



2022 Annual Report





Message from the President, Rudi Van den Abbeele

The year 2022 saw IWAS and its sports return back to normal after the upheaval of the previous two years.

We were delighted to be able to gather our members and athletes for an IWAS World Games once again, in Portugal, in November. With more than 500 athletes from 30 countries, those Games showed us once again the huge appetite there still is for these multi-sport competitions, even after a nearly four-year hiatus.

Wheelchair fencing and powerchair hockey were also able to deliver a full competition calendar and development activities strengthening their already comprehensive schedules.

Powerchair hockey staged a successful World Championships whilst fencers won World Cup and European titles. The Asian Para Games were the only competition still suffering from the after-effects of COVID-19 being unfortunately postponed by another year. I have no doubt when they take place in 2023 they will be just as awe-inspiring.

From an organisational perspective, the merger of IWAS and the Cerebral Palsy Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) continued to gather speed and at the end of 2022 it was officially voted for by our relative constituents. In 2023, we will be completing a full rebrand and concluding the legal and practical transformation into one united organisation for all people with physical impairments.

This is a ground-breaking move – both organisations have a long and storied history as founders of the Paralympic Movement. We hope that by joining forces we can deliver even more value to our members and to continue and strengthen our contributions to athletes with physical impairments and Para sport around the world.

I hope you enjoy discovering more about our activities in 2022 and can look ahead to our future with great optimism, as I and the rest of the IWAS Board do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rudi Van den Abbeele'.

Rudi Van den Abbeele
IWAS President

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




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 75 years ago.

In 2022, in anticipation of the merge with the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association, the process of restructuring the IWAS staff team began. All current staff will be retained and the IWAS team will be joined by CPISRA staff.

In 2022, the IWAS staff team was formed of Elin Luce, Head of Operations (maternity leave) and Harry Cootes, Sports Coordinator.

As in previous years, IWAS also employed consultants for media and communications and book-keeping.

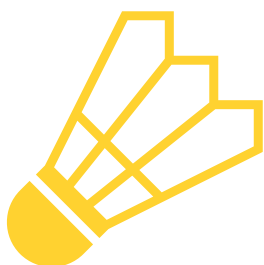
Finally in 2022, to help cover maternity leave, IWAS continued to receive support from an Events Coordinator.



Highlights: 2003-2022

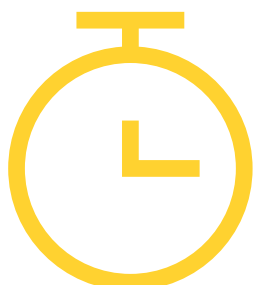
As IWAS is expected to merge with CPISRA at the end of 2022 and heads into the next chapter as a new organisation, we would like to highlight some of the major achievements of the last two decades.

WORLD GAMES



In 2015, Para taekwondo appeared on the IWAS World Games programme followed by badminton in 2019. Both sports went on to secure a place at the Paralympic Games, showing how the World Games have been a key part of sports' journeys to the Paralympics Games.

The IWAS World Games have been a launch pad for many of the world's most successful Paralympians. Names include the USA's Tatyana McFadden, South Africa's Ntando Mahlangu, Australia's Madison de Rosario and Great Britain's Jonnie Peacock.



It is not only Paralympic sports and events that feature at the IWAS World Games. Many sports and events – such as wheelchair slalom, arm wrestling and race-running – have also featured over the years. A total of 15 sports have been contested since 2003.

The IWAS World Games have been held around the world in the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania since 2003.

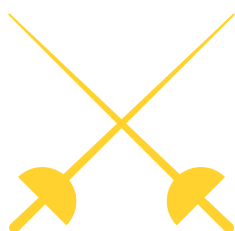


Brazil hosted the IWAS World Games in 2005 before going on to successfully bidding to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION



In 2005 IWAS became the International Federation for powerchair hockey. We subsequently oversaw a rebrand and supported the committed group of volunteers who push the sport forward to create a sport specific classification system and introduce anti-doping.



The last two decades have seen IWAS – as the governing body for wheelchair fencing – introduce more competitions in more countries, help develop new nations to join international events, improve broadcast and social media and make changes to classification and anti-doping to professionalise the sport.

