



INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR &
AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“

Let's cross our fingers, believe in a better 2021 and look forward to the pleasure of meeting and embracing the opportunities presented to us in the years to come.

”

- RUDI VAN DEN ABBEELE
IWAS President

2020 was a year that the sporting world was excitedly anticipating - with the biggest IWAS World Games set to be staged, a full qualification calendar of wheelchair fencing events and an IWAS Powerchair Hockey European Championships all in the pipeline.

However, that was not to be, and 2020 was a year that brought many disappointments and uncertainties to our Members and athletes.

The IWAS World Games 2020 due to be held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand was set to be a tremendous success and the biggest IWAS Games ever! With thirteen sports on the programme, some of which making their debut at an IWAS Games, the excitement for the event was felt across the Membership. Unfortunately, this event was the first of many casualties of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The disruption was also felt by the IWAS Sports. IWAS Wheelchair Fencing hosted the only competition of the year in Eger, Hungary in February 2020 while IWAS Powerchair Hockey also began 2020 with a success at the IPCH Euro Stars 2020 Tournament held in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy. Unfortunately, the rest of the 2020 competition calendars for both sports were cancelled or postponed to 2021.

Although 2020 brought many disappointments, let us keep in mind the opportunities we were able to realise during the uncertainties;

- With thanks to our Russian Member; Mr Pavel Rozhkov, our 2nd Vice President, IWAS Anti Doping Manager, Dr Guzel Idrisova and the support from IWAS HQ, the new IWAS Anti-Doping Code was approved by our Board and WADA.

- The first virtual IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sports Congress was held on 22nd November resulting in the election of a new IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee.

- Our staff team grew in 2020 and we had the pleasure of welcoming Tamara Simmons and Harry Cootes as well as the return of Elin Luce from maternity leave overseen by IWAS CEO Charmaine Hooper.

The inability to meet in person and the ever-changing nature of the situation worldwide, increased the dynamic creativity, of our Executive Board and staff through monthly virtual Board meetings. The following matters were accomplished virtually by our team of dedicated staff and volunteers;

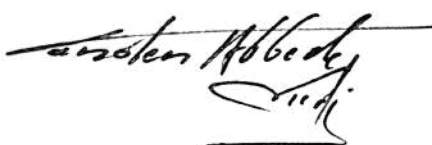
- Proposal and formal discussions began towards a potential IWAS and CPISRA merger into one federation representing all athletes with a physical impairment.

- Introduction of a new IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Gender Equity Commission

- Continued to see the IWAS Membership grow in welcoming two new Secondary Members from Canada, and Developing Members from Mexico and Mauritius. New Full IWAS Members were welcomed from Nigeria, Colombia, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.


- IWAS Powerchair Hockey awarded the 2022 World Championships to Notwill, Switzerland and began preparation for an exceptional 8 team competition following there being no European qualification competition.

Let's cross our fingers, believe in a better 2021 and look forward to the pleasure of meeting and embracing the opportunities presented to us in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Rudi Van Den Abbeele'.

Rudi Van Den Abbeele
IWAS President

ABOUT IWAS

A person wearing a white sports shirt with a logo and a white cap is aiming a bow. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

The International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) was formed following the amalgamation of the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMWSF) and the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD). Both organisations were established by the 'Father' of the Paralympic Movement, Sir Ludwig Guttman, which saw the evolution and growth of Para sport nearly 70 years ago.

The International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) is one of the world's leading organisations for the development of Para sports. With a membership of more than 60 organisations from around the world, IWAS is passionate about offering as many competition opportunities as possible for athletes with physical impairments.

IWAS holds a unique position – we are the only organisation that provides a full international competition calendar at the entry, development and qualifying levels in support of the Paralympic Movement.

As a founding member of the Paralympic Movement, we also have a crucial role to play today. In alternate years we host the IWAS World Games and IWAS Youth World Games. These offer both established and up-and-coming athletes the chance to compete on the world stage. For some these competitions are a crucial step on their road to the World Championships or Paralympic Games with many events recognised by the relevant International Federation. For others, it will be the first time they compete at a large international event. For all athletes, the IWAS World Games offer the chance to compete against their peers in a multi-sport environment that does not come with the pressure of major competitions like a regional or World Championships or Paralympic Games.

They are an important part of the athlete's journey and many competitors go on to win Paralympic medals.

As well as organising competitions for Paralympic and non-Paralympic sports, IWAS is the global governing body for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing and IWAS Powerchair Hockey.

We are responsible for the growth of the sports, the competition calendar, rules, anti-doping and classification and as a UK registered charity, the work of IWAS reaches far beyond the sporting achievements of physically impaired athletes. IWAS receives no government funding and relies fully on competition 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 sport.

IWAS is a Charitable Company (limited by Guarantee) and registered in England and Wales with Companies House (2713410) and the Charity Commission (1011552).

WHAT DRIVES US?

The International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation bases all it does on its core messages and values. Under constant review, these messages underpin the direction we take as an organisation to offer the most opportunities, to the most athletes ensuring we remain a vital contributor to the development and growth of the Paralympic Movement.

