



INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR &  
AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“

**As I wrote last year, I cross my fingers and believe in a better 2022. IWAS is really looking forward to having the pleasure of seeing everyone in person again, enjoying being together.**

**- RUDI VAN DEN ABBEELE**  
IWAS President

”

Having suffered the disappointment of 2020 due to Covid-19, 2021 was a year for which we had great expectations. Unfortunately, having started the year with optimism, different variants of the disease limited again our overall activities. 2021 was another year without an IWAS Games.

However, thanks to the build-up to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, several competitions did take place albeit with the need to navigate some cancellations. The preparations and selections for the Paralympics were difficult but at the end they did take place.

The first eight months, in addition to some occasional and chance meetings at those events which did go ahead, all our regular executive board meetings, contacts with our members and affiliate organisations continued virtually.

Finally in October, thanks to our 1st Vice President, we could enjoy our first face-face Executive Board meeting in Khor Fakkan, Sharjah.

Outside of this our phones and mailboxes remained very active as we continued to work on the development of Para sport and its athletes.

The highlights include:

- Making progress on the merger between IWAS and the Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA), towards one sports federation for people with physical disabilities
- Our Games programme, and building the foundations for our first Winter Games.
- Support of and increase in our membership
- Strengthening our regional presence by evaluating the possibility for setting up hubs.



In 2022 everyone will hopefully learn to live with Covid and its variants. For wheelchair fencing and powerchair hockey a concrete sports programme has been fixed. Especially in powerchair hockey we are all looking forward to the World Championship in Sursee, Switzerland, in August.

Around our Chief Executive Charmaine Hooper, our staff accomplished again a great job. Together with our Executive Board, a great team, we faced the challenging year of 2021.


As I wrote last year, I cross my fingers and believe in a better 2022. IWAS is really looking forward to having the pleasure of seeing everyone in person again, enjoying being together.