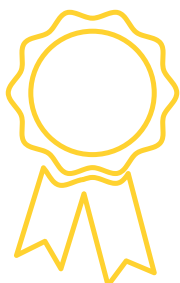
SOLIDARITY, COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT



In 2019 IWAS opened its arms to new and developing countries by adding different categories of membership, making its family more accessible. In the same year, we supported a refugee team to attend the World Games and have funded other teams over the years through our solidarity programme.

We have also provided equipment - in 2017 we donated racing wheelchairs to Namibia during the London 2017 Para Athletics World Championships

RECOGNITION



Former Executive Director, Maura Strange received the Paralympic Order in 2009. In 2018, IWAS Honorary Treasurer, Bob Paterson received an MBE. In 2019, IWAS President, Rudi Van den Abbeele received the Paralympic Order. Former President Paul De Pace and Board Member Karl Vilhelm Nielsen received the Paralympic order in 2017.

LOCATION



In 2014 IWAS opened a regional office in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, serving the Asian region.



In 2015, IWAS made the move from the Stoke Mandeville Hospital site to Aylesbury College, retaining its important links with the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement.

IWAS & CPISRA

The end of 2022 saw the membership of both organisations formally vote to join forces and rubber-stamp the merge at a joint General Assembly held during the 2022 IWAS World Games.

The green light marked the end of a lengthy process of consultation and administration which was led by a working group consisting of IWAS CEO Charmaine Hooper, CPISRA President and CEO Craig Carscadden, CPISRA Secretary General, Brett Cooper, IWAS Executive Board Member, Karl Vilhelm Nielsen and IWAS Assistant Treasurer, Ian Donald.

In addition, three CPISRA Board members – Cooper, Julian Robollo Martinez and Cathy Sherrington – were unanimously elected to the Board of IWAS to help finalise the merge.

Members of CPISRA Board staff also joined their IWAS counterparts in Vila Real De Santo Antonio, Portugal, to support with the delivery of the IWAS World Games in November.

The new organisation's new name and brand will be revealed in 2023. Work continues with creative agency Landor & Fitch who have generously given their time and expertise to ensure a striking new look and identity.

The joint IWAS and CPISRA General Assembly were given a sneak peak of some potential new names in Vila Real De Santo Antonio to give a sense of the direction of travel.



A Paralympic athlete is shown from a front-three-quarter view, leaning forward in a racing wheelchair on a reddish-brown track. The athlete is wearing a black long-sleeved jersey with a small Italian flag on the chest, a black helmet, and clear goggles. Their arms are extended forward, gripping the handlebars. The background is a blurred green field under a clear sky.

IWAS World Games

After a nearly four-year break and series of postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IWAS World Games made a strong return in 2022.

Around 800 participants – including 500 athletes – made the journey to Vila Real De Santo Antonio between 25-28 November.

They competed in three sports – athletics, swimming and powerlifting, with the latter joining the programme for the first time since 2011.

Once again the World Games attracted Paralympic champions and medallists as well as the next generation.

In athletics an impressive three world records were set as well as four African, five Americas, two European and five Asian records.

Continuing its reputation for giving the stars of the future the platform to shine, Spanish 15-year-old Juan Candial Escanilla left with seven golds from the swimming pool.

Powerlifting was broadcast live, bringing three days of action to fans as IWAS aims to increase the reach and profile of the World Games.

Thanks to support from CPISRA, frame running and wheelchair slalom were also showcased during Vila Real De Santo Antonio 2022, throwing the spotlight on the variety of sports and disciplines within Para sport as it continues to grow around the world.

Other activities

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	PURPOSE
Paris 2024 Paralympic Games site visit	Paris, France	The IWAS CEO and wheelchair fencing Technical Delegate reviewed preparations for the Paralympics.
Thailand 2023 IWAS World Games and 2022 Wheelchair Fencing World Cup site visit	Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand	The IWAS CEO, Sports Coordinator and wheelchair fencing Secretary General reviewed the planning and delivery of the Games and World Cup with the Local Organising Committee.
International Paralympic Committee International Federation Open Day	Bonn, Germany	The IWAS CEO, Sports Coordinator and Chair and Secretary General of the wheelchair fencing Executive Committee met with IPC representatives across functional areas.
IWAS Winter Games and World Para Snow Sports	Online meeting	The IWAS CEO and Sports Coordinator discussed the concept for a Winter Games.
Classifiers meeting	Bonn, Germany	The IWAS CEO and wheelchair fencing's Head of Classification attended to receive and discuss updates.
Powerchair Hockey World Championships	Nottwil, Switzerland	The IWAS CEO and Sports Coordinator were in attendance to liaise with members.



