

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



It gives me great pleasure to greet you all from the first World Abilitysport Annual Report.

2023 has been a year of transition as we make our mark as the newly established organisation of World Abilitysport. The year has seen us welcome new members, growing our reach and moving forward with new partnerships and strengthening existing initiatives.

Our mission to foster inclusivity and provide a platform for athletes of all abilities has never been stronger. We began working with new and upcoming sports, creating more opportunities for participation and competitive experience as well as hosting a number of recreation programmes.

In addition to our annual competition calendars, we have also focused on educational and academic initiatives. Our inaugural conference held in Edinburgh welcomed academics, sport practitioners, parents, athletes and coaches to share in their experience and knowledge shining a light on the benefits of active lives.

Our governed sports have gone from strength to strength in 2023, both engaging new countries into their reach and expanding the competitive pool. We have seen once again a comprehensive competition calendar for wheelchair fencing and an exciting roster of athletes in great form as we approach the 2024 Paralympic Games.

We closed the year out with the much anticipated 2023 World Abilitysport Games held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. Having been cancelled twice in the years previous due to the impact of Covid-19, it was a pleasure to see so many of our members represented by nearly 1000 athletes competing in an extensive sports programme.

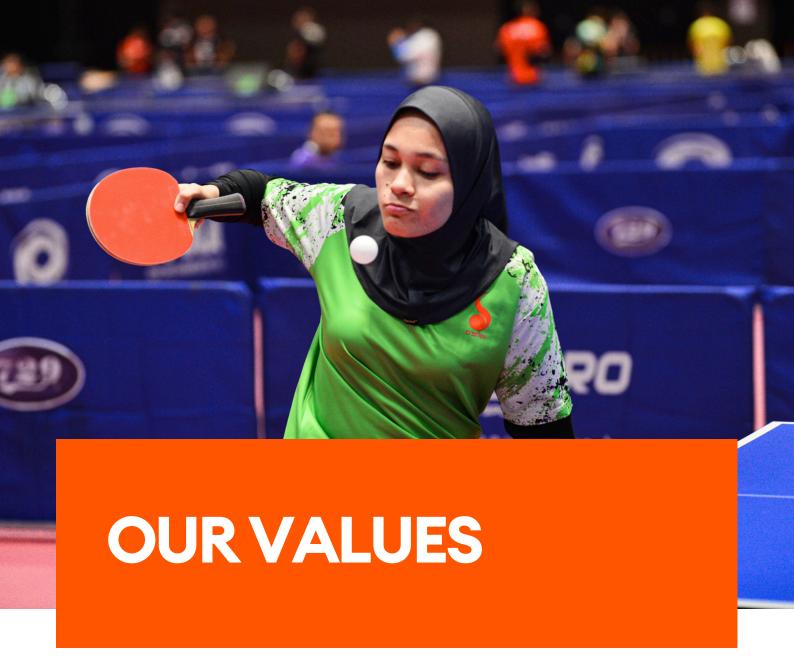
I would like to extend my thanks to the departing Board Members for their commitment and dedication during their time in office and a warm welcome to the new Board and Council members of which I am delighted to recognise the gender equity and continental spread of our representation.

Thank you for your continued support and shared belief in our goals. Together, we are building and strengthening the recreational and competitive pathways for our athletes and I look foward to pushing onward with this mission into 2024.

Best wishes,

Rudi Van den Abbeele

President



VISION

To inspire worldwide achievements in sport.

MISSION

To develop sporting opportunities for athletes to maximise their potential.