OUR VALUES

Sportsmanship, Unity, Respect & Friendship

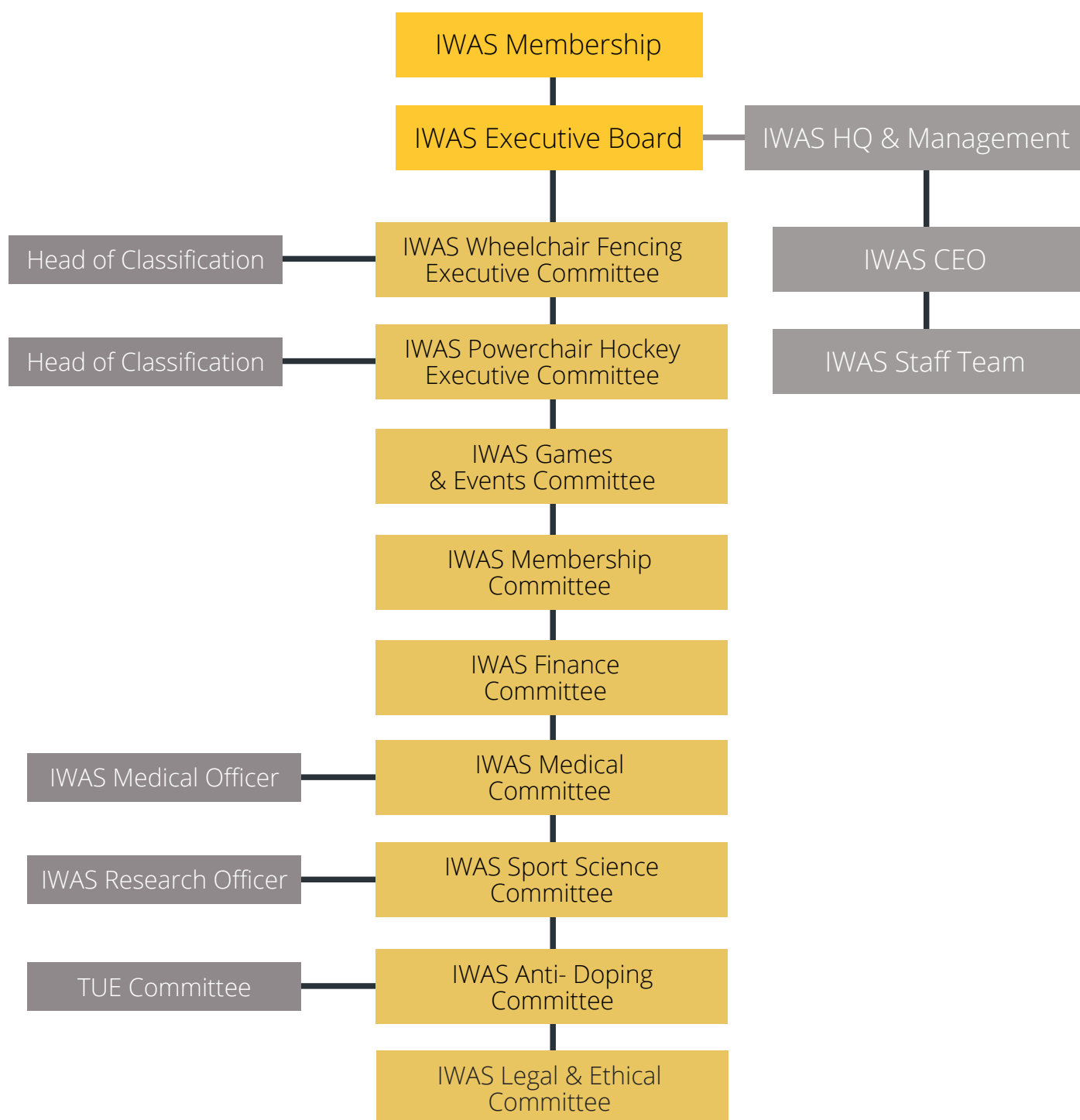
OUR VISION

Develop sporting opportunities for athletes to maximise their potential.

OUR MISSION

Inspire Worldwide Achievements in Sport

IWAS THE ORGANISATION





IWAS MEMBERSHIP



"DESPITE SUCH CHALLENGING
TIMES IN 2020, IT IS
FANTASTIC TO SEE THE IWAS
FAMILY CONTINUE TO GROW"

- IWAS PRESIDENT, RUDI VAN DEN ABBEELE

Organisations continued to make use of the three tiered system with IWAS welcoming eight new Members across all tiers in 2020.

The tiered system, approved in the 2017 IWAS General Assembly, designed with an emphasis on inclusion, proved to broaden the Membership base and open up the opportunity to new countries and sport specific organisations around the world.

NEW MEMBERS

FULL MEMBERS

Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation

Colombia - FEDESIR

Nigeria NPC

Saudi Arabia NPC

SECONDARY MEMBERS

Canadian Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association

PowerHockey Canada

DEVELOPING MEMBERS

Mauritius NPC

Mexico Wheelchair Fencing Federation

Full details of the Membership structure including fees, entitlements and obligations of each Membership tier can be found on the [IWAS website](#).

FULL MEMBERS

This is the highest tier of membership available within IWAS. It is reserved for National Paralympic Committees and/or national organisations representing athletes with physical impairments. Full membership entitles members to all benefits including full voting rights and the ability to put forward motions at the General Assembly, nominations to the IWAS Executive Board and entry for athletes into IWAS competitions subject to the requirements of individual events.

ARGENTINA

Argentine Federacion de deportes Sobre Silla de Ruedas

AUSTRALIA

Disability Sport Australia

AUSTRIA

Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled

AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan Paralympic Committee

BAHRAIN

Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation

BELARUS

Belarus Paralympic Committee

BELGIUM

Belgian Paralympic Committee

BRAZIL

Brazilian Paralympic Committee

CANADA

Canadian Fencing Federation

CHINA

Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei NPC

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Fencing Federation

CROATIA

Croatian Paralympic Committee

CYPRUS

Cyprus Para Sports Federation

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Sports Organisation for the Physically Disabled

DENMARK

Denmark Paralympic Committee

ESTONIA

Estonian Paralympic Committee

FINLAND

Finnish Paralympic Committee

FRANCE

Federation Francaise Handisport

GEORGIA

Georgian Paralympic Committee

GERMANY

Germany Paralympic Committee

GREAT BRITAIN

WheelPower - British Wheelchair Sport

GREECE

Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the Physically Disabled

HUNGARY

Hungarian Paralympic Committee

INDIA

Paralympic Committee of India

INDONESIA

National Paralympic Committee of Indonesia

IRAN
IRI Sports Federation for the Disabled

IRAQ
National Paralympic Committee of Iraq

IRELAND
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport

ISRAEL
Israel Paralympic Committee

ITALY
Italian Paralympic Committee

JAPAN
Japanese Paralympic Committee

KAZAKHSTAN
National Paralympic Committee
of the Republic of Kazakhstan

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Korea Disabled Veterans Organisation