Rudi Van Den Abbeele  
**IWAS President**



# ABOUT IWAS



**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

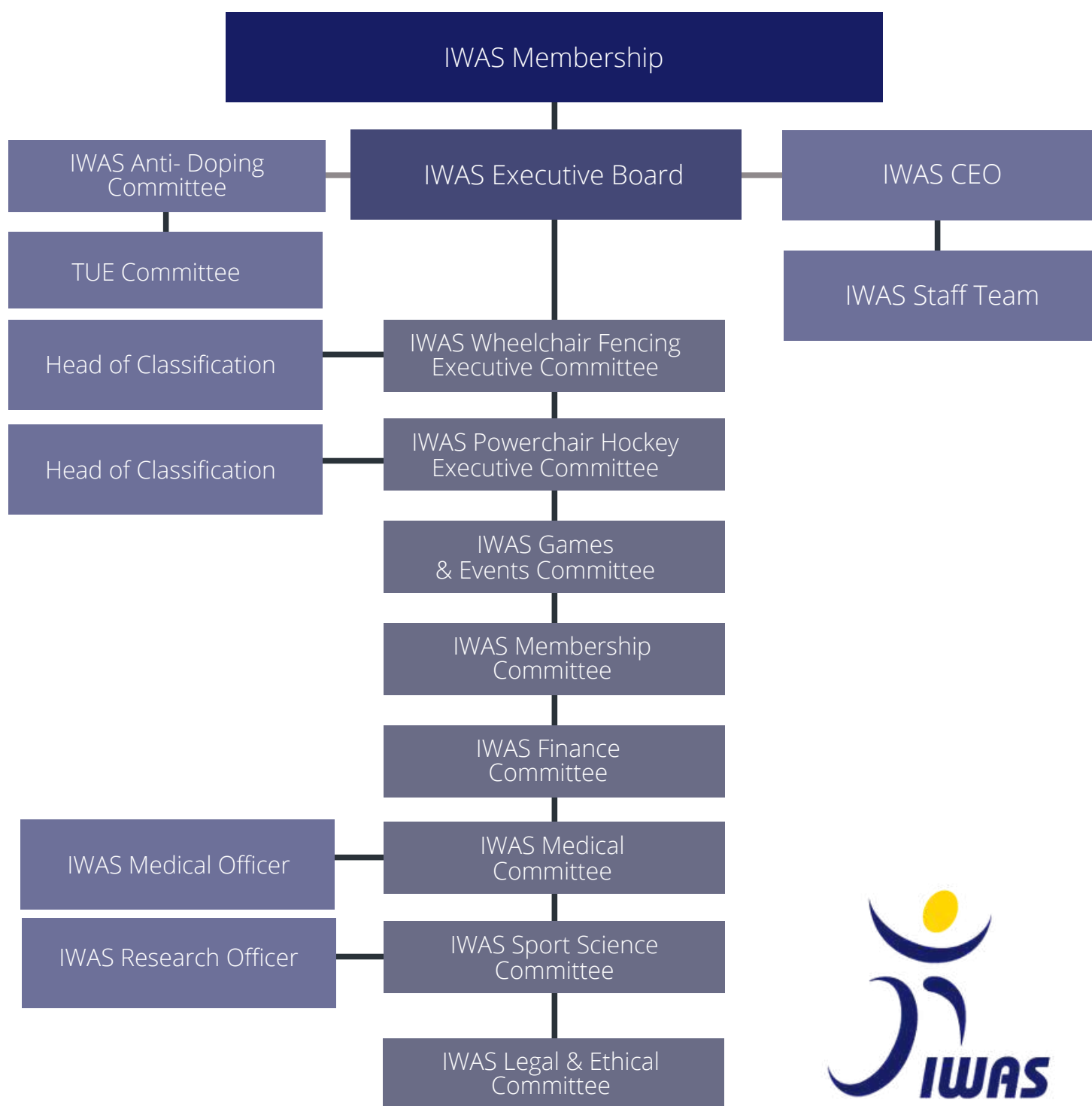
## OUR VISION

Develop sporting opportunities for athletes to maximise their potential.

## OUR MISSION

Inspire Worldwide Achievements in Sport

# IWAS THE ORGANISATION







# I WAS MEMBERSHIP



# 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  
illa de Ruedas

## AUSTRALIA

Disability Sport Australia

## AUSTRIA

Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled

## AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan Paralympic Committee

## BELARUS

Belarus Paralympic Committee

## BELGIUM

Belgian Paralympic Committee

## BRAZIL

Brazilian Paralympic Committee

## CANADA

Canadian Fencing Federation

## CHINA

Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation

## COLUMBIA

Colombia - FEDESIR

## CROATIA

Croatian Paralympic Committee

## CYPRUS

Cyprus Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities

## 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

## GHANA

Ghana Paralympic Committee

## GREAT BRITAIN

WheelPower - British Wheelchair Sport

## GREECE

Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons  
with Disabilities

## HONG KONG

Hong Kong Paralympic Committee

## HUNGARY

Hungarian Paralympic Committee

## INDIA

Paralympic Committee of India

## 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

LITHUANIA  
Lithuanian Sports Federation for the Disabled

LUXEMBOURG  
Federation Sportive Luxembourgeoise de Handicape

MACAU  
Associacion Recreativa dos  
Deficientes de Macau

MALAYSIA  
Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota

MEXICO  
Mexico Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation

MOROCCO  
Royal Moroccan Federation of Sports  
for Disabled

THE NETHERLANDS  
National Paralympic Committee of the Netherlands

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

SERBIA  
Serbia National Paralympic Committee

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

CHINESE TAIPEI  
Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee

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  
Move United



# 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

CYPRUS

Cyprus Paralympic Committee

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Sports Association for Physically Handicapped

INDIA

Sports Control Board of India for the Disabled

USA

USA Fencing

# 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

VENEZUELA

Venezuela 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 70 years ago.

