

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE SPORT FEDERATION

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2017





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to present the IWAS Annual Activity Report of 2017 to IWAS Member Nations and all other interested parties. The year has been another busy and exciting year for our organization, where the focus remains on maximizing sporting opportunities for athletes with physical impairments to compete, learn and develop.

To regain control over the quality and value of the IWAS World Games, the IWAS HQ team took on the role of Organizing Committee for the IWAS World Games 2017 and brought the Games to Portugal for the first time. In what was an important step for IWAS, the 2017 edition of the Games welcomed 41 nations to compete in a full programme of Para Athletics, Para Swimming, Archery, Para Taekwondo and Table Tennis.

The Games also marked some additional 'firsts'. The IWAS World Games 2017 welcomed for the first time, a 'Masters' category of athlete, providing invaluable competition opportunity for athletes 40 years and older. IWAS has received fantastic feedback from athletes that competed under this age group and we look to continue the category's inclusion in upcoming competitions.

For the first time, the IWAS Solidarity Programme, also welcomed two refugee athletes to Vila Real de San Antonio for the IWAS World Games 2017. Competing in Para Taekwondo and Athletics, the two athletes, now residing in Austria and Greece, excelled in their chosen competition and benefited greatly from the experience the Games offered.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has again provided an extensive competition programme with a significant focus on developing both new athletes as well as the infrastructure of sport officials, coaches and classifiers.

In the coming year, we eagerly anticipate the result of a research collaboration with students from the Imperial College London to create a beginner's Wheelchair Fencing frame, easily constructed with basic building materials. The aim is to greatly reduce the initial costs for countries looking to develop the sport.

IWAS Powerchair Hockey have also had a busy year preparing for the upcoming IWAS Powerchair Hockey World Championships in 2018 in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy while also continuing ongoing communications with an ever-widening network of new countries and regions.

Classification has also been a significant focus for IWAS Powerchair Hockey in 2017 culminating in a finalised document and the refresher training course of all current and new classifiers.

In September 2017, I was honoured to be awarded the Paralympic Order alongside long-time friend and tireless worker IWAS Vice-President, Karl Wilhelm Nielsen at the Paralympic Awards Gala. A memorable night for IWAS was also celebrated when wheelchair fencers, Italy's Beatrice Vio won the 'Best Female Paralympic Debut' award and Iraq's Ammar Ali secured the 'BP Courage Award'.



The IWAS General Assembly held in December 2017, saw the election of a new President, and Vice-President with a strong Board made up of remaining and new Members with a varied and exciting mix of experience and skills, under the leadership of new IWAS President, Rudi Van Den Abbeele,

I would like to thank you all for your hard work and support during my 16 years as IWAS President and, as I move to my new role of President Emeritus, I look forward to supporting the new Executive Board in the continued growth and development of IWAS and its athletes in the coming term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'P. DePace'.

Paul DePace
IWAS President
(2001-2017)



ABOUT IWAS

Following the vision of its creator and founder, Sir Ludwig Guttmann, IWAS was formed in 2004 following the amalgamation of the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation and the International Sport Organisation for the Disabled. As the original founders of the Paralympic Games movement, IWAS has continued to provide its 65+ international members with competition and sporting opportunities for physically impaired athletes in maintaining its vision to "Inspire Worldwide Achievements in Sport".

IWAS governs both Powerchair Hockey and the Paralympic sport of Wheelchair Fencing. IWAS also provides support to developing sports and nations to cultivate sporting opportunities available across the world.

IWAS remains a vital mechanism in the Paralympic movement through its international pathway from grass-roots sport to Paralympic elite. The IWAS Under 23 World Games and IWAS World Games sees athletes of all abilities from 14 years up to 'Masters' (40 years +) participating on an international platform.

The International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) is a Charitable Company (limited by Guarantee) and registered in England and Wales with Companies House (2713410) and the Charity Commission (1011552). As a UK registered charity, the work of IWAS reaches far beyond sporting achievements of physically impaired athletes. IWAS receives no government funding and relies fully on capitation and membership fees and an international volunteer base for its work. IWAS works tirelessly in the promotion of welfare and social change across the globe through the medium of sport.