KUWAIT
Kuwait Disabled Sport Club

LATVIA
Latvian SOD

LUXEMBOURG
Federation Sportive Luxembourgeoise de Handicapes

LITHUANIA
Lithuanian Sports Federation for the Disabled

MACAU
Associacion Recreativa dos
Deficientes de Macau

MALAYSIA
Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota

MOROCCO
Royal Moroccan Federation of Sports
for Disabled

NETHERLANDS
National Paralympic Committee of the Netherlands

NIGERIA
National Paralympic Committee of Nigeria

POLAND
Polish Sports Association for the Disabled

PORTUGAL
Portuguesa Federacao de Desporto para Pessoas
Deficiencia (FPDD)

RUSSIA
Russian Federation of Sports with Physical Impairment

SAUDI ARABIA
NPC of Saudi Arabia

SINGAPORE
Singapore Disability Sports Council

SLOVAK REPUBLIC
Slovak Sports Association for the Disabled

SLOVENIA
Paralympic Committee of Slovenia - Sports
Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia

SOUTH AFRICA
South African Sports Association for Physically
Disabled (SASAPD)

SPAIN
Spanish Sports Federation for People with
Physical Disabilities (FEDDF)

SWEDEN
Swedish Sports Organisation for the Disabled
and Swedish Paralympic Committee

SWITZERLAND
Wheelchair Sport Switzerland

THAILAND
Sports Association of the Disabled of Thailand

TURKEY
National Paralympic Committee of Turkey

UAE
UAE Paralympic Committee

UKRAINE
National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine

USA
Adaptive Sports USA

SECONDARY MEMBERS

Secondary Members can send athletes to IWAS competitions and attend the General Assembly with one delegate, but cannot propose motions. Organisations such as a national sports body or impairment specific group are eligible for this Membership providing there is an existing Full IWAS Member within the country.

CANADA

PowerHockey Canada

Canadian Electric Wheelchair Hockey Association

CYPRUS

Cyprus Paralympic Committee

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Sports Association for Physically Handicapped

INDIA

Sports Control Board of India for the Disabled

DEVELOPING MEMBERS

Developing Members are entitled to one vote at the General Assembly. They can also enter athletes to IWAS competitions and are subject to the same requirements as Full and Secondary Members. Whilst being a Developing Member is not the same as Full IWAS Membership, the programme is designed to be the first step towards this.

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Fencing Federation

MAURITIUS

Mauritius Paralympic Committee

MEXICO

Mexico Wheelchair Fencing Federation

ROMANIA

National Paralympic Committee Romania

URUGUAY

Uruguay Fencing Federation

Full details of the Membership structure including fees, entitlements and obligations of each Membership tier can be found on the [IWAS website](#).

IWAS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2017-2022

The Executive Board continues to be the supreme decision-making body for IWAS.

The current Board members were elected in 2017 for a four-year term, however due to a pandemic related postponement, they will continue to the next General Assembly rescheduled for 2022.



PRESIDENT
Rudi Van Den Abbeele
France



VICE PRESIDENT
Dr Tariq Sultan bin Khadem
UAE



2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Pavel Rozhkov
Russia



HONORARY TREASURER
Bob Paterson MBE
Great Britain

MEMBERS AT LARGE



GAMES COMMITTEE
Dina Sotiriadi
Greece



LEGAL & ETHICS
Karl Vilhelm Nielsen
Denmark



MEMBERSHIP
Maryam Shokouhi
Iran



**WHEELCHAIR FENCING
CHAIRMAN**
Pal Szekeres
Hungary



GAMES COMMITTEE
Ernesta Strydom
South Africa

NON-VOTING MEMBERS



PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Paul DePace
USA



CEO
Charmaine Hooper
Great Britain



Assistant Treasurer
Ian Donald
Great Britain



IWAS STAFF & OFFICE

The Chief Executive Officer, Charmaine Hooper, continues to lead the team from the IWAS Headquarters based at Aylesbury College, Buckinghamshire, a stone's throw away from Stoke Mandeville Hospital, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement over 80 years ago.

In 2020, IWAS made some changes to improve the efficiency of its lean staffing structure following the departure of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Manager, Hilary Sahota in January.

Harry Cootes was recruited in a new full-time position of IWAS Sports Coordinator in February 2020 to assist in the running of both IWAS Sports as well as the sport operations at the IWAS Games.

The addition of Tamara Simmons came in March 2020 in a full time role as IWAS Events Coordinator, tasked with supporting the organisation of the IWAS Games programme as well as day to day operations of IWAS HQ.

Elin Luce returned from maternity leave in late July to resume her position as IWAS Head of Operations.

IWAS also continued to employ part-time consultants to manage media and communications and book-keeping.

IWAS STRATEGIC PLAN

The draft IWAS Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 was developed in 2018 and contained a number of innovations.

In 2019 the evolution of the document continued with Key Performance Indicators added for the first time.


Given the additional information needed and the added importance of the document for guiding the work of IWAS, the final approval of the Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 by the Executive Board was made in January 2020.

The final document can be downloaded from the IWAS website.



IWAS GAMES PROGRAMME

IWAS WORLD GAMES



“During my visit to Thailand I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the Local Organising Committee and everyone involved in delivering the event. A huge amount of effort has gone in to trying to ensure the Games could take place so that athletes and teams could have a positive end to the year.”

- RUDI VAN DEN ABBEELE
IWAS President

The IWAS World Games 2020, announced in May 2019, were due to be hosted in the city Nakhon Ratchasima in Northern Thailand from 20-28 February 2020.