FULL MEMBERS

Australia	Disability Sport Australia		
Austria	Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled		
Belarus (suspended until 2026)	Belarus Paralympic Committee		
Belgium	Belgian Paralympic Committee		
Brazil	Brazilian Paralympic Committee		
Canada	Canadian Fencing Federation		
Canada	Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association		
China	Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation		
Croatia	Croatian Paralympic Committee		
Cyprus	Cyprus Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities		
Czech Republic	Czech Sports Organisation for the Physically Disabled		
Czech Republic	Czech Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation		
Denmark	Denmark Paralympic Committee		
Egypt	The Egyptian Sports Federation for Athletes with Cerebral Palsy		
England	CP Sport England		
Estonia	Estonian Paralympic Committee		
Fairo Islands	Parasport Foroyar, Faroe Islands Paralympic Committee		
Finland	Finnish Paralympic Committee		
France	Federation Française Handisport		
Georgia	Georgian Paralympic Committee		
Germany	Germany Paralympic Committee - Deutscher Behindertensportverband e.V.		
Great Britain	WheelPower - British Wheelchair Sport		
Greece	Hellenic Sports Federation for Persons with Disabilities		
Hong Kong China	Hong Kong China Paralympic Committee		
Hungary	Hungarian Paralympic Committee		
India	Paralympic Committee of India		
India	Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation 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 National Paralympic Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan			
Kenya	Kenya Wheelchair & Amputee Sport Federation			
Korea				
	Korea Paralympic Committee			
Korea, Republic of	Korea Disabled Veterans Organisation			
Kuwait	Kuwait Disabled Sport Club			
Latvia	Latvian SOD			
Lithuania	Lithuanian Sports Federation for the Disabled			
Luxembourg	Luxembourg Paralympic Committee			
Macau	Associacion Recreativa dos Deficientes de Macau			
Malaysia	Persatuan Orang-Orang Cacat Anggota			
Malta	Malta Sport for the Disabled			
Mexico	Mexico Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Fed			
Mexico	Federación Mexicana de Deportes para Personas con Parálisis Cerebral A.C			
Morocco	Royal Moroccan Federation of Sports for People with Disabilities			
Netherlands	National Paralympic Committee of the Netherlands			
Poland	Polish Sports Association for the Disabled			
Portugal	Portuguesa Federacao de Desporteo para Pessoas Deficiencia			
Qatar	Qatar Paralympic Committee			
Russia (suspended until 2026)	Russian Federation of Sports for Persons with Physical Impairment			
Scotland	Scottish Disability Sport			
Serbia	Serbia NPC			
Singapore	Singapore Disability Sports Council			
Slovak Republic	Slovak Sports Association for the Disabled			
Slovenia	NPC Slovenia - Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia			
South Africa	South African Sports Association for Physically Disabled			
Spain	Spanish Sports Federation for People with Physical Disabilities			
Spain	Spanish Sports Federation for People with Cerebral Palsy and Cerebral Injury			
Sweden	Swedish Sports Organisation for the Disabled and Swedish NPC			
Switzerland	Wheelchair Sport Switzerland			
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee			
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee Chinese Taipei Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation			
Thailand	Sports Association of the Disabled of Thailand			
Thailand				
	Cerebral Palsy Sports Association of Thailand			
Turkey	Turkey Paralympic Committee			
UAE	UAE Paralympic Committee			
Ukraine	National Paralympic Committee of Ukraine			
USA	Move United			
Venezuela	Venezuela Fencing Federation			
SECONDARY MEMBERS				
Canada	PowerHockey Canada			
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation			
Cyprus	Cyprus Paralympic Committee			
Czechia	Czech Sports Association for Physically Handicapped			
Great Britian	Limbpower			
Hong Kong China	Sports Association for the Physically Disabled of Hong Kong, China			
India	Sports Control Board of India for the Disabled			
DEVELOPING MEMBERS				
Costa Rica	Costa Rica Fencing Federation			
Ecuador	Ecuadorian Sports Federation for People with Physical Disabilities			
Mexico	Mexico Wheelchair Fencing Federation			
Romania	National Paralympic Committee of Romania			
Uruguay	Uruguay Fencing Federation			
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GOVERNING BOARD





















The Governing Board continues to be the supreme decision-making body for World Abilitysport. Following the merge between IWAS and CP-ISRA, the two Governing Boards were merged until relections at the first World Abilitysport General Assmebly held in December 2023 (Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand).











2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 8th December 2023, the first World Abilitysport General Assembly and Elections were held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. The inaugural Assembly welcomed 28 full member organisations in person as well as two secondary members to the host city of the concurrent 2023 World Abilitysport Games.

ELECTIONS

The Assembly voted for the first elected World Abilitysport Governing Board and two members of the newly formed Council achieving a 50/50 gender split and representation from four continents for the first time.

Former IWAS President, Rudi Van den Abbeele and Vice President, Dr Tariq Sultan bin Khadim were elected for their first term in the same positions for World Abilitysport.