Following the addition of Harry Cootes (IWAS Sport Coordinator) and Tamara Simmons (IWAS Events Coordinator) in early 2020 and the return of Elin Luce from maternity leave in July 2020, the team remained unchanged in 2021.

IWAS 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/CPIISRA POTENTIAL MERGER

The working group consisting of IWAS CEO Charmaine Hooper, Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPIISRA) President and CEO Craig Carscadden, CPIISRA Secretary General, Brett Cooper, IWAS executive board Member, Karl Vilhelm Nielsen and IWAS Assistant Treasurer, Ian Donald continued throughout 2021.

The roadmap of steps to accomplish a merger by the end of 2022 remained on track. First drafts of the membership policy and strategic plan was shared with the membership throughout the year.

IWAS, held virtual consultations with the Members on Tuesday 23rd March & Thursday 25th March 2021.

In January 2021, the CPIISRA Membership accepted a motion to their General Assembly, to gain formal approval to continue talks with IWAS, with the view of a merger.

Unfortunately it was yet again not possible to meet in person in October as the pandemic still had some impact on world travel and the IWAS World Games has to be cancelled.

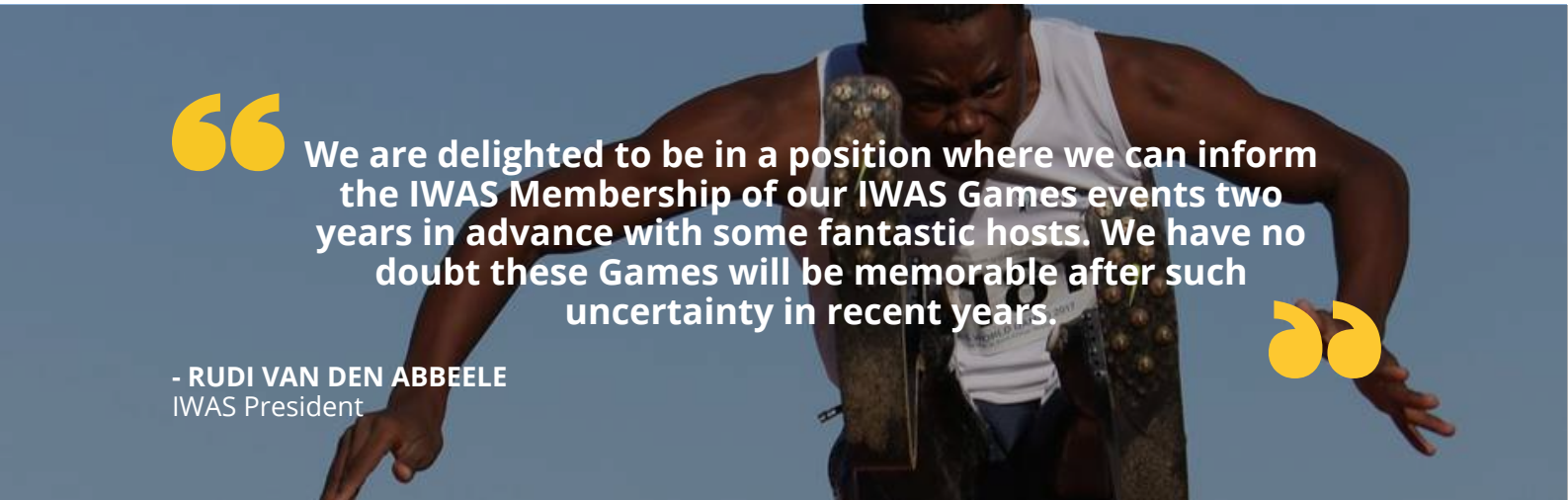
Feedback from the Membership overall continues to be positive and the progress of talks remain promising for the future. Further consultations are planned, and every effort is made to achieve a merger by the end of 2022.