The Games, anticipated to be one of the biggest IWAS World Games ever hosted, offered a wide and varied sports programme including archery, wheelchair tennis, badminton, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, athletics, shooting, swimming, track cycling, powerlifting, wheelchair fencing and table tennis.

However, as the Games approached and the severity of the COVID-19 virus became apparent, particularly at this time in Asia, the Games were postponed to April 2020. As the virus then progressed throughout the world, new dates were announced as 10-17 December 2020.

Despite all the very best efforts of the Local Organising Committee, the Sports Association for the Disabled of Thailand (SADT) and commitment of the government and sponsors involved, it was decided in October 2020 that the Games were to be indefinitely postponed.

“Upon the official cancellation, IWAS President, Rudi Van Den Abbeele said, "It is with a heavy heart that IWAS and the organisers have made the decision to cancel this year's World Games. A huge amount of effort has gone in to trying to ensure they could take place so that athletes and teams could have a positive end to the year. However, we recognised that the travel restrictions worldwide and particularly quarantine procedures, would cause significant logistical and financial implications for our Members that was deemed too great."

IWAS continues discussions with the Local Organisers in Thailand around the possibilities to host the IWAS World Games in 2023.

IWAS GUTTMANN GAMES



“

“I am delighted that the IWAS Guttman Games will give the opportunity for participants in non-Paralympic sports to compete on an international level.”

”

- EVA LOEFFLER OBE

In 2019, IWAS announced a new addition to its Games programme – the IWAS Guttman Games.

The Games will only feature sports and events not currently on the Paralympic Games programme, offering athletes with physical impairments the chance to compete at an international level in upcoming and developing disciplines.

The Games are a tribute to Sir Ludwig Guttman, the father of the Paralympic Movement and founder of the IWAS forbears - the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation and International Sports Organisation for the Disabled, to honour his incredible legacy in growing Para sports.

Sir Ludwig Guttman's daughter, Eva Loeffler OBE, offered the following words when IWAS launched the concept in 2019: “I am delighted to give my support to the proposed IWAS Guttman Games in 2020. My late father started the sport movement for people with disabilities which has now become the third largest sports event in the world. The first games in Stoke Mandeville consisted of a few wheelchair competitions and changed over the years to become the Paralympics.”

“I am delighted that the IWAS Guttman Games will give the opportunity for participants in non-Paralympic sports to compete on an international level. I wish the Games every success.”

The Guttman Games are a huge part of IWAS' commitment to being a world leader in the development of all Para sports. The aim is to continue the work that Guttman started when he founded the International Stoke Mandeville Games in 1952.

This is especially important for sports and events not on the Paralympic programme, where competition opportunities are sometimes limited because of funding or awareness.

Postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Games are now scheduled to take place as part of an 'IWAS Festival of Sport' alongside the IWAS World Games 2021 in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Due to the worldwide emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020, in-person meetings were put immediately on hold and a new world of online meetings was born, presenting opportunities for more regular and efficient meeting schedules.

Monthly Executive Board meetings replaced the twice yearly in-person meetings while monthly calls continued to be held between IWAS and the Powerchair Hockey Chairman and IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Development Officer, Alberto Cruz.

IPC President held regular meetings with IWAS and the wider membership to update on the governance review and changes as well as regular meetings held with Tokyo 2020 regarding the postponement, attended by Arno Schneider, Udo Ziegler, Harry Cootes and Peter Huggins.

| ACTIVITY | LOCATION | PURPOSE |
|--|----------|--|
| IWAS CEO meets new IPC Membership Engagement Officer January 2020 | IWAS HQ | IWAS CEO had an introductory meeting with IPC Membership Engagement Officer, Dirk Falken. |
| New IWAS website launched February 2020 | IWAS HQ | The new website was launched in February 2020 offering greater function and usability for its visitors. |
| IWAS President's visit to IWAS HQ February 2020 | IWAS HQ | The IWAS President joined IWAS Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer at IWAS HQ and also met with the Principal of Buckinghamshire College Group, Karen Mitchell. |
| IWAS President & CEO meet with CPISRA Secretary General, Brett Cooper February 2020 | IWAS HQ | The IWAS President and CEO met with CPISRA Secretary General, Brett Cooper to open talks about the possibilities for future collaboration. |
| APSO Meeting attended by IWAS CEO March 2020 | IWAS HQ | A virtual conference to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on Paralympic qualification. |
| Tokyo 2020 Technical Delegate Virtual Meeting March 2020 | Virtual | An online meeting to brief the Technical Delegates appointed to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. |
| IWAS & CPISRA continue talks June 2020 | Virtual | IWAS CEO met with CPISRA in the first of more formal communications relating to a potential merger. |
| IWAS & Ophardt July 2020 | Virtual | IWAS staff met with Sonja Lange from Ophardt to discuss the wheelchair fencing software programme. |
| IWAS & CPISRA Merge Working Group August 2020 | Virtual | A Working Group was formed and held the first call to focus the potential merger of the two organisations. |
| IWAS CEO & Communications Manager meet with 'Harder than You Think' August 2020 | Virtual | IWAS CEO and IWAS Communications Manager met with 'Harder than You Think' to discuss the Netflix released documentary, 'Rising Phoenix'. |
| Para Football Meeting November 2020 | Virtual | A virtual meeting of all stakeholders in football to discuss the formation of an organisation to oversee the future of football across all impairments groups. |
| International Handball Federation virtual meeting November 2020 | Virtual | A meeting to discuss the development programme of handball and strengthen relations. |
| IWAS CEO met with Buckinghamshire Archivist November 2020 | Virtual | IWAS CEO was shown the IWAS collection stored within the Bucks archives. |
| IWAS CEO & HoO met with Bornan Sports Technology November 2020 | Virtual | IWAS CEO & HoO met to discuss a potential partnership. |

IWAS/CPISRA POTENTIAL MERGER

The cancellation and postponement of events and travel of 2020 gave a unique 'downtime' that allowed CEOs, Charmaine Hooper and Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association CEO, Craig Carscadden time to continue longstanding discussions around the mutual benefits that could be derived from a closer collaboration or a merger between the two organisations.