IWAS PURPOSE STATEMENTS

VALUES

Sportsmanship, Unity, Respect & Friendship

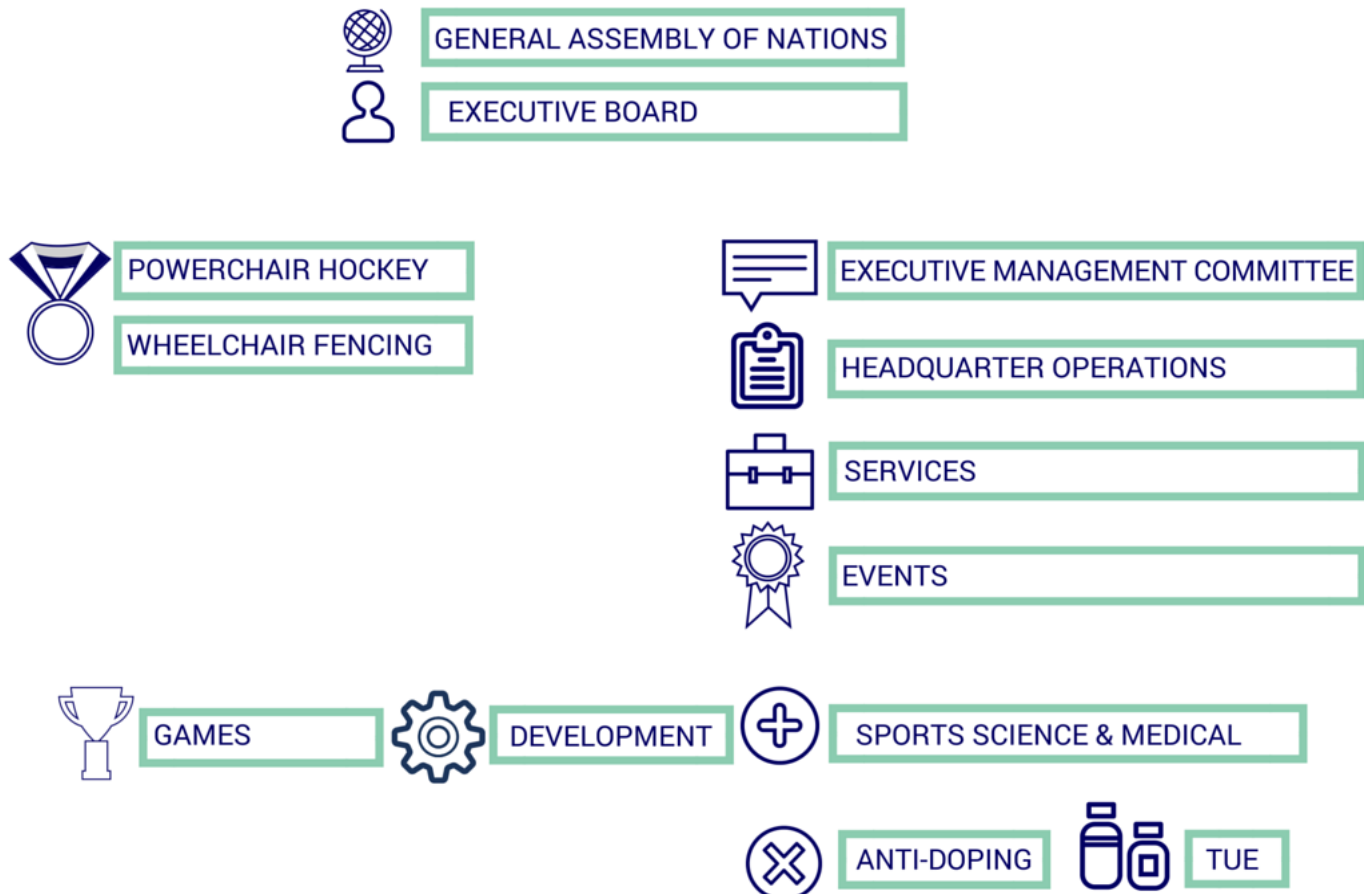
VISION

Develop sporting opportunities for athletes to maximise their potential

MISSION

Inspire Worldwide Achievements in Sport

IWAS ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE





MEMBER NATIONS



NEW MEMBERS

Following the attendance of two athletes from Australia and Cyprus as solidarity teams at the IWAS Under 23 World Games in 2016, IWAS welcomed back Disability Sport Australia as well new organisation, Cyprus Para Sport Federation into full IWAS Membership in 2017. Singapore Disability Sport Council also joined in later 2017 in view of attending 2018 IWAS Games events.

NPC Namibia and the Uruguayan Fencing Federation joined IWAS as Developing Members while Romania enter their second year as Developing Members benefitting from the donation of two sports wheelchairs to aide in their development in December 2017.

IWAS EXECUTIVE BOARD & SERVING OFFICERS 2013-2017

PRESIDENT

Paul DePace

IWAS Executive Management Committee
United States of America

VICE PRESIDENT

Karl Vilhelm Nielsen

IWAS Executive Management Committee
Denmark

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Pavel Rozhkov

Russia

HONORARY TREASURER

Bob Paterson

IWAS Executive Management Committee
Great Britain

ASSISTANT HONORARY TREASURER

Rachel Andrews

Great Britain

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Dina Sotiriadi
Games Committee
Greece

Pieter Badenhorst
Development Committee
South Africa

Radka Kucirkova
Czech Republic

Rudi Van Den Abbeele
France

Dr. Tariq Sultan Ahmed Alkadim
United Arab Emirates

IWAS STAFF

Charmaine Hooper leads the Headquarters at Aylesbury College as Chief Executive Officer following her official appointment in 2015.

Hilary Sahota continues to work as Sport Services Manager in her role focussing on competition management and development of Wheelchair Fencing including classification and education. Stacey Ashwell continues in her part-time role as Sports Manager following her return from maternity leave with a focus on IWAS Powerchair Hockey and anti-doping operations.

Elin Luce was promoted from Personal Assistant to Head of Operations in September 2016 following her return from two years living in Bordeaux, France. Elin continues to manage membership, communications and the IWAS Games programme.

Mark Henderson, resigned from his position as part-time Finance Manager in July 2017. His role overseeing the day-to-day book-keeping of IWAS was passed to Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Rachel Andrews who became an IWAS employee in October 2017. Rachel also attended the IWAS World Games where she managed finances throughout the event.

VOLUNTEERS/WORK EXPERIENCE

IWAS welcomed two work experience students to assist in office administration in 2017. Robyn fulfilled six months of work experience with IWAS to contribute to her course which she studies at Aylesbury College. Jemima, from a local high school, also joined for the preparations of the IWAS World Games as part of a voluntary requirement of her A-level coursework.

HEADQUARTERS

In September 2017, the IWAS office moved to an alternative space in the same building. The move, while providing a quieter environment, also promises savings in addition to the annual saving of £3000 the initial move from Stoke Mandeville provided. IWAS looks forward to another positive year in the facility.

IWAS ELECTIONS 2017

On 2nd December 2017, the thirty-two nations present at the IWAS General Assembly cast their votes for a new IWAS Executive Board in Vila Real de San Antonio, Portugal.

Previous Executive Board Member at Large, Rudi Van den Abbeele was elected with 20 of the 32 votes while, IWAS Vice President, was named as Dr. Tariq Ahmad Bin Khadim Al Nuaimi (UAE).



Members at Large remaining on the Board for a new term are Karl Vilhelm Nielsen (DEN), Dina Sotiriadi (GRE) and Pavel Rozhkov (RUS) who was also appointed as 2nd Vice President.



New to the Board are Maryam Shokouhi of Iran, Ernesta Strydom of South Africa and Pal Szekeres of Hungary.