WHEELCHAIR FENCING



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

The year 2022 showed the true resilience of the wheelchair fencing community. After two years which there were only a small number of competitions, various postponements and a rescheduled Paralympic Games, teams emerged back onto the world stage for a full calendar – and in full force.

Whilst we were fully supportive of the need for the one-year delay to the Paralympics, it presented everyone with a huge challenge in terms of a compressed cycle before the next edition in 2024. In addition, everyone suffered the after-effects of COVID-19 in some way, be that through funding, health or logistics.

We therefore entered 2022 both happy and ready to be back, but uncertain of what the season would bring. It turns out there was no need for concern.

As well as delivering five World Cups, we were able to hold regional Championships in Europe and the Americas, two satellite competitions for developing athletes and an under 23s World Championships. We were also able to host coaches, classifiers and athletes for the first IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Academy in Bangalore, India. All of these were well-supported by the wheelchair fencing community including athletes, coaches, officials and classifiers not to mention the Local Organising Committees.

In addition, we were able to make great strides in areas such as broadcast. We focused our activities on these because we want to share the wonderful sport of wheelchair fencing with a bigger audience. Watch out for further developments in 2023 as we intend to grow even further.

On behalf of the sport's Executive Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single person who made 2022 possible. What it showed us is that wheelchair fencing is a very special community of people who constantly strive for better. I consider myself very fortunate to have been involved for so long.

I am excited to see what we can achieve together in 2023 and for many years to come.

Pal Szekeres

Chair, Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee

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

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

2022 CALENDAR

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Sao Paulo, Brazil
April 2022

2022 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Satellite Competition
Frejus, France
May 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Chon Buri, Thailand
May 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Satellite Competition
Klagenfurt, Austria
June 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Warsaw, Poland
July 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Academy
Bangalore, India
July 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Pisa, Italy
September 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Under 23s World Championships
Sao Paulo, Brazil
October 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Americas Championships
Sao Paulo, Brazil
October 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup
Eger, Hungary
November 2022

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing European Championships
Warsaw, Poland
November/December 2022

WORLDWIDE REACH

WHEELCHAIR FENCING NATIONS: 2022

ARGENTINA

Argentine Federacion de deportes Sobre Silla de Ruedas (FADISIR)

AUSTRIA

Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled

BELGIUM

Belgian Paralympic Committee

BRAZIL

Brazilian Paralympic Committee

CANADA

Canadian Fencing Federation

CHINA

Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation

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

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

LEBANON

Lebanon Paralympic Committee

MALAYSIA

Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota

MONGOLIA

Mongolia Paralympic Committee

THE NETHERLANDS

National Paralympic Committee of the Netherlands

POLAND

Polish Sports Association for the Disabled

SPAIN

Spanish Sports Federation for People with Physical Disabilities

SWITZERLAND

Wheelchair Sport Switzerland

SLOVENIA

Slovenia Paralympic Committee

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee

THAILAND

Sports Association of the Disabled of Thailand

TURKEY

National Paralympic Committee of Turkey

UKRAINE

National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine

USA

Adaptive Sports USA

DEVELOPING NATIONS

COLOMBIA

FEDESIR

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Fencing Federation

URUGUAY

Uruguay Fencing Federation

VENEZUELA

Venezuelan Sports Federation





Media & Communications

With nearly one competition or activity taking place per month in 2022, there were plenty of opportunities to promote wheelchair fencing to the world.

The priority for most of the year were the five World Cups, using these as a build-up to regional Championships in the Americas and Europe (the Asian Championships were postponed to 2022) at the end of the year.

Liaison with Local Organising Committees on broadcast ramped up and as a result all World Cups and regionals taking place in a season were shown live for the first time. This offered the opportunity for new people to access the sport and delivered 82,000 YouTube views and 8,000 hours watched.

The wheelchair fencing website also benefitted from this approach, with more than 33,530 entrances and more than 10,000 new users. These figures either exceed or closely match 2021 – a Paralympic year. Just over 70 per cent of all visitors in 2022 were new.

The experiences of 2022 lay the groundwork for further improvements in 2023. This is no more true than for regional Championships.

The Americas were broadcast live for the first time and benefitted from commentary in English and Portuguese. The European Championships went one step further by testing new production set-ups and raising values.