Throughout the years, it has become increasingly evident that the creation of one organisation with a strong and common strategic plan, will provide the Membership and sports with a more effective organisation with efficient use of resources and the capacity to improve and expand the services it provides.

Following preliminary discussions, the respective Executive Boards gave their full support of the talks.

To ensure the progress remained focussed, a Working Group was formed in August 2020 including, IWAS CEO, Charmaine Hooper, CPISRA CEO, Craig Carscadden, CPISRA Secretary General, Brett Cooper, IWAS Member at Large, Karl Vilhelm Nielsen and IWAS Assistant Treasurer, Ian Donald.

The Working Group created a roadmap of steps with a projected proposed merge by the end of 2022. This roadmap was shared with both Memberships in December 2020 and included the deadline of October 2021 to present a draft constitution and membership policy to the Membership.

The priority of IWAS within the process is to ensure the IWAS Members remain fully informed with open lines of communication. To ensure this, IWAS plans to hold virtual consultations with the Members in March 2021 to allow for a full explanation of the roadmap and for a transparent exchange of information. A question and answer session will be held within these consultations to ensure any concerns or feedback regarding the proposed merger are resolved or noted.

In January 2021, CPISRA will put a motion to their General Assembly, to gain formal approval to continue talks with IWAS, with the view of a potential merger.

Following the Membership Consultation sessions, IWAS will also seek the same approval from the IWAS Membership. If this is accepted, it is hoped the situation globally will allow an in-person 'Consultation Meeting' alongside the IWAS World Games in October.

Feedback from the Membership overall continues to be positive and the progress of talks remains promising for the future. IWAS looks forward to presenting the benefits believed to be derived for Members following the proposed merger.



IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING

2020 COMPETITION CALENDAR

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Eger, Hungary | 13-16 February

POSTPONED OR CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Asian Championships
IWAS U17 & U23 World Championships
Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Sao Paulo, Brazil

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Warsaw, Poland

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games
Tokyo, Japan

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Pisa, Italy

ALL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTPONED TO 2021

GOVERNANCE

Elected in November 2020 during the first virtual IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sports Congress, the following Members will oversee the development and promotion of wheelchair fencing over their four year term.

The Executive Committee is supported by a series of Commissions who provide advice and guidance on a wide range of areas and will remain unchanged until review in 2021.



CHAIRPERSON
Pal Szekeres
Hungary



SECRETARY GENERAL
Udo Ziegler
Germany



VICE CHAIR
Jakub Nowicki
Poland



HEAD OF IWF CLASSIFICATION
Anita Laszlo
Hungary



**MEMBER AT LARGE
(Americas)**
Arno Schneider
Brazil



**MEMBER AT LARGE
(Europe)**
Peter Brigola
Austria



**MEMBER AT LARGE
(Asia)**
Karl (Kam Kou) Wong
Hong Kong



MEMBER AT LARGE
Christina Massiala
Greece/USA



MEMBER AT LARGE
Brandon Dyett
USA



MEMBER AT LARGE
Peter Huggins
Great Britain

COMMISSIONS & COUNCILS

REFEREE COMMISSION
Jon Moss
USA

RULES COMMISSION
Emmanuel Bogdos
Greece

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION
Alberto Ancarani
Italy

SEMI COMMISSION
Peter Huggins
GBR

PROMOTIONS COMMISSION
Jakub Nowicki (Nov 2020)
Poland

SPORTS COMMISSION
Arno Schneider
Brazil

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Peter Brigola
AUT

GENDER EQUITY COMMISSION
Christina Massiala
Greece/USA

COACHES COUNCIL
Pascal Godet
France

ATHLETES COUNCIL
Yu Chui Yee
Hong Kong



IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING SPORTS CONGRESS

Disruption caused by COVID-19 meant the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sports Congress due to be held in Pisa, Italy, was held online on Saturday 21st November 2020. The Congress was attended by a 25 countries including Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, France, Great Britain, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Turkey and USA.

Venezuela who are actively developing wheelchair fencing also attended the Congress as observers.

A new Executive Committee was elected with a number of new Members appointed alongside experienced Committee Members with Pal Szekeres elected unopposed for his second term as Chairman.

During the elections, Christina Massiala was appointed as the first representative of the Gender Equity Commission.

The Congress also approved a motion to approach the International Paralympic Committee in regards to the use of 'Para' in the first step towards a proposed name change of Wheelchair Fencing to 'Para Fencing'.

WORLDWIDE REACH

In 2020, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing provided competition and development opportunities for athletes from 52 countries.

In 2019, Alberto Cruz was appointed as the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Development Officer to allow for a more focussed approach to the communications and development initiatives provided. The continuing growth of the sport around the world remains a priority for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing as a whole.

ARGENTINA

Argentine Federacion de deportes
Sobre Silla de Ruedas (FADISIR)

AUSTRALIA

Disability Sport Australia

AUSTRIA

Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled

BELARUS

Belarus Paralympic Committee

BELGIUM

Belgian Paralympic Committee

BRAZIL

Brazilian Paralympic Committee

CANADA

Canadian Fencing Federation

CHINA

Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation

COLOMBIA*

FEDESIR

COSTA RICA*

Costa Rica Fencing Federation

ESTONIA

Estonian Paralympic Committee

FINLAND

Finnish Paralympic Committee

FRANCE

Federation Francaise Handisport

GEORGIA

Georgian Paralympic Committee

GERMANY

Germany Paralympic Committee

GREAT BRITAIN

WheelPower - British Wheelchair Sport

GREECE

Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee & Sports Association for the
Physically Disabled