# IWAS GAMES PROGRAMME

# IWAS WORLD GAMES



**“We are delighted to be in a position where we can inform the IWAS Membership of our IWAS Games events two years in advance with some fantastic hosts. We have no doubt these Games will be memorable after such uncertainty in recent years.”**

**- RUDI VAN DEN ABBEELE**  
IWAS President

Following the indefinite postponement of the 2020 IWAS World Games due to be hosted in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, IWAS was determined to provide a competition opportunity for the Membership in 2021 despite the ongoing presence of Covid-19.

The Games were announced to take place in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal from 29 September to 5 October 2021 hosting a sports programme of athletics, CP football, swimming and powerlifting in the same facilities of the successful 2017 edition of the Games.

Despite a huge amount of interest from the Membership, particularly with a need for classification opportunities, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to cause too much uncertainty and international travel disruption to make the event viable to host. The event was regrettably cancelled in August 2021.

In October 2021, IWAS announced the details of the IWAS World Games 2022, set to return to the impressive venues of the 2015 edition in Sochi, Russia. The Games will once again host an exciting provisional sports programme of archery, athletics, cerebral palsy football, ParaVolley, swimming, table tennis & Para badminton.

IWAS also announced in December 2021, that the cancelled hosts of the IWAS World Games 2020 had been awarded the 2023 edition. The Games which will be hosted in the same facilities as the cancelled 2020 edition, will see athletes compete in the most extensive sports programme ever seen at an IWAS Games. From 1-9 December 2023, athletes will compete in athletics, swimming, shooting, wheelchair tennis, sitting volleyball, powerlifting, table tennis, archery, badminton, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair fencing with e-sports, road cycling and lawn bowls also under discussion for inclusion.



# OTHER ACTIVITIES

The IWAS Executive Board made the decision to postpone both the IWAS World Games 2021 and IWAS General Assembly & Elections to 2022 in light of COVID-19.

The term of the current Executive Board will be extended until these elections take place.

## ACTIVITY

## LOCATION

Signed cooperation agreement  
with Para Football - May 2021

IWAS Staff attended the Flame  
Lighting Ceremony for Tokyo 2020  
Paralympic Games - August 2021

Stoke  
Mandeville  
Stadium

IWAS Executive Board Meeting -  
October 2021

UAE

EPC Meeting - November 2021

Cyprus





# I WAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING



# 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. The Committee elected new Commission Chairs and members in December 2021 at the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee meeting in Budapest, Hungary.



**CHAIRPERSON**  
Pal Szekeres  
Hungary



**SECRETARY GENERAL**  
Udo Ziegler  
Germany



**VICE CHAIR**  
Jakub Nowicki  
Poland



**HEAD OF 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**  
Pascal Godet  
France



**MEMBER AT LARGE**  
Peter Huggins  
Great Britain

Brandon Dyett (USA) left the Executive Committee in August 2021 and was replaced by Pascal Godet (FRA), the Member with the next highest votes at the Sports Congress.

## COMMISSIONS & COUNCILS

**REFEREE COMMISSION**  
Chris Farren  
Great Britain

**RULES COMMISSION**  
Sean Shumate  
USA

**DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION**  
Alberto Ancarani  
Italy

**SEMI COMMISSION**  
Peter Huggins  
Great Britain

**MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
Ying Ki Fung  
Hong Kong

**SPORTS COMMISSION**  
Daria Marchetti  
Italy

**DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
Peter Brigola  
Austria

**PROMOTIONS COMMISSION**  
Christina Massiala  
Greece/USA

**GENDER EQUITY COMMISSION**  
Mirani Fernandes  
Brazil

**COACHES COUNCIL**  
Pascal Godet  
France

**ATHLETES COUNCIL**  
Yu Chui Yee  
Hong Kong



# 2021 COMPETITION CALENDAR

## **ALL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTPONED TO 2022**

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Asian Championships  
Bangkok, Thailand  
May 2021 (CANCELLED)