IWAS WORLD GAMES



IWAS WORLD GAMES 2017

The IWAS World Games 2017 was hosted from 30 November to 6 December in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal. IWAS HQ took the lead as the Organising Committee in an effort to regain control of the quality and consistency of events on the IWAS Games programme, working with on-site travel operators Laranja Tours.

The IWAS World Games 2017 hosted a sports programme of Archery, Athletics, Swimming, Table Tennis, Para Taekwondo with all sports except swimming (all swimmers will be reclassified from January 2018) hosting classification opportunities for competing athletes.

Complexo Desportivo Vila Real de Santo Antonio provided a one venue location offering space for all sports on the programme while the Yellow Monte Gordo Hotel, just 2.5km away, accommodated all attending teams.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the central square of Vila Real de Santo Antonio where a full brass band welcomed the competing teams. The Mayor of the city, Maria de Conceicao Cabrita welcomed the athletes and declared the Games open, while IWAS President, Paul DePace made the final welcoming address of his Presidency.

The decision to host, Under 23s, Open and Masters categories made for an atmosphere of great excitement and anticipation from the 297 competing athletes from 41 nations. From 14-year olds embarking on their international debuts to Masters athletes who used the opportunity to compete 'one last time' enjoyed 3 days of great competition.

IWAS will also act as Organising Committee for the two Games planned for 2018, the IWAS Youth World Games to be held in Athlone, Ireland and the IWAS Women's World Games to be hosted in Worcester,





DEVELOPMENT

DONATION OF EQUIPMENT

On 21 September 2016, IWAS was delighted to be selected as an organisation to receive four sport wheelchairs and three racing wheelchairs built during a team building day organised by O3E with pharmaceutical company, Roche.

In August 2017, IWAS CEO Charmaine Hooper surprised representatives from NPC Namibia with the gift of three racing wheelchairs at the World Para Athletics Championships 2017, in London. Having become IWAS Developing Members, earlier in the year with a focus on the development of wheelchair sport, the donation is hoped to allow Namibia to be represented at an IWAS World Games in the coming years.



IWAS Developing Members, Romanian Paralympic Committee were also donated two sport wheelchairs at the IWAS World Games 2017. Romania have been very active in their involvement with IWAS since their Membership began, entering teams to all Game events, and it is hoped the equipment will continue to assist in the development of Para-sport in the country.

SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

For the first time, in 2017 IWAS welcomed refugee athletes to the IWAS World Games to compete under the IWAS flag.

Hadi Hassanzada, a refugee from Afghanistan now settled in Austria, competed in the Para Taekwondo K42 -61kg category in his first IWAS World Games appearance. Having lost his arm in the conflict in Afghanistan, Hadi sought refuge first in Turkey before making a base in Austria where he was first introduced to Para Taekwondo.

Supported by IWAS and the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation, Hassanzada said of the experience, 'The IWAS World Games 2017 has given me an opportunity to meet new people and compete against the best in the sport. The competition was a great experience and has pushed me to work harder for the next time. I would like to thank all those who made it possible for me to come to this competition.'

As part of the Agitos Foundation's Grant Support Programme managed by the Hellenic Paralympic Committee, IWAS also supported the international sporting debut of Najib Alhaj Ali alongside the 300 IWAS Games athletes in Vila Real de Santo Antonio.

At twelve-years-old a bomb attack on his home in the city of Homs, Syria left Najib paralysed from the waist down. In search of safety, the family braved a Mediterranean Sea crossing on a rubber dinghy from Turkey to Greece where they were finally granted asylum last year. Now fourteen, Najib competed in Portugal in U18s 100m and 200m also taking the opportunity for international World Para Athletics classification.

IWAS was delighted to support these athlete's participation in the IWAS World Games. We look forward to following their sporting journeys and welcoming them to another IWAS Games in the future.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	LOCATION & DATE	PURPOSE
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Member (2013-2016), Hilary Philbin awarded MBE	Queen's New Years Honour List January 2017	Hilary Philbin was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to Fencing and Sports Administration.
Meeting with representative of Invictus Games	London, England February 2017	Discussions were held regarding the distribution of information to Invictus athletes about the IWAS World Games programme to provide additional competition opportunities outside Invictus
International Federations Sport Development Workshop	9-10 March 2017 Bonn Germany	Attended by Charmaine Hooper and Peter Brigola, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Development Committee
Disability Awareness Day	Aylesbury College, IWAS HQ 27 March	IWAS provided resources and equipment including a wheelchair for the 'wheelchair for a day' project the college conducted as part of their awareness campaign.
Meeting with representative from Populas	IWAS HQ 12 April 2017	Meeting to discuss the field of play for wheelchair fencing and event flow of IWAS Games events
Association of International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled (AIOSD)	Frankfurt, Germany 12 – 13 May 2017	Formally known as the IOSDs Council, representatives from IBSA, INAS and CPISRA met with IWAS President and CEO to discuss collaborative approaches in the future. IPC CEO, Xavier Gonzalez also joined for a discussion of IPC support of AIOSD
Para Games Breda	Breda, The Netherlands 21-23 June 2017	Charmaine Hooper attended Powerchair Hockey classification meeting and Executive Committee meeting. Presented to Wheelchair Floorball Nations.
NPC Russia launch of anti-doping education programme	19 August 2017, Moscow Russia	Charmaine Hooper attended to discuss future collaboration regarding anti-doping education
IWAS President & Vice President presented with Paralympic Orders at Paralympic Awards Gala	Abu Dhabi, UAE 7 September 2017	Paul DePace and Karl Vilhelm Nielsen were presented with Paralympic Awards by Sir Philip Craven at the Paralympic Awards Gala for services to the Movement
IOSDs meeting with IPC	4 October 2017, Bonn Germany	Charmaine Hooper and Hilary Sahota represented IWAS during a meeting of all the IOSDs with IPC CEO and Staff



2017 COMPETITIONS

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing continued to offer an extensive competition calendar in 2017 following the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Eger, Hungary | 17-19 February 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Pisa, Italy | 17-19 March 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing 17U/U23 World Cup
Stadskanaal, Netherlands | 9-11 May 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Stadskanaal, Netherlands | 11-14 May 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Warsaw, Poland | 28 June – 3 July 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing 17U/23U World Championships
Warsaw, Poland | 3 – 7 July 2017

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships
Rome, Italy | 7-12 November 2017



IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wheelchair Fencing, as a sport section of IWAS, elects its own Executive Committee every four years during its biennial Sport Assemblies. The new Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee was elected at the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly in Pisa on 13 November 2016.