On social media, as well as YouTube, activities focused on driving people towards the live broadcast and showcasing athlete performances. This was achieved through interviews, graphics and live coverage of results and imagery from each competition.

POWERCHAIR HOCKEY



*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COMMISSIONS

SPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - ELECTED 2022



CHAIRMAN
Fabio Rodo
Italy



**VICE CHAIRMAN AND
DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER**
(Danni Hillbrandt-
Mogensen
Denmark



**TECHNICAL &
CLASSIFICATION
OFFICER/INTERIM
COMPETITION OFFICER**
Anna Rossi
Italy



SECRETARY OFFICER
Meghan Hines



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
Seppe Hemerijckx

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)
Members: Lauri Oksanen (FIN)
Matthias Vanhove (BEL)
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

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*
The Netherlands
Russia*
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden*
Switzerland
Great Britain*
USA





COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2022 Sport Congress

The Sport Executive Committee (SEC) discussed the opportunity to move the IWAS Powerchair Hockey Sports Congress that normally happens right after the big competitions to a more neutral and practical moment. This topic was also raised in meetings with the Local Organising Committee and with some national representatives.

As a result the 2022 Sport Congress was moved to November and was held online.

The Sport Executive Committee decided to dedicate the 15th Sport Congress to recap what has been done in the past few years and what should/could be done in the future in order to draw – together with the Nations participating in powerchair hockey – a common path and a common goal for the future.

The Sport Congress was open to all people interested in hearing and getting to know more about the sport and the international movement. The SEC decided to open registration to athletes, coaches, and representatives from powerchair hockey organizations to attend as observers in the hopes of increasing participation internationally.

The 2022 Sport Congress also hosted elections of the Sport Executive Committee for the period 2022 - 2026.

International Floorball Federation (IFF)

A new meeting with IFF took place in June 2022. The meeting was attended by Fabio Rodo, Danni Mogesen and Anna Rossi.

The International Floorball Federation has always been a good partner of IWAS Powerchair Hockey sharing with it most of the game rules and sport equipment. They could support and collaborate on promotion, advertisement, events and so on. The IFF is willing to promote events and activities from IPCH.

IFF also offered to help with statistical programmes for events and referee/observer education and recruitment.

It is possible to include some representatives from IWAS Powerchair Hockey in various IFF committees (referee, observer, development, competition)

Data gathering

To have new, detailed statistical information the SEC sent questionnaires to all connected nations. This information showed the state of affairs in every country. The data was presented to the nations at the online Sport Congress.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

During 2022, two new members joined the Committee: Hedwige van Steen (BEL) and Bob Gotz (NED).

The team worked on the following objectives:

- Bring social media back to life after covid
- Shine a light and promote national leagues, national happenings and tournaments all around the world even when not sanctioned, to encourage a more open sharing culture with the sport and also of smaller events that can offer good chances for training and education or growth.
- Ensure live coverage, footage and scores from major competitions (Bever Cup and World Championship) bringing the sport, the players as well as the supporters into the picture.
- Launch and tease towards the World Championship
- Interviews with the captains of the 10 competing teams

COMPETITION COMMITTEE

Bever Cup - Eindhoven - May 2022

After COVID-19, there was a great need to be able to meet and play again together and especially to create a training opportunity before the World Championship.

The tournament was organised by Stichting Orange & Wheels and recognised as an official competition and therefore valid for world ranking points.

An open invitation was sent out to all active countries with a maximum of six slots available. Registrations were accepted in order of confirmation.

Italy, Germany, Czech Republic, Switzerland and The Netherlands participated in the tournament.

During the tournament, three new Jury Members were trained and certified as IWAS Powerchair Hockey Officials.

World Championship 2022 - Switzerland

For the first time, the World Championship was held in Switzerland. From 7-15 August 2022 the multipurpose hall "Stadthalle" in Sursee served as the main arena where the matches were played.

The teams and most of the officials were accommodated in the "Hotel Sempachersee" in Nottwil. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 European Championship in Finland because of COVID-19, the number of participating teams was increased from eight to ten.