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing European Championships  
Egér, Hungary  
May 2021 (CANCELLED)

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Americas Championships  
Sao Paulo, Brazil  
May 2021 (CANCELLED)

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup  
Warsaw, Poland  
July 2021

Paralympic Games - Tokyo 2020  
Tokyo, Japan  
August 2021

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup  
Pisa, Italy  
November 2021

# WORLDWIDE REACH

Due to the forced global inactivity in sport throughout 2021 caused by the pandemic, the list of countries involved with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing remains unchanged from the 2020 list. The continuing growth of the sport around the world remains a priority for IWAS Wheelchair Fencing.

## WHEELCHAIR FENCING NATIONS

### ARGENTINA

Argentine Federacion de deportes Sobre Silla de Ruedas (FADISIR)

### AZERBIJAN

Azerbaijan NPC

### 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

### 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

### JAPAN

Japanese Paralympic Committee

### REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korea Disabled Veterans Organisation

KUWAIT  
Kuwait Disabled Sport Club

LATVIA  
Latvian SOD

LIBYA  
Libya NPC

LITHUANIA  
Lithuanian Sports Federation for the Disabled

MACAU  
Associacao Recreativa dos Deficientes de  
Macau

MALAYSIA  
Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota

MEXICO\*  
Wheelchair Fencing Mexico

NETHERLANDS  
National Paralympic Committee of the  
Netherlands

NORWAY\*  
Norwegian Olympic Committee &  
Confederation of Sports

POLAND  
Polish Sports Association for the Disabled

RUSSIA  
Russian Federation of Sports with Physical  
Impairment

SPAIN  
Spanish Sports Federation for People with  
Physical Disabilities

SWITZERLAND  
Wheelchair Sport Switzerland

THAILAND  
Sports Association of the Disabled of Thailand

TURKEY  
National Paralympic Committee of Turkey

UKRAINE  
National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine

URUGUAY\*  
Uruguay Fencing Federation

USA  
Adaptive Sports USA

VENEZUELA\*  
Venezuelan Sports Federation

### **DEVELOPING NATIONS**

COSTA RICA\*  
Costa Rica Fencing Federation

JAMAICA\*  
Jamaica NPC

MAURITIUS\*  
Mauritius NPC

NIGERIA\*  
Nigeria NPC

SINGAPORE\*  
Singapore Disability Sports Council

SLOVAK REPUBLIC\*  
Slovak Sports Association for the Disabled

Countries marked with an asterix (\*) have been actively involved with IWAS Wheelchair Fencing development programmes and initiatives in 2021.



# PARALYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic saw the Paralympic Games due to be held in Tokyo, Japan in 2020 postponed to 2021. Despite challenges presented by the postponement, most notably related to balancing reducing costs for the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee versus the sports requirements, we were able to deliver a well-organized Games in a dynamic venue for all of our athletes. Unfortunately due to the rules in place throughout the Games, it went ahead without spectators, however wheelchair fencing was delighted to be the only sport to host a joint visit from IPC President, Andrew Parsons and IOC President, Thomas Bach.

The introduction of two new medal events at Tokyo 2020; category A and B women's sabre, meant for the first time wheelchair fencing had an equal number of female and male athletes competing at the Paralympic Games. Twelve individual events and four team events saw 48 female and 48 male fencers competing.

The competition was once again dominated by China who ended the competition with 11 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals.

A new layout of ten pistes (two more than in Rio 2016) provided a better view and a cleaner, more presentable field of play. The increased number of pistes meant the number of referees in attendance, increased by 8, a total of 44.

The Tokyo 2020 Games provided some key lessons for preparations for Paris 2024 particularly related to the schedule and competition format. Due to the long daily schedules and with the athlete's wellbeing in mind, it was agreed to eliminate the pools phase from all individual and team events. All events in Paris will start in a direct elimination phase (with repechage). A simplified qualification system will also be announced to provide greater understanding to the fencing community in the leadup to the Games.

# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS



**IWAS Wheelchair Fencing's Instagram, Facebook and Twitter have reached more than 600,000 followers and the website has attracted more than 31,000 visitors.**

With just two World Cups and a non-Paralympic medal event World Championships taking place, 2021 was a challenging and unique year for one featuring a Paralympic Games.

## TOKYO 2020

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing invested in a dedicated social media and editorial volunteer to attend the Paralympic Games for the first time. Bethany Ashley was selected after an online recruitment process attracted more than 30 applications.

Bethany travelled to Tokyo 2020 and covered all five days of competition on Instagram and Twitter, as well as writing daily reviews. In the lead-up, Bethany also interviewed athletes for the wheelchair fencing website. Bethany's contributions were especially important in the absence of a live broadcast of the sport from the Paralympics.

A professional photographer was also sourced and covered the competition, for free, providing more than 1,000 images which were made available to media and on social media, again for the first time.

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing worked with the IPC on daily highlights videos to ensure that some video content was available to fans during the competition.

As a result, and in addition to other activities throughout the year, IWAS Wheelchair Fencing's Instagram, Facebook and Twitter have reached more than 600,000 people. The IWAS Wheelchair Fencing website has attracted more than 31,000 visitors, in comparison to 2016 when just under 30,000 people visited overall. This is a good performance, especially when the lack of competitions and live broadcast from Tokyo 2020 is taken into consideration.

## OVERALL DIGITAL ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Competitions remain the biggest draw for fans to wheelchair fencing online and on social media. The World Cup and sabre and category C World Championships in Poland in July, the World Cup in Italy in November and of course the Paralympics attracted the majority of people to the sport's platforms.

However in addition, videos from Rio 2016 and other competitions were also used for the build-up campaign for Tokyo 2020. This proved to be the most popular form of content and shows the importance of good quality footage in both attracting new fans and keeping existing audiences interested.

Working with organisers to secure good quality broadcast footage from World Cups will continue to be the focus of attention in 2022, as will ensuring that the IWAS YouTube channel is the place where live wheelchair fencing is shown.





# 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,

We are finally leaving this forced stop behind our shoulders. We used 2021 to plan the World Championship in the best possible way, investing time and energy in supporting the Nations' and Officials' growth.

Despite an ever-increasing workload, we achieved great results between the Executive Committee and the support of the Commissions and Committees, however we continue to seek the assistance of willing volunteers to support our great movement.

We remain hopeful that after the Covid-19 pause, we will be able to accomplish all the planned activities in 2022 that are focusing on sport as well as the Elective Sport Congress 2022.

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  
(resigned end 2021)  
Rasmus Dissing Nielsen  
Denmark



TECHNICAL &  
CLASSIFICATION OFFICER  
Anna Rossi  
Italy



SECRETARY OFFICER  
Kenny Verbraekel  
Belgium  
(CO-OPTED MEMBER)



DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
// VICE CHAIRMAN (end 2021)  
Danni Hillbrandt-Mogensen  
Denmark  
(CO-OPTED MEMBER)

The end of 2021 was an extremely sad period for the IPCH Sport Executive Committee and the movement as a whole with the news of two significant losses. Both Kenny Verbraekel (Belgium - IPCH Secretary Officer) and Paul Desaluners (Canada) passed away.

In addition to that due to work related reasons, Rasmus Dissing Nielsen resigned as Communication and Marketing Officer, Vice Chairman and Officer. Danni Mogensen was appointed by the SEC as Vice Chairman.