CHAIRMAN

Pal Szekeres
Hungary

SECRETARY GENERAL

Udo Ziegler
Germany

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Jakub Nowicki
Poland

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Peter Huggins
Great Britain

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Giampeiro Pastore
Italy

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Arno Schneider
Brazil

COMMITTEE MEMBER COACHES COUNCIL CHAIR

Pascal Godet
France

HEAD OF CLASSIFICATION

Dr Man Chung
Hong Kong

CHAIR OF COMMISSIONS

SEMI COMMISSION

Peter Huggins
Great Britain

SPORTS COMMISSION

Arno Schneider
Brazil

PROMOTION COMMISSION

Ksenia Ovsyannikova
Russia

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Peter Brigola
Austria

REFEREE COMMISSION

Jon Moss
United States

RULES COMMISSION

Emmanuel Bogdos
Greece

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

Jakub Nowicki
Poland

ATHLETE'S COUNCIL CHAIR

Yu Chui Yee
Hong Kong

WORLDWIDE REACH

There is evidence of 49 nations actively practicing Wheelchair Fencing around the world. Nations who are not active in national or international competition are a focus for the development of Wheelchair Fencing and will need to be supported to enable their engagement in IWAS competitions.



Wheelchair Fencing Nations are Members that have sent at least one fencer to an official and sanctioned IWAS Wheelchair Fencing competition in the last two fencing seasons (including the current season). Nations indicated below with '*' are actively developing wheelchair fencing supported by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing and its Executive Committees.

MEETINGS & FORUMS

Head of Classification Meeting	7-10 Feb 2017 Bonn, Germany Attended by Man Chung	The focus of the meeting was the International Federations (IFs) Classification code compliance. Following this meeting, IWAS along with all other IFs, undertook a Self-Audit of its classification code and practices to submit to IPC. The outcome was the creation of the new Classification Code 2018.
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Meeting	18 February 2017 Eger, Hungary	The WF Commission members were agreed upon. Tokyo 2020 qualification system and medal events were discussed for final approval and following meetings.
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Meeting	1-2 June 2017 Warsaw, Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of new referee Seminar and exam procedures - Trial of new sabre distance agreed - Elections for Athlete council agreed
IPC Athlete's Forum	8-10 June 2017 Bonn, Germany Attended by Gemma Collis	The main topics discussed were the selection of both sports and medal events for future Paralympic Games, classification, anti-doping and diversity.
International Federation (IF) Meeting	22 June 2017 Bonn, Germany Attended by Udo Ziegler	The meeting focused on the sport's grant support programme, Tokyo 2020, 2024 sport programme and timelines, anti-doping and media.
FIE World Championship – Wheelchair Fencing Demo	July 2017 Liepzig, Germany	Wheelchair Fencing held a demonstration at the FIE World Championships hosted in Germany.
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Athlete Council Elections	7 November 2017 Rome, Italy	<p>Athlete Council Election results:</p> <p>Chair of Athletes Council: Yu Chui Yee (HKG)</p> <p>Members: Gemma Collis McCann (GBR), Eva Andrea Hajmasi (HUN), Ksenia Ovsyannikova (RUS), Alessio Sarri (ITA), Gerard Moreno (USA)</p>
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee Meeting	11-12 November Rome, Italy	The Introduction of new Sabre distance was agreed, and Nations informed along with other minor rule changes and aspects of classification.

DEVELOPMENT

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Seminar Maribor, Slovenia (8-9 April 2017)

Peter Brigola, the Head of the Development Commission, organised a 'First Step Tournament' including workshops for coaches, referees and athletes to introduce the region to Wheelchair Fencing. The second day included an integrated fencing competition with impaired and non-impaired fencers showing the diversity of the sport and ways of integration, showing 'Fencing without Barriers'.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Referee Course Kyoto, Japan (14-15 October 2017) Tirrenia, Italy (6 October 2017)

In an effort to increase the pool of qualified referees, 2017 saw two Referee courses held, one in Asia and one in Europe. Mr Karl Wong of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Referee Commission hosting a seminar in Kyoto, Japan during a development Satellite Competition.



The Seminar attracted 16 candidates and 7 observers from Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Japan, South Korea and Macau. 13 of the 16 examined passed the theoretical and practical elements of the test.

The second Course was hosted by Roberto Crola of the IWAS Referee Commission in Tirrenia, Italy and saw 11 candidates from Italy, Poland, Malaysia pass the examinations. Practical experience was also available to many candidates at the following World Championships hosted in Rome.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Classification Course

Sarrebourg, France (2-4 June 2017)

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Senior Classifier, Dr. Ivan Penkin, ran a Classification course alongside the Sarrebourg International competition for Sabre and Epee.

Of the nine participants that attended the Seminar, six trained and did the examinations and passed to become National classifiers. Two candidates from this course and one from a previous course have since gone on to do further training for an international accreditation.

IWAS GRANT PROJECTS

IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING SATELLITE COMPETITIONS

The IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Satellite Competition launched in 2017 as part of the international pathway in an effort to create depth to the competition calendar.

The Satellite Competition is open to all wheelchair fencers, providing a development competition for international debuts and for those who have not yet entered the World Cup circuit. The competitions have their own ranking system, independent of the World Cup rankings and provide an opportunity for fencers who wish to enter a separate ranked competition, as well as for Junior and Novice fencers who want to enter a lower entry level competition.

In October 2017, the first Satellite competition took place in Kyoto, Japan with athletes from Japan, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, South Korea and Macau. The success of this event has led the way for additional Satellite competitions to be organised in Europe in 2018.