HUNGARY

Hungarian Paralympic Committee

INDIA

Paralympic Committee of India

INDONESIA

National Paralympic Committee of Indonesia

IRAQ

National Paralympic Committee of Iraq

ISRAEL

Israel Paralympic Committee

ITALY

Italian Paralympic Committee

JAMAICA*

Jamaica NPC

JAPAN

Japanese Paralympic Committee

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Korea Disabled Veterans Organisation

KUWAIT
Kuwait Disabled Sport Club

LATVIA
Latvian SOD

LITHUANIA
Lithuanian Sports Federation for the Disabled

MACAU
Associacian Recreativa dos Deficientes
de Macau

MALAYSIA
Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota

MAURITIUS*
Mauritius NPC

MEXICO*
Wheelchair Fencing Mexico

NETHERLANDS
National Paralympic Committee of
the Netherlands

NIGERIA*
Nigeria NPC

NORWAY*
Norwegian Olympic Committee &
Confederation of Sports

POLAND
Polish Sports Association for the Disabled

RUSSIA
Russian Federation of Sports with
Physical Impairment

SINGAPORE*
Singapore Disability Sports Council

SLOVAK REPUBLIC*
Slovak Sports Association for the Disabled

SLOVENIA*
Paralympic Committee of Slovenia
Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia

SPAIN
Spanish Sports Federation for People with
Physical Disabilities

SWEDEN*
Swedish Sports Organisation for the Disabled
and Swedish Paralympic Committee

SWITZERLAND
Wheelchair Sport Switzerland

THAILAND
Sports Association of the Disabled of Thailand

TURKEY
National Paralympic Committee of Turkey

UAE*
UAE Paralympic Committee

UKRAINE
National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine

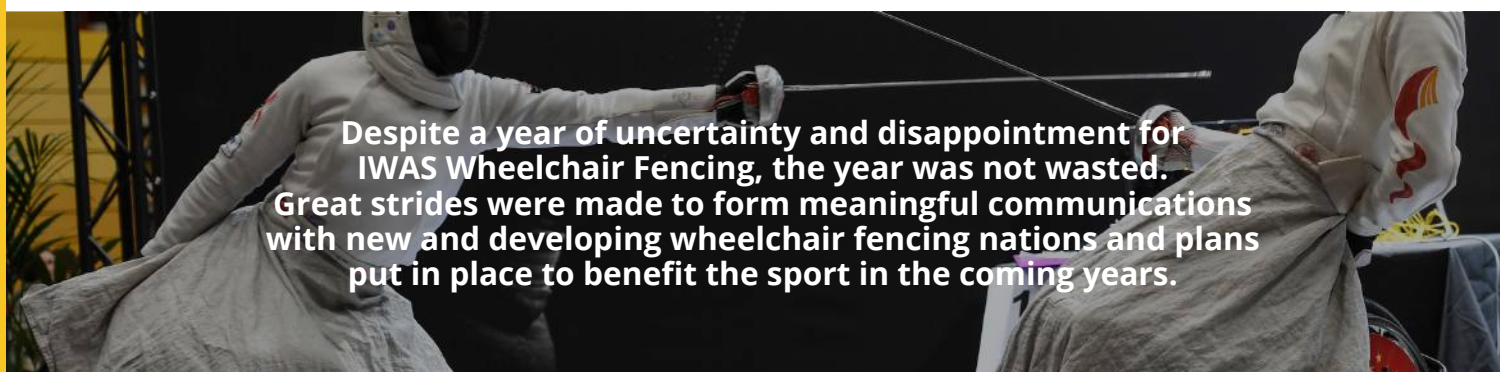
URUGUAY*
Uruguay Fencing Federation

USA
Adaptive Sports USA

VENEZUELA*
Venezuelan Sports Federation

Countries marked with an asterix (*) have been actively involved with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing development programmes and initiatives in 2020.

DEVELOPMENT & PROMOTION



Despite a year of uncertainty and disappointment for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, the year was not wasted. Great strides were made to form meaningful communications with new and developing wheelchair fencing nations and plans put in place to benefit the sport in the coming years.

In May 2020, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Development Officer, Alberto Cruz released the first Development Plan including proposals and initiatives aimed at broadening the reach of the sport and developing the officials infrastructure around the world.

Particular emphasis was also put on the growth and opportunities for females in wheelchair fencing, establishing a series of coaching courses and the development of the sport particularly within South America.

In cooperation with the Brazilian Fencing Federation and the National Paralympic Committee of Brazil, 'Introduction to Wheelchair Fencing' online seminars were hosted in Spanish, targeted at countries in South America. The seminar was attended by ten countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and gave a valuable overview into the sport, weapons, classification, coaching and refereeing.

To add further focus to women in the sport, the Gender Equity Commission was developed to advocate and advise on issues of gender equity, including strategies and policies towards the full inclusion of women and girls at all levels of IWAS Wheelchair Fencing. With Christina Massiala elected as the Commission's first Chair, it will also develop programmes to increase women's participation in all aspects of the sport ensuring equal opportunities in the management and participation of women.

Like all International Federations, the cancellation or postponement of competitions – in particular the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics – presented a challenge for promoting wheelchair fencing in 2020.

Fortunately the year began with an IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup in Eger, Hungary, which was livestreamed on the IWAS YouTube channel as well as the new website. The broadcast of other competitions was planned to be rolled out throughout the year, but following the changes to the calendar, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing responded by inviting athletes to share their home workouts to keep content fresh and the community engaged. Several athletes took part and videos were published on the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing website and social media.

In addition, throughout 2020, the sport delivered the #WheelchairFencing65 campaign, celebrating a landmark 65th birthday. Historic materials and interviews with key figures were published across all social media platforms. The sport's archives were also improved as more data such as results and pictures were added.

As a result all social media accounts saw increases and visitors to www.wheelchairfencing.iwasf.com were around the same as 2019. This is notable considering the stark reduction in competitions in 2020.



I WAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

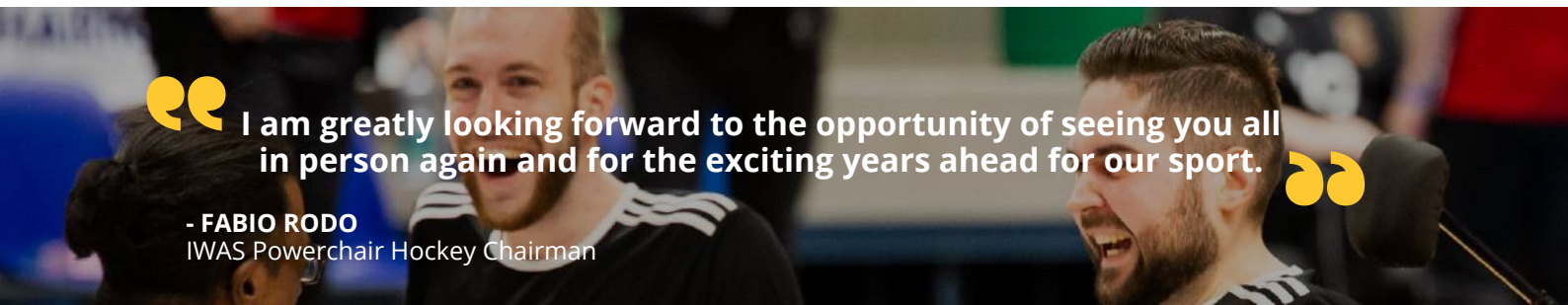
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity of seeing you all in person again and for the exciting years ahead for our sport.



- FABIO RODO
IWAS Powerchair Hockey Chairman



Dear IWAS Family,

I left you last year with the wish of 2020 to be a productive year adding the European Championship as another great event in Powerchair Hockey history. Unfortunately, for the well known reasons we are all experiencing, in agreement with the LOC, we were forced to cancel the Championship. We took this decision when it was harmless for all, both the LOC and the participant, as the future situation was yet unknown and with no chance of a fair training schedule was available for the teams.

Despite the uncertainty and disappointments, 2020 still proved to be a productive year for the sport in taking the chance to better plan and organise future activities.

The Sport Executive Committee grew in 2020 and we remain committed to actively recruiting new volunteers to support the workload. We made new contacts and we consolidated the old ones and we hope to present you the outcomes of these networking activities in the future.

All the subcommittees worked to revise their work and to provide the best and most professional support to the sport while referees and juries, extensively explored the rules to adjust and give them a better structure. The Classifiers finalized the trunk function research and criteria review with the updated procedure now published.

The site inspection conducted for the World Cup in Switzerland gave us an insight into a huge event in organization and numbers. To absorb the impact caused by the European Championship cancellation, we raised the number of team delegations up to 10 for the first time in our story.

I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity of seeing you all in person again and for the exciting years ahead for our sport.

Fabio Rodo
IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONS

SPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



CHAIRMAN
Fabio Rodo
Italy



VICE CHAIRMAN
Rasmus Dissing Nielsen
Denmark



TECHNICAL &
CLASSIFICATION OFFICER
Anna Rossi
Italy



SECRETARY OFFICER
Kenny Verbraekel
Belgium
(CO-OPTED MEMBER)



DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Danni Hillbrandt-Mogensen
Denmark
(CO-OPTED MEMBER)

The Members of the 2019 Sport Executive Committee continued into 2020 with the addition of co-opted Development Officer, Danni Hillbrandt-Mogensen. Danni has begun work on restablising communication with Powerchair Hockey contacts around the world with particular focus on strengthening the bond with USA, Canada and Australia.

The following Committees continue to support the sport and the function of the Sports Executive Committee;

REFEEREE COMMITTEE

Head: Davor Matijašević (SLO)
Secretariat: Inge De Zwart (NED)
SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA)
Members: Lauri Oksanen (FIN)
Kimmo Virtanen (FIN)
John Blackburn (CAN)
Andrea Vacchetti (ITA)

CLASSIFIER COMMITTEE

Head: Kees van Breukelen (NED)
SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA)
Members: Luca Tomasi (ITA)
Isabelle Pulver (SWI)

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Head: Rasmus Dissing Nielsen (DEN)
SEC Officer: Rasmus Dissing Nielsen (DEN)
Members: Dijana Lešić (BEL)
Glenn Nouws (BEL)
Hedwige Van Steen (BEL)
Seppe Hemerijckx (BEL)

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Head of Commission: Vacant
SEC Officer: Vacant
Members: Kamal Tahtahi

JURY MEMBERS COMMITTEE

Head: Dorte Berenth (DEN)
SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA)
Members: all the licensed juries

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Head of Committee: Vacant
SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA)
Members: Alejandro Diaz (SPA)
Danni Mogensen (DEN)

WORLDWIDE REACH

IWAS Powerchair Hockey remains committed to expanding their worldwide reach and promoting the sport to new countries and players.

The following countries are actively participating and engaged with IWAS Powerchair Hockey. Nations marked with an asterix (*) are considered actively developing nations and are currently at various stages of discussions with IWAS Powerchair Hockey around the world;

AUSTRALIA*
BELGIUM
BRAZIL*
CANADA
CZECH REPUBLIC*
DENMARK
ESTONIA*
FINLAND
GERMANY
ITALY
NETHERLANDS
RUSSIA*
SLOVENIA*
SPAIN*
SWITZERLAND
UNITED KINGDOM*
USA*

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

The social media content and website management continues to be led by Vice Chairman and Marketing & Communication Officer, Rasmus Dissing Nielsen.

Despite the year being overshadowed by postponements and cancellations, the Marketing and Communication Committee worked hard to keep the Powerchair Hockey spark alive through online content.