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

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

### MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

Head: Seppe Hemerijckx (BEL)  
Members: Dijana Lešić (BEL)  
Glenn Nouws (BEL)  
Hedwige Van Steen (BEL)  
Seppe Hemerijckx (BEL)

### DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Head of Commission: Danni Mogensen (DEN)  
Members: Meghan Hines (CAN)

### 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.

2021 has seen tremendous growth in the number of countries developing powerchair hockey, under the support of IWAS Powerchair Hockey.

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

ARGENTINA\*  
AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRIA\*  
BELGIUM  
BRAZIL\*  
CANADA  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
DENMARK  
ESTONIA  
FINLAND  
GERMANY  
ITALY  
JAPAN\*  
MOROCCO\*  
NETHERLANDS  
RUSSIA\*  
SLOVAKIA  
SLOVENIA  
SPAIN  
SWEDEN\*  
SWITZERLAND  
UNITED KINGDOM\*  
USA



## SPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In February 2021 two important meetings were held on-line between Chairman, Fabio Rodo and two main partner organizations, Fédération Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) and International Floorball Federation (IFF).

FIPFA: Present Ricky Stevenson and Donal Byrne. Both the sports share the same values, same vision and partially overlap on potential athletes. The meeting followed one already held in Paris in 2017. Future collaboration is a high priority for the two organisations that can lead to growth for both the sports. The idea is to develop and undersign a Memorandum of Understanding to define the terms of a future partnership.

IFF: Present Merita Brun. The International Floorball Federation has always been a good partner of IPCH sharing with it most of the game rules and sport equipment. The hope is to collaborate with them to promote the World Cup in Switzerland 2022.

Meetings with IFF continued in June, November and December with present Fabio Rodo, Merita Brun and Jürg Kihm.

The full Sport Executive Committee report for 2021 can be sent on request.

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee continues to work on widening the worldwide reach of powerchair hockey and strengthening communications with developing countries. The end of 2020 and into 2021 saw positive connections made with interested parties in the UK and Brazil while the Committee also worked to underpin and promote the work already being undertaken in USA, Canada and Australia. With Europe the most prominent and active continent in the powerchair hockey movement, it is important to continue to grow and support current growth in other continents to ensure a strong and thriving future for the sport.

To assist in this, the Development Committee alongside the Referee Committee are working to establish an IPCH manual to provide interested and developing countries with a document to give a concise overview of how to begin in the sport. It is hoped such a document will streamline the rules, equipment and national infrastructure with other IPCH nations around the world.

In 2021, the Development Committee began to establish the Global Development Network, an initiative aimed at providing developing powerchair hockey countries with a mutually beneficial community. The initiatives main function will be to allow for networking opportunities among developing counties, provide opportunities to share best practices on topics including education, awareness, marketing and promotion and contribute to the Development Committee's overall agenda and priorities.

## TECHNICAL & CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

### RULEBOOK REVISION AND RE-EDITION

A thorough revision of the current IPCH Game Rules have been realized by the Referee Committee. The Rules urgently required review to allow for ease of access and understanding. The new rulebook will be presented to all Nations in the Sport Congress to allow motions and rule changes to be voted upon. Following this, the IPCH Game Rules will be formally published.

### REFEREE TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Referee Committee took the decision to organise a virtual meeting of all IPCH licensed referees twice per year. They are semi-formal meetings, with some presentations and explanations of new or existing rules, directions on how to manage games, analysis of videos and with opportunities for open discussion, questions or clarification. The meetings are important to keep IPCH Referees updated, to monitor their interest and willingness to participate and keep the education/preparation levels current. The first meeting was held on 11th April 2021.

### ANTI-DOPING WEBINARS

IWAS Anti-Doping is working on organizing some educational antidoping online webinars for our athletes on different antidoping topics, including, athletes' rights and responsibilities, doping control procedures and TUEs. The schedule of these meetings is under evaluation.

### IPCH PORTAL FOR OFFICIALS

The Referee Committee is looking into the creation of a IPCH referee portal to have a streamlined information sharing platform for referee availability as well as the on-hand access of competition observation and feedback reports.