RESEARCH PROJECT WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has embarked on a research project with students from Imperial College London aimed at creating an inexpensive, beginner's wheelchair fencing frame that can be made locally using basic skills and easily sourced materials.

The initial cost of wheelchair fencing equipment, for many countries, has been a challenge; it is hoped this frame will alleviate this obstacle and aide in the development and reach of the sport.

Alongside the design of the frame, which is due to be completed in early 2018, there will be accompanying design handbooks and video tutorials to assist those making the frame in its manufacture. These free recourses will be available on the IWAS website for all to access.

IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING COACHING VIDEOS

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing has launched an ongoing series of Wheelchair Fencing coaching videos aimed at assisting both athletes and coaches in the skills and techniques of wheelchair fencing.



The video series will demonstrate and instruct a range of techniques and fencing skills increasing from beginner to advanced levels for both the coach and fencer.

These videos are available on the IWAS website, free of charge and can be used as a resource for any athlete, coach, or club. The videos currently available have proved particularly useful for developing clubs and Nations. The rest of the series is due for release throughout 2018.

(Video 1: https://youtu.be/qkUPeJIZH_8)

(Video 2: <https://youtu.be/kr-SL91upxl>)



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The biennial Sport Assembly took place in De Rijp, The Netherlands on the 18th July 2016 alongside the IWAS Powerchair Hockey European Championships. The Sport Executive Committee below remained focussed on developing and promoting the sport of Powerchair Hockey;

CHAIRMAN

Fabio Rodo
Italy

VICE CHAIRMAN DEVELOPMENT & COMPETITION OFFICER

Niels Ten Hagen
The Netherlands

TECHNICAL & CLASSIFICATION OFFICER

Anna Rossi
Italy

SECRETARY OFFICER

Annemieke de Vires
The Netherlands

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Rasmus Nielsen
Denmark

After collaborating for a year with the Sport Executive Committee Annemieke resigned from the role in 2017 due to a change in personal circumstances.

Danish player appointed in late 2016 due to extensive experience in communications sector. In 2017, he was officially made a Member of the Sport Executive Committee without voting rights.

HEAD OF CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

Kees Van Breukelen *The
Netherlands*

HEAD OF REFEREE COMMITTEE

Davor Matijasevic
Slovenia

HEAD OF JURY COMMITTEE

Dorte Berenth
Denmark

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Nikolaj Richelsen
Denmark

The Referee Committee is supported by Andrea Vacchetti (ITA) and Wilfred Bouttelgier (BEL). Vacancies remain for the Technical, Event and Competition Committee currently supported by volunteer, Alejandro Diaz (ESP).

Sport Executive Committee meetings are held every three weeks. Meetings are also held with the Head of Committees, volunteers or other SEC Members to discuss additional or specific matters, as necessary.

Fabio Rodo, IWAS Powerchair Hockey Chairman, holds a skype call with IWAS Headquarters on a weekly basis or as is necessary.

WORLDWIDE REACH

The IWAS Powerchair Hockey Executive Committee continue to work tirelessly in the promotion of the sport globally with a particular focus on increasing its 'worldwide reach', an important criterion in a future application for Paralympic programme consideration.

Development work and communication with the countries marked with an asterix (*) were made in 2017 to develop the worldwide reach of the sport. The other countries listed are active, participating nations;



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

New website launch & brand identity	Early 2017	The aim of the new website was to make easy access of information and allow for consistent brand identity
IPC Classification Meeting	February 2017 Bonn, Germany	Kees van Breukelen attended to gain knowledge of latest updates and changes to IPC Classification Code. New IPCH classification code has since been submitted to IPC.
Classification Meeting	21 st – 26 th June Paragames Breda	All licensed classifiers invited to be refreshed on the new Classification code. 15 participants attended including 5 new classifiers.
IPC General Assembly 2017	7-8 September Abu Dhabi, UAE	Chairman, Fabio Rodo gained positive contacts including with FIPFA (Powerchair Football)
IPC Vista Conference	September 2017 Toronto, Canada	Kees van Breukelen attended to support the IPCH networking gaining contact with classifiers and researchers.
5 Stars – World Championship Test Event	31 st October – 5 th November Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy	Five teams participated in the test event; Denmark, Finland, Germany & Switzerland. The event also provided an opportunity for training courses and classifications to take place.
IPCH Referee Course &	31 st October – 1 November Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy	Instructed by Davor Matijasevic of Slovenia and Ilkka Antero Siiki of Finland, nine participants from Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Italy, Spain Switzerland and The Netherlands.
IPCH Jury Member Course	31 st October – 1 st November Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy	Instructed by Dorte Berenth (DEN) and Lauri Oksanen (FIN) trained three Jury Members from Australia and Italy in both practical and theoretical sessions.
Research Project into trunk functionality of athletes	November 2017 Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy	Dominique van Zaanen & Oscar Bliek conducted a study on the 'influence of trunk functionality on the classification system of PCH'. Ongoing research to be conducted in April/May 2018.
Bids open for IPCH European Championships 2020	2017	Switzerland showed early interest but have since decided to wait for the World Championship bids process. Awaiting further bids.

A comprehensive review of the full activities of IWAS Powerchair Hockey in 2017 can be found as an appendix to this report.



PARTNER SPORTS

PARTNER SPORTS

WORLD TAEKWONDO

The Memorandum of Understanding between IWAS and World Taekwondo (Para Taekwondo) remains in place. Para Taekwondo was included on the sport programme of the IWAS World Games 2017 as a G6 World Ranking event. Sixty athletes competed alongside a research project conducted by the Spanish Taekwondo Federation.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE WHEELCHAIR FLOORBALL

Representatives from the Wheelchair Floorball Committee attended the IWAS General Assembly and made a presentation of the sport to the Membership. The presentation invited discussion and interest from a number of nations and we look to developing competition opportunities for the sport in the coming years.

WORLD FLYING DISC FEDERATION

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IWAS and the World Flying Disc Federation in November 2016. Two volunteers currently with IWAS have been appointed to the Wheelchair Flying Disc working group to assist in the development of the sport.