Sursee 2022: In numbers

- Ten national teams: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland
- 250 players, coaches and staff
- More than 50 officials (referees, classifiers, jury members, etc.)
- The equivalent of 600 volunteering days
- More than 50 sponsors
- Hundreds of followers on Instagram and Facebook

Fans

- 1.000 fans on the opening day (9 August 2022)
- 250 fans on day 2 (8 August 2022)
- 300 fans on day 3 (11 August 2022)
- 300 fans on day 4 (08 August 2022)
- 700 fans on day 5 (08 August 2022)
- 600 fans on the final day (14 August 2022)
- A total of around 3,150 fans



2023 Qualification Tournament

Prior to the 2024 European Championship, there should, according to the rules, be a qualification tournament to determine which European nation (that is not automatically qualified) will get the eighth slot.

No nation has submitted a bid to host the qualification tournament because the SEC believe it is important to offer to all nations a fair and equal chance to qualify for the 2024 European Championships.

Before starting the planning of such an event, IWAS Powerchair Hockey would like to get an impression of how many nations would be interested in participating. If less than two are interested, the qualification tournament will not take place and the eighth slot will go to the nation that is placed highest on the current World Ranking List, updated with the results of the World Championships.

2024 European Championships

Denmark has submitted a bid for this competition.

Parasport Denmark successfully presented a Letter of Intent followed by a bidding package and checklist. IWAS Powerchair Hockey has been invited to visit the venues suggested for hosting the event from 9-11 October 2022.

REFEREE COMMITTEE

Following the Sport Congress members of all subcommittees were discharged.

The composition of the Referee Committee needed to be reviewed and therefore a new group will be formed between the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023.

Referee Town Hall meetings

The Referee Committee decided to organise a virtual meeting of all IWAS Powerchair Hockey licensed referees twice each year. It will be semi-formal, with some presentations and explanations of new or existing rules, directions on how to manage games, analysis of videos, etc, but also some moments of open discussion, questions or clarification.

Unfortunately participation was not as expected. A lack of interest also in relation to the topics for discussion was registered. This led to a loss of motivation from the committee members managing the project. For these reasons the Referee Town Hall meetings are currently on hold and will be re-evaluated in the future.

IWAS Powerchair Hockey Referee Development group

In 2021 it became clear that powerchair hockey needs more referees.

The current educational system, while adequate for the time when it was designed, has proven to be insufficient to bring enough quality referees on board. The main issue seems to be obtaining the C-license, which requires a course to be organised in the scope of an international tournament. While the Referee Commission agrees that in-person observation of referees on a high level tournament is essential for assessment of referees' readiness for the international level, the course part of the process seems to be a bottleneck. Courses bring additional costs to the candidates and the organisers and can sometimes be too much for otherwise talented referees to absorb in such a short amount of time.

With that in mind, the proposal to establish a Referee Development Group (RDG) was put forward.

The idea behind RDG is to identify talented referees with international potential in national Championships and work with them throughout the season using videos and remote meetings (and of course in person, where possible).

Referees could be identified by other international referees, members of IWAS Powerchair Hockey (observers, jury members, even classifiers) or even national powerchair hockey organisations.

The leadership of RDG will assess them and assign them a coach who would work with them. Once candidates are deemed ready, they would be invited to the next available international tournament (with national teams or maybe even high level club tournaments upon agreement with the Referee Committee and SEC), where they would be observed by IWAS Powerchair Hockey instructors and, if they satisfy the criteria, awarded a C-level license. Of course, they would have to pass the theoretical exam and also possess an adequate level of English.

It is felt that this approach would yield more referees than the current system, since they would have the benefit of (relatively) continuous work with a coach before they are put under the spotlight on the international level. It would, of course, require some changes in regulations, where members of the RDG would be allowed to referee official friendly matches, if appointed by SEC/Referee Committee. Naturally, they would not be appointed to other official events until they actually get the license.

The project was officially presented during the Sport Congress 2022 the first mentoring sessions will be planned in January 2023.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE

IPC Classification Survey

IWAS Powerchair Hockey was invited to complete a new IPC Classification Survey between April and June 2022 as a monitoring exercise on Compliance with the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code (the Code).

The survey's main aim was to promote a greater consideration and conversation around Classification which is an important step in fostering a positive Code compliance culture. The survey also aimed to gather up-to-date information which will aid the ongoing Code review discussions.