Re-elected for a further term as Trustees were Brett Cooper (GBR), Dina Sotiriadi (GRE), Ernesta Strydom (RSA) and World Para Fencing Chairman, Pal Szekeres (HUN). Newly elected to the Board, the Assembly welcomed NPC Latvia's Secretary General, Liene Apine and elected on home soil, Maitree Kongurang of Sports Association for the Disabled of Thailand.





GOVERNING BOARD























COUNCIL

While the Governing Board provide high level governance and strategic direction of the organisation, the General Assembly also appointed members to the newly formed Council to act as an advisory committee to the Governing Board on specific matters such as membership, sports and games development.



PURSUIT TROPHY



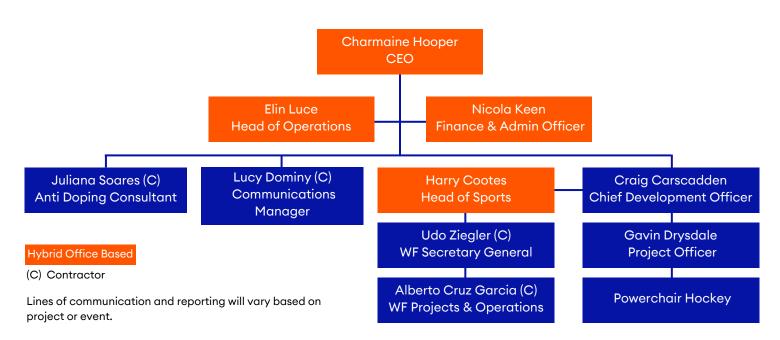
Honorary Treasurer, Bob Paterson MBE, was awarded the Pursuit Trophy and became the first recipient of the World Abilitysport Honorary Patron title, during the General Assembly in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

World Abilitysport President, Rudi Van den Abbeele presented the award, a replica of Jimmy Laird's sculpture of a shot putter that sat in the entrance of Stoke Mandeville Stadium and has since been awarded to individuals who have shown outstanding contributions to the Paralympic Movement.

Bob said, 'I feel so honoured by both the Pursuit Trophy and my new title of Honorary Patron that the best I can do is to thank all the wonderful people I have met as athletes, volunteers and administrators for letting me enjoy my involvement with the work of World Abilitysport and its predecessors over the years. Thank you everyone."

STAFF TEAM

The World Abilitysport staff team is made up of full-time, part-time and contracted staff. Four members of staff, including the organisation's CEO, work from the headquarters based a short distance from Stoke Mandeville Stadium at Buckinghamshire College Group Aylesbury Campus.



Reviewed: October 2023

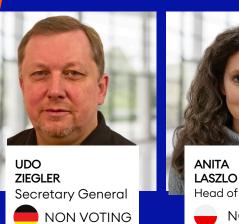


WHEELCHAIR FENCING

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE























COMMISSIONS & COUNCILS

REFEREE COMMISSION

Chris Farren

Great Britain

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION Ying Ki Fung Hong Kong RULES COMMISSION Sean Shumate USA

SPORTS COMMISSION Daria Marchetti Italy DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION Alberto Ancarani Italy

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Peter Brigola Austria SEMI COMMISSION Peter Huggins Great Britain

PROMOTIONS COMMISSION Christina Massiala Greece

GENDER EQUITY COMMISSION
Mirani Fernandes
Brazil

COACHES COUNCIL Pascal Godet France ATHLETES COUNCIL

Gemma Collis

Great Britain

TRIBUTE TO YING KI FUNG



In November 2023, the wheelchair fencing community lost five-time Paralympic champion and international classifier Ying Ki Fung of Hong Kong who passed away suddenly at the age of 43.

Pal Szekeres, Chair of the Wheelchair Fencing Executive Committee, said: "He was a very sympathetic person, an excellent fencer, intelligent and funny guy. We lost not only a champion, we lost a good friend. Our deepest condolences go to his family. We will never forget you my friend."

Ying Ki Fung will be remembered for his tremendous contributions to the sport of wheelchair fencing and his impact will be felt for many years to come.