WORLD PARAVOLLEY

World Para Volley and IWAS signed a mutually beneficial Memorandum of Understanding at the IPC General Assembly in September 2017.

Sitting and Standing disciplines of Beach Para Volley were included on the preliminary sports programme of the IWAS World Games but did not receive the level of interest needed to host the sport. Discussions continue to include the sport on the programme at an IWAS World Games in the future.

ARM SPORT

The relationship between IWAS and Arm Sport continues to develop. IWAS anticipates hosting the sport on an IWAS World Games programme in the upcoming years following its debut in Sochi in 2015.

SPORT SCIENCE & MEDICAL

IWAS continues to work in cooperation with WADA to educate nations about anti-doping and to promote clean sport.

TESTS CONDUCTED IN 2017	IN COMP	OUT OF COMP	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDING
	Testing conducted 12 hours prior and during competition	Testing conducted at any time outside of a competition or sporting event	A report from a laboratory or other WADA approved testing entity that identifies in a specimen the presence of a prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers, or evidence of the use of a prohibited method
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup Eger, Hungary	6		
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup Pisa, Italy	6		
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup & U23/U17 World Cup Stadskanaal, The Netherlands	6		
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup Warsaw, Poland	3		
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing U23&U17 World Championships Warsaw, Poland	3		
IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships Rome, Italy	12		1
IWAS World Games 2017 Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal	20		1
RTP x 2 Athletes		2	
TOTAL	56	2	2

CREATING A REGULAR TEST POOL (RTP) AND OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING

Two wheelchair fencers have been selected as part of the Regular Test Pool for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

TUE (THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION) AND DOPING COMMITTEES

We continue to use the expertise of our TUE and Anti-Doping Committees.

ADAMS (Anti-Doping Administration and Management System) was created by WADA as a web-based database to assist with the coordination of anti-doping activities and we are now working towards using this system to its full potential.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

IWAS is obliged to produce and file Annual Reports for Companies House and the Charity Commission as well as its membership. IWAS therefore produces two separate reports which together cover all requirements:

- Unaudited Trustee's Report and Financial Statements by Hillier Hopkins LLP (available on request)
- This Annual Activity Report, which covers all the activities of the Federation

Since IWAS qualifies as small under section 383, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under The Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Director's Report) Regulations 2013 is not required.

FINANCES

In 2017, the organisation received a total income of £471,722 (2016 – £188,238) and ran a net surplus of £87,948 (2016 – deficit of £50,340). IWAS also administers the accounts for IWAS Sports and below are their final account balances as at 31st December 2017:

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing: -£2,858 IWAS Powerchair Hockey: £1,588

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2017	RESTRICTED FUNDS 2017	TOTAL FUNDS 2017	TOTAL FUNDS 2016
	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM				
Donations and legacies	1,661	19,825	21,486	18,197
Investment Income	147	-	147	251
Charitable Activities	445,251	4,838	450,089	169,789
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	447,059	24,663	471,722	188,237
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Raising Funds	290	-	290	3,033
Charitable Activities	335,500	47,984	383,484	235,544
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	335,790	47,984	383,774	238,577
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS	111,269	(23,321)	87,948	(50,340)
Transfers between Funds	(19,719)	19,719	-	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES	91,550	(3,602)	87,948	(50,340)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	91,550	(3,602)	87,948	(50,340)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS AT 1 JANUARY 2017	100,547	39,311	139,858	190,198
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017	192,097	35,709	227,806	139,858

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT, PAUL DEPACE

As this is my last official message as President to IWAS Members, please allow me to express a few personal thoughts in closing.

I have been involved with persons with impairments for 50 years and during the past 16 years I have been fortunate to have first served as Vice President on the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMWSF) Board and became the first President of IWAS following the amalgamation with International Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD).

During my time with ISMWSF/IWAS as a Team we have seen:

- The amalgamation of International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMWSF) and the International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD), to create IWAS.
- Wheelchair Rugby grow and become independent
- The creation of the annual IWAS World Junior Games for athletes under 23 years of age, often providing the stepping stones for athletes on an international pathway
- Our World Games held in many different countries helping to spread the word about our sports to both athletes and society.
- Athletes with cerebral palsy included in IWAS competition
- The valuable addition of Powerchair Hockey to the IWAS family
- An independent body of cooperative efforts established in cooperation with the other three International Organizations for Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) to work alongside the International Paralympic Committee
- Cooperation with the other IOSDs to establish the Para-football Working Group
- Our IWAS HQ move to better and more cost-effective location at Aylesbury College.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with:
 - World Para Volleyball
 - World Taekwondo Federation
 - World Flying Disc Federation
 - World Arm Sport

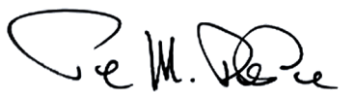
- The creation of the concept of the Women's Games among important, upcoming projects
- Approval by the IWAS General Assembly to expand the IWAS membership structure

Of course, not all the persons with impairments that we touch will become Paralympic athletes but through our work, all participants gain confidence and skills that will serve them in life as they move beyond sport.

Through the sporting achievements of our athletes, the public has a better understanding of the needs and contributions made by persons with an impairment to our society.

Now, as I move to the back row as President Emeritus, I would like to congratulate the new Executive Board, the IWAS Headquarters team, led by CEO, Charmaine Hooper and all of you as athletes, officials and volunteers who continue to work and participate in this important Movement.

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this great team.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. DePace'.

Paul DePace

IWAS President Emeritus

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INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION (IWAS)

Registered in England and Wales No. 2713410

Limited by Guarantee. Registered Charity No. 10111552



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ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

Sport Executive Committee:

Rasmus Dissing Nielsen volunteered to cover the vacant spot of Head of Marketing and Communication Committee, SEC and IWAS agreed to ask him to become officially part of the SEC as Marketing and Communication Officer but without voting rights.

Annemieke de Vries after having collaborated for a year with the Sport Executive Committee as Secretary had to leave the role because of work related and personal instances.