### BECOMING REFEREES - PACKAGE FOR NEW/DEVELOPING NATIONS

The IPCH education for referees has so far only focused on international level referees, however due to the development of the sport worldwide, there has been an increasing interest in attending the C-license courses where the knowledge and experience in the sport is at a foundation level. The SEC and Referee Committee have started to consider new ways of education in order to support those developing countries with a package of basic rules and regulations and tips for game management.

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

The Committee was strengthened by the appointment of Seppe Hemerijckx as Marketing and Communications Assistant.

With all competition and events cancelled in 2021, creating regular, engaging content for social media platforms posed a challenge for the Marketing and Communication Committee.

To address some of these challenges, the Sports Executive Committee established a IPCH Social Media Team with the idea to have representatives from all active powerchair hockey nations. This would allow for league and national content to be created, while spreading the workload more widely. The Team currently has representation from members in Belgium, Spain, Denmark and Canada and is actively seeking more members.

Moving forward Paul Desaulniers of Canada will lead a working group to establish the first Powerchair Hockey Day to promote the sport on a global scale.

# COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Following the announcement that the IWAS Powerchair Hockey World Championships 2022 had been awarded to Switzerland, the organisation began.

Anna Rossi was appointed as Technical Delegate, assisted by Aina Budde, who will complete the training as Technical Delegate and can be then appointed for future competitions in the role.

Due to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and the 2020 European Championships being cancelled, IPCH and the LOC had discussed the possibility of creating an extraordinary edition of the World Championships, increasing the number of allocated teams to ten. The allocations of Nations will be decided on the basis of the qualification system approved by the Sport Congress in 2010, with some adjustments and according to the IPCH world ranking list.

The bid process opened for the IPCH Qualification Tournament for the European Championship 2023 and the IPCH European Championship due to be held in 2024.





# 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 Anti-Doping Committee continue to prepare the doping agreements for all IWAS competitions ensuring adherence to the IWAS Anti-Doping Code as well as keeping information and resources current and accessible on the IWAS website.

The following tests were carried out in 2021, significantly less than usual due to the reduced competition calendar.

	IN COMPETITION	ADVERSE ANALYTICAL FINDING (AAF)
TESTS CONDUCTED IN 2021	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
Wheelchair Fencing	12	0
Powerchair Hockey	0	--
TOTAL	12	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 water is splashing around their face. The background is a bright, out-of-focus blue, suggesting a pool setting. A vertical yellow line runs along the left side of the page, partially obscuring the swimmer's face.

## IWAS TESTING POOL & OUT-OF-COMPETITION TESTING

Two wheelchair fencers from Brazil and Russia made up the required 'testing pool' in 2021. 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

In 2021, IWAS received three applications for TUE approval which the TUE Committee are currently working on.

In addition, a retroactive TUE application was issued for a powerchair hockey athlete in 2021.



# FINANCES

A young person with dark hair, wearing a green t-shirt, is captured in a close-up shot while playing table tennis. They are holding a black paddle and looking intently at the ball. The background is a blurred orange wall.

**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.**

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.

In 2021, the organisation received a total income of £289,185 (2020: £129,491) and ran a net surplus of £55,426 (2020: deficit of £96,026, of which £42,769 was on restricted reserves and £53,257 on unrestricted reserves).

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

## ADDRESS

IWAS HQ, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP,  
OXFORD ROAD, AYLESBURY, BUCKS, HP21 8PD, UK

## EMAIL

INFO@IWASF.COM

## SKYPE

IWAS\_HQ

## WEBSITE

WWW.IWASF.COM

WWW.POWERCHAIRHOCKEY.ORG

WWW.WHEELCHAIRFENCING@IWASF.COM

## SOCIAL CHANNELS



@IWASF

@WHEELCHAIRFENCING



@IWASFED

@IWASFENCING



IWAS

IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING

IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY



@IWAS