The Powerchair Hockey community started a #StayAtHomeChallenge which encouraged players, officials and fans to share videos and challenge each other virtually. A compilation of these videos was shared with great success giving a boost to the community following the disappointing news of competition cancellation.

In late September, preliminary steps were made to form a Social Media Team with a focus on sharing the national league activities from around the world. The Team will also eventually support the social media management in the lead-up and during competitions.

TECHNICAL & CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

In September 2019, a report by Sjoerd Vennema, of The Hague University of Applied Science on the practical study regarding the influence of limited trunk mobility on the arm-reach in Powerchair Hockey was published.

In accordance with the findings of the study the Classification Committee started an evaluation about how to improve the trunk assessment in Powerchair Hockey and further investigations were conducted by IPCH Classification Committee and Classifiers during the IPCH Euro Stars 2020 in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy.

A final recommendation regarding the refinement of the assessment of the trunk function and a consequent revision of the IPCH Classification Manual was finalised and approved by the Sports Executive Committee in February 2020. An online presentation was hosted in June 2020 to allow the new refinements to be introduced to the Nations to allow a smooth transition for the rule change going forward.

As well as launching an online system for referee examinations, the Referee Committee worked to review the Rules of the Game document to improve its clarity and ease of use. A first draft of the document will be shared at the Sports Congress planned for 2021.

A number of officials courses were held at the EuroStars Tournament to help strengthen the sport's officials infrastructure. The Referee course led by Davor Matijašević and Kimmo Virtanen welcomed eight participants with two passing the theoretical and practical course. Two participants attended the Referees Observers course led by Lauri Oksanen. Alongside the theory aspect of the course, participants also joined the referees during the competition and during controls and check-in.

Two participants each attended the Jury Members course, led by Dorte Berenth and the Classifiers course, led by Kees van Breukelen.

The EuroStars Tournament also played host to some further exploration of a new German speed control system to be used in competition. The trials concluded that the system is easy to handle and has good usability, highlighting battery or engine issues to players. Following its results being inline with the system in use with 2010, it was approved by IWAS Powerchair Hockey for official competition use.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

IWAS Powerchair Hockey were fortunate to host an official tournament in February before the COVID-19 pandemic saw international travel and sports events grind to an abrupt halt.

The IWAS Powerchair Hockey EuroStars 2020 held in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy from 19th to 23rd February 2020 and welcomed Germany, Finland, Switzerland and host nation Italy. The competition was sanctioned by IWAS Powerchair Hockey as a warm up competition for the then upcoming European Championships while also presenting an ideal opportunity for classification and to host educational seminars and officials training courses.

Despite an initial postponement and a series of consultation calls with the teams, the uncertainty of travel and disruption to team's training caused by the pandemic, meant the European Championships that were due to be held Pajulahti, Finland were cancelled.

Focus then turned to the IWAS Powerchair Hockey World Championships in 2022 with the Sports Executive Committee conducting a successful site inspection in Nottwill, Switzerland in September 2020. The World Championships were later awarded to Nottwill with a proposed 10 team competition in the absence of the qualification tournament.



REPORTING

ANTI DOPING



IWAS remains committed to tackling doping, educating athletes and promoting clean sport. As the International Federation for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing and IWAS Powerchair Hockey, as well as organising the IWAS World Games, we have an important role to play in anti-doping.

The IWAS anti-doping efforts continue to be led by Dr. Guzel Idrisova, Head of IWAS Anti- Doping, and Pavel Rozhkov, IWAS 2nd Vice President alongside IWAS HQ. Dr Idrisova led the study of the changes made to the WADA Code 2021 and International Standards and participated in a series of WADA Webinars dedicated to various aspects of the implementation of the new WADA Code 2021 in the activities of International Federations.

This study resulted in the development of the new IWAS Anti-Doping Code 2021, approved by WADA and adopted by the IWAS Executive Board on 8 December 2020.

The following tests were carried out in 2020, significantly less than usual due to the reduced competition calendar.

| TESTS CONDUCTED IN 2020 | IN COMPETITION | ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDING (AAF) |
|--|---|--|
| | Testing conducted 12 hours prior and during competition | 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 13-16 February 2020 | 6 | 0 |
| Registered Testing Pool x 2 Athletes | 0 | -- |
| TOTAL | 6 | 0 |

A full report on the anti-doping activities of IWAS and the IWAS Anti Doping Committee can be issued on request.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a swimmer's head and shoulders above water. The swimmer is wearing a black swim cap and blue-tinted goggles. Their mouth is open, and they appear to be breathing or speaking. The water is a vibrant blue, with white foam and splashes visible around the swimmer's head. The background is a soft-focus view of the pool's surface and distant lights.

IWAS TESTING POOL & OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING

Two wheelchair fencers from Brazil and Russia made up the required 'testing pool' in 2020. These athletes were required to provide their whereabouts information into ADAMS and no violations in providing this information were recorded.


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. IWAS is working towards using this system to its full potential.

THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

IWAS continues to use the expertise of its TUE and Anti-Doping Committees.

Only one TUE request was received in 2020 for an athlete with a previously approved TUE by the country's NADO. The IWAS TUE Committee also recognised the TUE submitted.

FINANCES



To maintain transparency about our work and activities, and as part of our status as a charitable organisation based in Great Britain, IWAS publishes reports and accounts on a yearly basis.

An Unaudited Trustee's Report and Financial Statements by Hillier Hopkins LLP are available on request. This Annual Review is also part of our regular reporting.

Together, these ensure we are open with our stakeholders and meet the requirements of Companies House and the Charity Commission.

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

In 2020, the organisation received a total income of £134,739 (2019 - £372,212) and ran a net deficit of £51,754 (2019 – surplus of £86,299). IWAS also administers the accounts for IWAS Sports and below are their final account balances on 31st December 2020:

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing: £70,220 IWAS Powerchair Hockey: £3211

Full accounts will be presented at the next IWAS General Assembly but can be supplied on request at any time.

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