Sport Executive Committee meetings are held every 3 weeks. In addition to this specific working meeting regarding specific aspects of Committees with Heads, volunteers or among SEC people are organized when needed.

Fabio Rodo participated in **IPC General Assembly 2017** - Abu Dhabi with IWAS delegation achieving to get good contacts especially with FIPFA (Powerchair Football).

Technical and Classification Committee:

Classification system update:

The new Classification System has been approved by Sport Assembly in De Rijp 2016.

The Head of Classification Committee Mr. Kees van Breukelen participated to the **IPC Classification Meeting** held in Bonn in **February 2017** during which the latest updates and changes in the IPC Classification Code were presented. After that IPCH has been involved in the **IPC audit** regarding the compliance of our Classification System to the IPC guidelines and processes. The audit has been submitted within the IPC deadline in **June 2017**.

IPC Vista Meeting Toronto:

Mr. Kees van Breukelen participated in this big international meeting.

The main benefit of being here for our Head of Classification has been being again fully aware and up-to-date concerning the IPC driven classification and support the IPCH networking by making contacts with other classifiers/classification coordinators, researchers and discussing classification issues/difficulties.

Research on Classification:

In **November 2017** Dominique van Zaanen and Oscar Blik two students of the School for Applied Science in The Hague (HHS) followed by R.M.A van der Slikke and Kees van Breukelen published the result of a research titled: "The influence of trunk functionality on the classification system in PCH".

Purpose of the research is to investigate the influence of this trunk antigravity posture and mobility on the wheelchair performance. The research question was: what is the influence of different trunk functionalities on the rotational speed (as important parameter of wheelchair performance) and trunk sideways movement during that wheelchair rotation in PCH. The different trunk functionalities are described in 4 athlete groups:

- (1) players with no trunk function at all,
- (2) players with trunk antigravity capability,
- (3) players with limited trunk mobility and
- (4) players with full trunk mobility.

Expectation was that players with antigravity posture and players with (limited) mobility will show a higher rotational speed/wheelchair performance in comparison with players without any trunk functionality.

To get an answer on this research question the wheelchair performance of 25 PCH athletes was investigated.

The group of athletes without trunk function consisted of 7 players, the group of athletes with trunk antigravity



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capability consisted of 10 players, the group of athletes with limited mobility consisted of 8 players. Players with full trunk mobility were not selected for the research.

In the research, consisting of three wheelchair tests, the rotational speed and sideways movement of the trunk were investigated in (a) rotation with a variable radius, (b) in rotation with handling the stick with a ball and (c) in rotation in a slalom path. The rotational speed and the (sideways) movement of the trunk was measured with four Shimmer sensors: three on the chair and one on the trunk of the athlete.

The data from the research do show a significant difference between athletes with trunk antigravity capability and athletes with limited trunk mobility, $p > 0.05$. Players with trunk mobility do reach a higher rotational speed and can resist the rotational forces on the trunk significantly better.

Based on the results of this research recommendations were made to change the current classification practice:

(1) players with (only) trunk antigravity capability should not be given the same trunk profile score as players with limited trunk mobility (currently this is however the classification practice: they do get both the 0.5 trunk profile score).

(2) Players with limited trunk mobility (trunk profile score 0.5) should not be placed in the same class as players without trunk mobility (trunk profile score 0). In the current practice the 0.5 trunk score is ignored/does not lead to a different class for the player.

Further investigation have also been done on the use of half points to better and more precisely assess the Arm Profiles

Working with half point classes will give us new opportunities: we can, easily, integrate also half point Arm profiles without changing the way we do assess the athlete currently. The classification (system) is still 'out of balance' when we only integrate half point Trunk scores but no half point Arm scores.

Research on the Arm profiles are planned to be done in April and May 2018 on the classification data of 70 recently classified Dutch national players and on the classification data of another 70 international players from Italy, Swiss, The Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Denmark, 140 athlete data in total.

Classifiers Manual:

Thanks to several feedbacks coming from Classifiers, after the course, and some players as well a revision of IPCH Classification Manual was released in October 2017. The revision fixed some typos and better explained some aspects and processes to make the manual friendlier to read and understand.

Classifiers meeting and training:

A **Classifier's Meeting and Course** was organized in Breda during the **Paragames (21st-26th June 2017)**.

IPCH invited all the already licensed Classifier in order to ensure them a proper update but also offered all Nations the possibility to register 1 or more new Classifiers to be trained in order to obtain the IPCH License.

15 participants (5 new Classifiers) from Australia, Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland attended the classification course. The classification course was leaded by Kees van Breukelen and was held in connection with the Paragames Breda, where Belgium, Switzerland and The Netherlands were competing in a tournament. This was also an opportunity to start the reclassification of players.

Classification Session:

Paragames Breda (21st-26th June 2017) – teams classified 3 (Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium) for a total of 33 players.

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017) – teams classified 5 (Italy, Finland, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark) for a total of 36 players.

Referee Course:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017)

Instructors: Mr Davor Matijašević from Slovenia and Mr Ilkka Antero Siiki from Finland.



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9 participants from Australia, Belgium, Finland Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

Both Theoretical and practical session have been organized.

Participants whistled the tournament as well to complete the evaluation on the practical exam. Only 1 (Julian Delgado from Spain has passed the theoretical exam that remains valid for the next course but not the practical – a proper and completed feedback was sent to Spanish Federation in this regards).

In this occasion Mr. Fabrizio Imparato also renewed his licence as IPCH Referee.

Jury Member and Observers:

The growing needs of our sport brought SEC to the decision of having 2 kinds of Jury Members the Referee Observers and the Technical Jury Members. The first one will have the task to observe and give feedback to our Referees with the aim of supporting them in increasing their skills and expertise while the second ones will have the task of supervising the Match table, the speed controls and the respect of point system on the field.

Both roles are relevant and need training. IPCH aims to set up proper guidelines for education/training.

Jury Member Course:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017)

Instructors: Mrs Dorte Berenth from Denmark and Mr Lauri Oksanes from Finland.