COMPETITION CALENDAR

World Cup

14-17 January 2023 | Washington DC, USA

World Cup

16-19 March 2023 | Pisa, Italy

World Cup

20-23 April | Nimes, France

Satellite Competition

May 20-21 2023 | Orange, France

World Cup

6-9 July 2023 | Warsaw, Poland

Satellite Competition

4-5 August 2023 | Sao Paulo, Brazil | WF Satellite

U23 World Championships

30 August - 1 September 2023 | Busan, South Korea

World Cup

2-5 September 2023 | Busan, South Korea

World Championships

3-8 October 2023 | Terni, Italy

Asian Championships

23-28 October 2023 | Hangzhou, China

World Cup (World Abilitysport Games)

5-8 December 2023 | Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

ACTIVE NATIONS



AMERICAS

Argentina Brazil Canada

Colombia

Jamaica Uruguay USA

Venezuela

ASIA

China

Hong Kong China

India Iraq Japan Korea Kuwait

Lebanon Macau

Malaysia

Mongolia

Thailand

Taipei

EUROPE

Belgium Spain France

Great Britain

Georgia Germany Greece Hungary

Israel Italy Latvia

Netherlands

Norway Poland Türkiye Ukraine

OCEANIA

Australia

WORLD ABILITYSPORT

Refugee team

39

Competing Nations

3

New active teams joined in 2023 (JAM, VEN & WA)

2023 SPORT MILESTONES



- Jamaican fencers made their World Cup debut in Nimes, France
- Fencers from Australia became regulars on the competition circuit
- Terni, Italy hosted the World Championships from 3-8 October 2023
- Iraq won the Team Epee at the World Championships
- Coaches Seminars were held in Greece and Costa Rica
- USA, South Korea and France hosted Referee Seminars
- A Classifiers Seminar was hosted in South Korea



POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE











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

REFEEREE COMMITTEE Head: Davor Matijašević (SLO) Secretariat: Inge De Zwart (NED) Members: Lauri Oksanen (FIN) Matthias Vanhove (BEL) John Blackburn (CAN) Andrea Vacchetti (ITA)

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION Head of Commission: Danni Mogensen (DEN) Members: Meghan Hines (CAN) CLASSIFIER COMMITTEE SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA) Members: Kees van Breukelen (NED) Luca Tomasi (ITA) Isabelle Pulver (SWI)

JURY MEMBERS COMMITTEE Head: Dorte Berenth (DEN) SEC Officer: Anna Rossi (ITA) Members: all the licensed juries MARKETING & COMMUNICATION Head: Seppe Hemerijckx (BEL) Members: Dijana Lešić (BEL) Glenn Nouws (BEL) Hedwige Van Steen (BEL) Seppe Hemerijckx (BEL)

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

ACTIVE NATIONS



Argentina Developing

Australia Active

Belguim Active

Brazil Developing

Canada Active

Czechia Active

Denmark Active

Estonia Active

Finland Active

Germany Active

Italy Active

Japan Developing

Morocco Developing

Netherlands Active

Russia Developing

Slovakia Active

Slovenia Active

Spain Active

Switzerland Active

UK Developing

USA Active

15
Active Nations

6

Developing Nations

3

Continents

2023 SPORT MILESTONES



- Launched the first International Powerchair Hockey Day on 7th April 2023.
- Swedish Floorball Federation and the Swedish Parasport Federation established an international network of hockey/floorball organisations
- The first steps towards an education platform began to give one central point for information relating to powerchair hockey for athletes, coaches, officials and developing nations.
- One-on-one nation meetings were held to understand internationally common challenges and share in successes and best practice.
- The Qualification Tournament 2023 (De Rijp, Netherlands) saw Belgium bag the last slot to compete in the 2024 European Championships.
- The Jury Members Committee managed a review of procedures on speed controls and match table management and created a digitalised match form which was tested at the QT in November.



WORLD PARA DANCE SPORT

In November 2023, IPC announced that the governance of World Para Dance Sport would be transferred to World Abilitysport. Para dance sport has been governed by the IPC since 1998 and is one of six Para sports for which the IPC acts as the international federation.

Para dance sport is practiced in over 30 countries. The last edition of the World Championships in Bonn, Germany in 2019, saw 225 athletes (124 women and 101 men) from 26 nations competing in 21 medal events. Genoa, Italy will host the next World Championships, the first under the governance of World Abilitysport, from 24 to 26 November 2024.

