.

More than 80 athletes from 22 IFs and 35 NPCs, as well as representation from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Commission and the IOC Athlete Commission, had an opportunity to meet with each other and with IPC representatives on various topics relating to the Paralympic Movement.

Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council Chelsey Gotell said: "The IPC Athlete Forum allowed us an opportunity to take a huge step forward in improving communication and athlete representation across all areas of the Paralympic Movement. To be a truly athlete-centred organisation, we need to ensure our athletes are informed and educated, and have the ability to be part of the dialogue and decisions that directly impact them."

Athletes participated in two Proud Paralympian workshops to support them both on and off the field of play.

They also got to showcase their competitive spirits and play sports. Rio 2016 silver and bronze medallist Grigorios Polychronidis led a boccia demonstration and competition, while Worldwide Paralympic Partner Ottobock provided eight new playing chairs for participants to play wheelchair basketball. Former IPC President and Paralympic wheelchair basketball player Sir Philip Craven and German

Paralympic champion Annika Zeyen led the games.

Rio 2016 bronze medallist Moran Samuel attended as World Rowing's representative and commented: "I think it's very good to learn not just from your experiences and your federation's experiences but from others as well, especially from an athlete point of view, not just from the manager because we are all coming from the field of play and want to help the sport. I think the combination with the IPC and the athletes who sit on the different commissions and the mix of different federations was the right passage to build conclusions and insights on everything."



Reigning Paralympic silver medallist Greg Polychronidis demonstrates his sport of boccia at the Forum in Duisburg, Germany.

## Athletics Advisory Group formed



Seven members will form the new World Para Athletics Athletes Advisory Group (AAG). (F32); Germany's Marc Schuh (T54); and Ireland's Jason Smyth (T13/F13).

The group consists of athletes from various classes and countries around the world: Australia's Carlee Beattie (F46/T47); Canada's Jason Dunkerley (T11/F11); South Korea's Gyu Dae Kim (T54); New Zealand's Liam Malone (T43); Great Britain's Stephen Miller (F32); Germany's Marc Schuh (T54); and Ireland's Jason Smyth (T13/F13). The group's aim is to represent the views of current athletes and make their voice heard within World Para Athletics. To achieve this, they will consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the STC and World Para Athletics Management Team.

## New Presidential appointments in the Paralympic Movement



Emmanuelle Assmann



Mizael Conrado



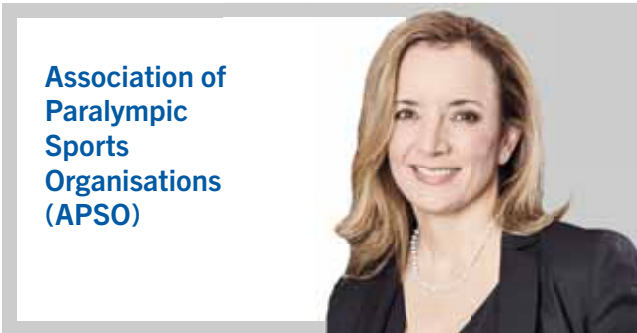
John Fulham



Thordur Arni Hjaltsted



Marc Truffaut



Sabrina Ibanez





**J**ose Luis Campo was walking through the Barra Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro in September 2016 with a smile from ear to ear, starting with amusement at the hundreds of thousands of people attending Latin America's first Paralympic Games.

He could not have imagined such success 20 years earlier, when he was just starting to tread the path which would turn him into one of the main leaders of the Paralympic Movement in the Americas.

Back then, most countries did not have a NPC, and the majority of the members of the IPC from the Americas Region were federations for the visually impaired, wheelchair athletes or the government.

Despite the size of the challenge and the few resources available, Jose Luis showed passion, determination and courage to help take the Movement forward, enjoying every step he made along the way. "Jose Luis had the Paralympic spirit coursing through every vein and artery in his body," said former IPC President Sir Philip Craven.

A huge champion and advocate of athletes with high support needs, APC President Campo oversaw the organisation of the inaugural Parapan American Games in Mexico City in 1999.

Four years later, he received Para athletes from across the continent at his home town of Mar del Plata, Argentina, for the next edition of the Games. Campo was a genuine and humble man who treated Games volunteers and national Presidents with the same respect.

## THE LAST WORD IN MEMORY OF JOSE LUIS CAMPO



\* 18 October 1957 – † 16 October 2017

Americas Paralympic Committee President  
(1997–2001, 2001–2005, 2013–2017)

IPC Governing Board Member  
(2009–2013)

"I will never forget how he organised almost by himself the 2003 Parapan Am Games," recalled IPC President Andrew Parsons.

"It was amazing to see his passion exciting a group of volunteers in Mar del Plata and uniting them around the dream to deliver the best possible Games, with almost no funding, to the athletes of the Americas. He was a fighter, an example of resilience," added Parsons.

In order to give young athletes more opportunities in the region, Campo also helped

create the Youth Parapan American Games. The first edition was held in 2005 in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, involving athletes from 10 countries. He oversaw the latest edition this March in Sao Paulo with 800 athletes from 19 countries taking part.

Months after the hugely successful Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games, Campo signed a historic agreement on behalf of the APC with the Pan American Sports Organisation (PASO) to work jointly on the bid process for future Pan Am and Parapan Am Games.

He always confronted every new exciting challenge with the same professionalism and love, either when he was giving one of his physical education classes for people with impairment or when he was leading an APC General Assembly as its President.

Away from the APC, Campo served on the IPC Executive Committee from 1997 to 2005 and was an IPC Governing Board member between 2009 and 2013. He was also part of the Rio 2016 International Olympic Committee Co-ordination Commission, a Paralympic Games that saw NPCs from the Americas win more medals than ever before.

Campo passed away while doing what he had done his entire life: helping others. He suffered a suspected heart attack while participating in a fundraising walk/run event to raise funds for organisations fighting children's cancer.

His wife Sonia, his children Bernardo, Manuel and Josefina, and the many friends and people he inspired along the way will miss him deeply. But his enormous legacy will live on.

In those dark days after I lost my legs,

you made me see that

I could live in fear,

or be fearless.

When all I wanted was to look back

you turned my head forwards.

Before I could even walk,

you inspired me to dream I could run,

with the passion to inspire others.

To Regine, my physiotherapist,

who ignited my **energy within**,

thank you.

Yours,

*David Bphke*



Be inspired to ignite your energy within at

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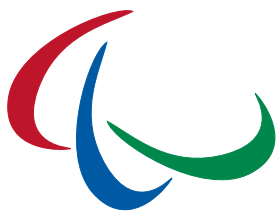


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