Three Jury Members from Australia and Italy participated to the course.

Both theoretical and practical session have been organized All Jury Member obtained the licence and both had tasks on the match table and as observers during the tournament.

Marketing and Communication committee:

New website release:

In early 2017 we released our new website. The goal was to make it easier to navigate and a place to find all necessary information regarding Powerchair Hockey. At the same time we wanted it to be more in line with the new visual identity we later rolled out across all our media platforms as well as all new documents.

New visual identity:

We created a new visual identity to go along with the existing logo for IPCH. The new visual identity included new fonts, colors and designs guidelines. This was to make sure there is a recognizably look whenever you see official documents and social media content coming from IPCH.

Whenever new IPCH documents are released or old documents are updated, the new design principles will be followed.

Social media:

In 2017 we also increased our social media presence. Both using public social media content as well as using social media to reach out to new nations in more direct messages.

We have increased our social media following by expanding our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram with more content on a more regular basis.

This have also resulted in new nations reaching out via Facebook direct messages to our page.

Together with more personal interactions via private social media messaging together with public social media content we have also spiked interest from already active nations that until now haven't been participating on a international level.



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After reaching out to players from USA, we created a video for social media about the state of their PCH. This was a trial to include them more in our organization. It worked well being one of the most views video of 2017. Later same year they at first accepted their allocated spot at the 2018 World Championship for the first time ever. This also spiked the interest for Canada to participate, which also resulted in them jumping in to take the spot from USA when they later had to withdraw from the World Championship.

Development and Competition committee:

World Championship Bid Evaluation:

SEC received two bids for the event and managed to visit both countries (Italy and Czech Republic). Due to nationality of the SEC members with voting rights both the Site Inspection were leaded by Niels ten Hagen (Development and Competition Officer). Niels visited Italy for a second time to make sure the promised solutions were accomplished. After having shared the Site Inspection materials and report and sent an official recommendation for the appointment to IWAS Italy was appointed on June 2017 to host the event. The site inspection in Prague was done together with chairman Fabio Rodo. The site inspection in Lignano was with Anna Rossi. It was hard decision. Both nations had a magnificent bid. Due to logistical reasons (mostly the accessibility of the hotels and the safety of the athletes at the sports venue) the appointment for the hosting of the World Championship 2018 was given to Italy. Although the fourth SEC-member Rasmus Nielsen has no voting rights, the meetings and the final advice to IWAS were held together with Niels. This was to make sure there was no Italian involvement in the final advice. This is only fair towards the Czech Republic and the independent vision of fair play..

Site inspection for a possible bid of Denmark

Denmark is considering to bid for an official competition for many years. Because of the Danish rules and regulations, a bit must be prepared years before the event. Denmark has requested IPCH to visit the accommodation they have in mind for the bid. Niels ten Hagen visited the accommodation Musholm as an official satisfaction. The accommodation for the athletes is magnificent. It might be one of the best places to host a large group of severely disabled people/athletes. The sports venue Denmark had in mind is relatively small. The midfield and the accommodation is perfect. The problem is there is no nearby training facility. This might cause big problems for the combination of training and play. Solutions can be found in a larger match schedule where the same field can be used for training and competition or long transportations towards a training venue nearby. The accommodation was judged sufficient. Denmark is facing another problem. The visited accommodation is extremely expensive. There is a big challenge to find enough sponsors and support from the Danish federations.

World Championship Drawing Ceremony:

This happening, was carefully designed by to bring powerchair hockey under the spotlights.

The Ceremony took place at "Stadio Friuli - Dacia Arena", the stadium of the Udinese Calcio S.p.A., a professional football team of the Italian first league (Serie A). Representatives of teams and IPCH's Officials were welcomed by Udinese Calcio and guided in a short tour of the stadium, till going out on the pitch. After this all the guests were accommodated into the press room where, after the authorities' speeches Kevin Lasagna, a player from Udinese Calcio first team extracted the pools. Thanks to Udinese Calcio collaboration the event was broadcasted on their official tv channel and streamed on the web so that also all participants of the 5 stars international tournament left at the accommodation (more than 150 people) could see the Drawing and the press Conference on a maxi screen in the Sport Hall.

Qualification Tournament for European Championship Bid request:

In December 2017 Czech Republic with a Letter of Intent officially showed his interest to host the Qualification Tournament for European Championship to be held in 2019 (EC will then be played in 2020).



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European Championship Bid request:

Procedure for Bidding for hosting EC2020 is open. Swiss initially showed an interest to host it but no Letter of Intent has followed this first interest. IPCH has been informed Swiss would prefer to bid for hosting World Championship 2022. Spain was also considering to bid for the 2020 European Championship, but decided in the end not to take official steps towards bidding.

5 stars international – World Championship Test Event:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017) – Lignano Sabbiadoro Italy

The Five Stars International Tournament was organized in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD), Italy, from 31 October to 5 November. The Italian Federation was looking for the possibility to match the need of classify their players to the need of having some matches to test the players performances in order to select the final 10 for the World Championship. They agreed on using this tournament as IPCH Official Developing Event including some educational and training activities. At the same time the event was meant to be a sort of test for the LOC before the World Championship aimed to help them in the understanding of the strengths and the weaknesses of their workflow and organization. 5 teams were the participating: Italy, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Switzerland.

Worldwide Reach (List of active countries)

World Ranking List

1. - The Netherlands
2. - Italy
3. - Germany
4. - Belgium
5. - Denmark
6. - Switzerland
7. - Finland
8. - Australia
9. - Slovenia
10. - Spain

Active Nations besides WRL

- Estonia
- Slovakia
- Austria
- Japan
- USA
- Canada
- Czech Republic

contacts with new nations in 2017

- India
- Portugal
- Great Britain
- Argentina
- New Zealand
- Morocco
- Russia

Regular National leagues and tournaments have been organized in the active nations

Some International Club tournaments also took place around Europe (ex. Czech Open - Eindhoven, 2 vs 2 Denmark...)