Andrew Parsons, IPC President, said: "World Abilitysport is an organisation whose history is closely linked to the history of the Paralympic Movement. It has a proven record of developing sports from grassroots to an elite level, as well as a vast experience as governing body. I would like to thank World Abilitysport for their passion and commitment to Para sports, which will provide Para dance all the necessary knowledge and skills to grow and flourish."

World Abilitysport will take over the governance on 1st January 2024.



WORLD ABILITYSPORT GAMES





The inaugural World Abilitysport Games were held from 1st to 9th December 2023 and welcomed 950 athletes from 45 countries to the host city of Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand. An extensive programme of ten sports were on offer including, athletics, swimming, table tennis. powerlifting, road & track cycling, rowing, archery, badminton, shooting, snooker and wheelchair fencing. Three demonstration sports, Esports, pétanque and sepak takraw, all hugely popular in the host nation, were also showcased.

950

Athletes

45

Competing Nations

10

Competition Sports

3

Demonstration Sports

RECREATION CAMPS



Teen camp 2023 | 10-14th April 2023

The teen camp took place from 10-14th April 2023 at Benrigg Trust and welcomed 11 teenagers predominantly with cerebral palsy.

The activities were delivered by Bendrigg Staff and included a hill tube slide, indoor climbing, zip wire, big swing, abseiling, caving, archery and orienteering. The camp concluded with a full days canoeing.

The teenagers formed a tight-knit peer support group throughout the camp with the accompanying parents also benefitting from the sharing of experience and knowledge.

Family Camp July | 31st to August 4th 2023

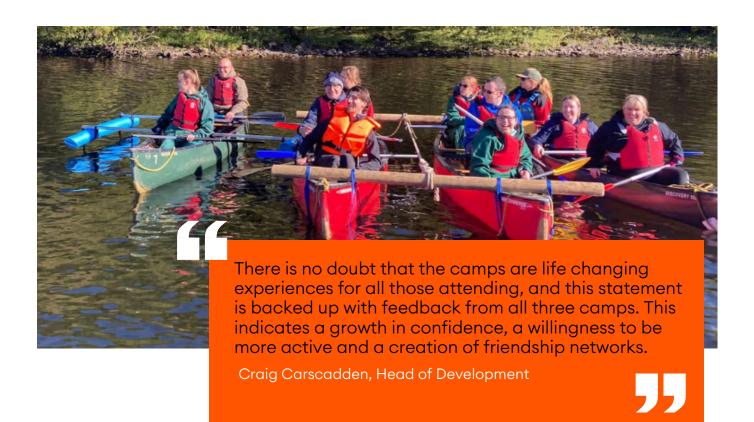
The 2023 World Abilitysport Family Recreation Camp took place from 31st July to 4th August 2023 at the Calvert Trust in Keswick, Cumbria. The camp saw the participation of 14 families comprising a total of 53 individuals. All families had a child under 12 years of age with a physical impairment, the majority with a neurological impairment. The groups included a mix of wheelchair users and ambulant participants, fostering an environment of inclusivity and camaraderie.

The activities that the group participated in included, canoeing, rock climbing and orienteering, with these high energy activities supplemented by bush craft and nature walks. In addition, the participants had access to supervised pool sessions on two evenings and a sensory room.

Adult Camp | 26th -29th September 2023

The adult camp took place from 26th -29th September 2023 at Benrigg Trust hosting 12 participants. All those participating had neurological conditions with three wheelchair users ranging from 18-35 years of age.

Climbing, archery, and the tube slide were added to the customary canoeing, sailing, and orienteering. In addition, everyone went caving, one group to a new indoor facility and another group visited a cave in the Yorkshire dales.