IWAS Powerchair Hockey has highlighted the following areas where further research is needed:

- Short stature - the Classification Committee developed and updated best practice which was shared with all nations after the Bever Cup and before the World Championship. Because of this some players with short stature have been moved to 'review' status meaning they will need to undergo classification again with more refined assessments.
- Coordination impairment - improving the assessment of athletes presenting coordination impairment is a common challenge for many Para sports. Because this is a common challenge to other sports IWAS Powerchair Hockey will on one side monitor the development of other sports and follow IPC guidelines, and on the other keep working to develop sport-specific guidelines and best practices. Most of the players with coordination impairment have been moved to 'review' status and will be reclassified in the upcoming sessions to support research and allow the classifiers to test new methods and procedures to fine-tune the assessment for those players.
- Amputation (limb deficiency) is not a very common impairment in powerchair hockey. Due to the limited number of cases of athletes with amputations, further investigations and research to improve the assessment methods is needed. In this case, no consequence or changes have been made to the master list for the time being.

IWAS Powerchair Hockey also sent a note to all organisation strongly encouraging them to contact and share cases of athletes, active on a national level, with the above-mentioned impairments to support research and development work in those areas.

Jury Members Committee

Dorte Berenth, Head of Jury Members Committee for the last 15 years, resigned from the position of Head and Chief of Jury after the World Championship.

During the competition Berenth trained some replacements to ensure continuity of her work and of the tasks of Jury Member Committees.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Global Development Network

2022 was the year that the Global Development Network (GDN) was launched.

As described in the previous activity report for 2021, the objective is to continue the growth and development of powerchair hockey around the world through collaboration and focusing on improving the quality of experiences.

1. Create bonds and networking opportunities among developing countries.
2. Provide opportunities to share best practices on topics including education and awareness, marketing and promotion, recruitment and much more.
3. Contribute to the Development Committee's overall agenda and priorities.

From the very beginning, IWAS Powerchair Hockey had considered the GDN to have a huge potential in terms of the development and collaboration in the movement, and therefore the GDN Committee put a lot of effort in ensuring that everything was running smoothly from the beginning.

Besides creating a Facebook communication platform for the GDN, both for the worldwide group and the working groups, the GDN Committee also led the first meeting in each of the three working groups. This to ensure that the framework for this initiative was clear to everybody and to ensure that each working group appointed a group lead, whose main task is to make sure that the working group is functioning and also is a direct link to the GDN Committee, when support/contact is needed.

The three meetings with the different working groups took place in January and February 2022 and all three meetings went well. In the period after that, each of the three working groups was led by their own appointed group lead with support from the GDN Committee, when needed.

Besides the three meetings with the working groups, the first worldwide meeting was held in June 2022. The topic for this meeting was the current state of the powerchair hockey movement and was led by the SEC. The discussion centred on ways to continue progressing powerchair hockey worldwide and opportunities to get more involved to support this progression.

For the remainder of 2022 the Development Committee considered how the GDN was functioning, if it needed to be restructured and what resources were available from both participating countries and the committee to continue the initiative.

Powerchair hockey in South America

In 2022 IWAS Powerchair Hockey ventured further into South America.

In 2021 meetings were held with a representative from Brazil and in early 2022, connections were made in Argentina. Individual as well as joint meetings with the two parties covered how to develop the sport both on a national level and in the region.

The project requires significant time and resources but it is a high priority for the Development Committee as it offers the chance to grow powerchair hockey in whole new area of the world.





REPORTING



ANTI-DOPING

The following tests were carried out in 2022.

Sport / Event	Urine Testing		AAF	ATF	ADRV
	IC	OOO			
Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Sao Paulo, Brazil	12	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Chon Buri, Thailand	6	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Warsaw, Poland	6	0	0	0	0
Powerchair Hockey World Championships, Nottwil, Switzerland	10	0	2	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Pisa, Italy	6	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing u17 and u23 World Championships, Sao Paulo, Brazil	6	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing Americas Zonal Championships, Sao Paulo, Brazil	12	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Eger, Hungary	6	0	0	0	0
Wheelchair Fencing European Zonal Championships, Warsaw, Poland	6	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	70	0	2	0	0

AAF: Adverse Analytical Finding | ATF: Atypical Finding | ADRV: Anti-Doping Rule Violation
 IC: In-Competition | OOC: Out of Competition



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.

In 2021, the organisation received a total income of £914,428 (2021: £289,185) and ran a net surplus of £341,701 (2021: surplus of 55,426)

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

Final account balances 2022: sports

- Wheelchair Fencing £39,470
- Powerchair Hockey £3,292



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