CONFERENCE

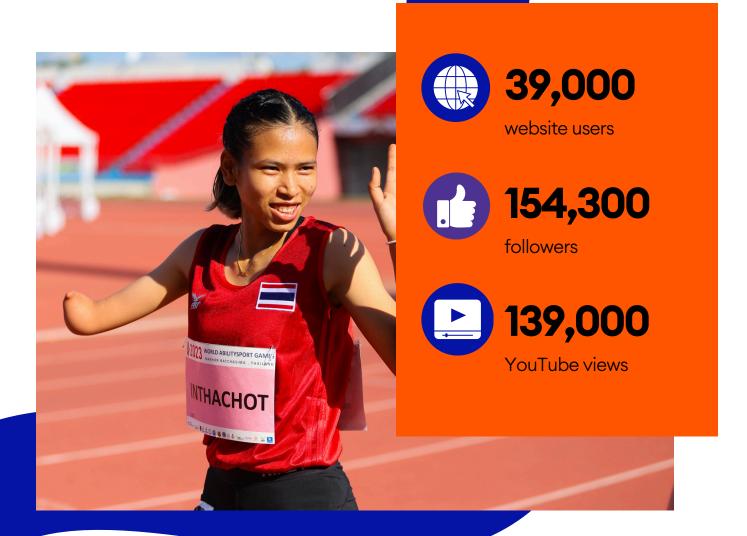


The 2023 World Abilitysport Conference on Physical Activity for Health for People with Cerebral Palsy and other Neurological Conditions was held at the University of Edinburgh and online from 20-21 October 2023.

The inaugural research conference brought together academics, sport practitioners, parents, athletes and coaches to shine a light on the physical and social benefits of sport and physical activity for those with Cerebral Palsy and other Neurological Conditions.

Around 150 delegates from 20 countries attended the conference both in-person in Edinburgh and online.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATION



RESULTS

Worldabilitysport.org ended 2023 with 39,000 users in total as the vision for a single organisation representing all athletes with physical impairments was realised. This is more than either IWAS or CPISRA achieved historically on their own.

YouTube channel subscribers also reached triple figures in 2023 as the World Abilitysport Games were shown live for the first time and wheelchair fencing delivered a full competition calendar, including a World Championships.

At the end of 2023, World Abilitysport's total digital audience was more than 26,000 followers. World Abilitysport reached just over 87,000 followers on Facebook, 58,500 on X and 8,800 on Instagram and content on YouTube was watched nearly 139,000 times. These figures were all achieved organically with no paid advertising deployed.

REBRAND

An exciting and eventful year in World Abilitysport's digital world saw the consolidation of the online presence of IWAS and CPISRA in preparation for the launch of the new organisation.

Social media played a key role in presenting the new World Abilitysport brand and ethos to the world in May, marking International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in style.

The new logo and elements of the strategy were shared with compelling imagery across YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and Facebook. The former IWAS website – redesigned and relaunched in 2021 - was also given a makeover with the new brand.





The Ability symbol has been crafted to act as a figurative expression of our athletes and can also be interpreted as a 'w' and an 'a', in reference to our name.

GAMES & EVENTS

2023 ended on a high with the World Abilitysport Games in Nakhon Ratchasima. It was the first time that a Games had been shown live and featured coverage of multiple sports including road cycling, swimming, wheelchair fencing, shooting, athletics and badminton. Wheelchair fencing also featured commentary on all four days of the World Cup.

Almost half of World Abilitysport's Facebook and a large portion of its Instagram reach for 2023 was achieved during December, the month of the Games.

It was a similar story with the number of followers and profile visits on Facebook and Instagram. These saw 80 and 70 per cent increases respectively, adding an average of 200 followers to each account.

ANTI DOPING

COMPLIANCE

Completing the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) is a requirement from WADA to ensure all parties involved in sport are in compliance with the WADA Anti-doping Code. The CCQ is to be completed every four years and 2023/2024 is the turn of World Abilitysport.

EDUCATION

Education is our top strategic action for avoiding doping cases. We make every effort to deliver education where possible by collaborating with both internal external partners. The recruitment of Juliana Soares as World Abilitysport Anti-Doping Consultant has streamlined both the operational process of anti-doping but also allowed for a significant growth in our anti-doping education opportunities.

In 2023 we delivered three on-line meetings for athletes and their support personnel in English with 45 people in attendance.



During the Wheelchair Fencing Under 23 World Championships in Bussan, Korea, we delivered education via an education booth as a trial to see if this remote option would be a more accessible, cost effective option.

"PLAY CLEAN"





The World Abilitysport "Play Clean" initiative was launched at the 2023 World Abilitysport Games in Thailand giving the opportunity to make our commitment to anti-doping education and clean, fair sport, more visible.

2023 ANTI-DOPING STATISTICAL REPORT

World Abilitysport Anti-Doping Code, article 14.4; 'World Abilitysport will publish an annual statistical report of its Doping Control activities.

Testing and ADVRs					
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Sport	Urine Testing	AAF	ATF	ADRV	
	IC	000			
Wheelchair Fencing	44	4	0	1*	0
Powerchair Hockey	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	44	4	0]*	0
*This ATF (male) still in inve	estigation, is not a closed pr	rocess			
Sport	Gender				
	Male	Female			
Wheelchair Fencing	26	22			
Powerchair Hockey	0	0			
TOTAL	26	22			
Non-World Abilitysport sp	orts during the World Ability	/sport Games:			
Sport/Event	Urine Testing	AAF	ATF	ADRV	
	IC	ooc			
Para Athletics	13	0	1*	0	0
Para Powerlifting	11	0	0	0	0
Para Swimming	4	0	0	0	0
Para Archery	2	0	0	0	0
Para Badminton	6	0	0	0	0
Disability Snooker	1	0	1*	0	0
Para Cycling	2	0	0	0	0
Shooting Para Sport	3	0	1*	0	0
Para Table Tennis	5	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	47	0	0	0	0
*The investigations are on	going for all the AAF (males	s)			
TUEs					
Sport	TUEs				
	Granted	Denied			
Wheelchair Fencing	6	2			
Powerchair Hockey	3	1			
TOTAL	9	3			
TUE - Statistics					
Substance Class					
S.4	S.6				
3	1				
S.7	S.9				
1	4				
TOTAL	9				
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FINANCIAL REPORTING

To maintain transparency about our work and activities, and as part of our status as a charitable organisation based in Great Britain, World Abilitysport 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.

The Federation is reporting for the first year as World Abilitysport but under the same company number since 1992.

In 2023, the organisation received a total income of £697,557 (2022: £914,428) and ran a net surplus of £252,621 (2022: £341,701).

Total income received in 2023 amounted to £697,557 (2022: £914,428). The Charity's income levels are cyclical in nature, dependent on our games programme and on the cycle of the Paralympic Games. The heights of 2022 are unlikely to be reached again in the near term, and 2023's performance needs to be seen in the context of exceeding expectations.

Expenditure continues to be tightly controlled, and the reported surplus for the year was £252,621 (2022: £341,701).

The Charity's cash position remains strong, with cash balances at £859,403 (2022: £634,491).

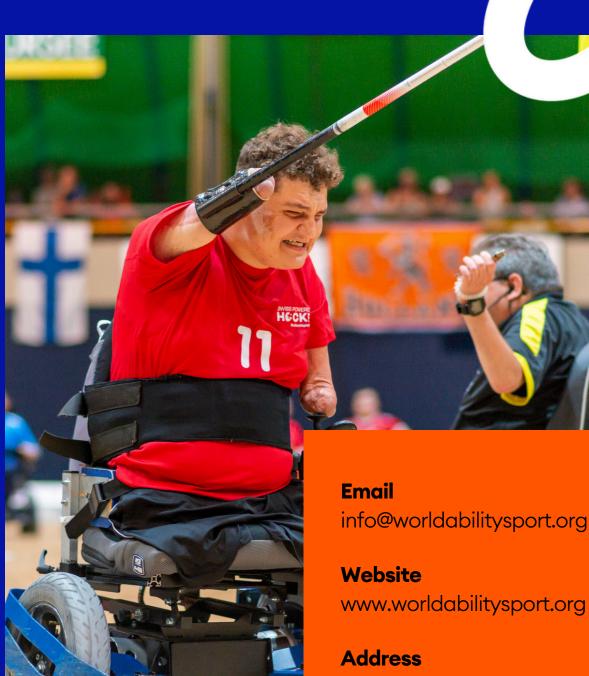
2024 being a Paralympic year, it is to be expected that these reserves will reduce over the course of the year.

Final account balances 2023: sports

- Wheelchair Fencing £62,200
- Powerchair Hockey £0

The full submission of accounts can be found here.





World Abilitysport HQ Buckinghamshire College Group Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP219PD