

2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN WORLD PARA SNOW SPORTS





INTRODUCTION

The development of the World Para Snow Sports (WPSS) 2020-2022 strategic plan was an ambitious one-year project conducted in several stages and involving a wide range of stake holders. Following input from external expertise, the WPSS staff underwent a guided self-assessment exercise overseen by the internal leadership of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

This analysis provided a measure of achievements on the goals laid out in the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan and served as a baseline with respect to the topics of relevance to the future of the sports.

By means of a questionnaire and extensive consultation with subject matter experts from within the Paralympic Movement and a wide range of external partners and sponsors, these topics were then shared, discussed and further refined to develop areas of strategic focus for the sports.

Consolidated insights and emerging strategic priorities were presented to the IPC Governing Board and further validated through workshops with the sport staff. The development of the WPSS 2020-2022 strategic plan coincided with the IPC's Governance Review, so the project timeline was extended

to incorporate findings and recommendations from the ongoing review.

Along with the input and review by the IPC executive team and World Para Sports Managing Director, strategic priorities for the new edition of the Strategic Plan were finalised in late 2019. This strategic framework aims to ensure the future development, sustainability, performance and appeal of the Para snow sports.

The Strategic Objectives presented in this document represent the end of the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan and the beginning of the operational plan. The Strategic Plan was approved by the IPC Governing Board in January 2020, in which the strategic objectives will be held accountable through an operational plan with measurable targets, responsibilities and timelines.

World Para Snow Sports would like to thank all the Para athletes, volunteers, representatives of National Paralympic Committees, partner organisations, staff and administrators who contributed to the development of this document. It is hoped that the WPSS 2020-2022 Strategic Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the sports.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD PARA SNOW SPORTS

The World Para Snow Sports comprises of Para alpine skiing, Para Nordic skiing and Para snowboard. In order to maximise efficiencies, resources and opportunities, the IPC consolidates the operational management of these Para sports into the World Para Snow Sports.

PARA ALPINE SKIING

Para alpine skiing was developed in the late 1940's when injured ex-servicemen returned to the sport they loved, following the end of the Second World War. The first documented championships for skiers with a disability was held in Austria in 1948 with 17 athletes. France hosted the first World Championships in 1974. Two years later, the sport joined the first edition of the Paralympic Winter Games at Örnsköldsvik 1976 with 78 skiers (64 men and 14 women) competing in two disciplines. At the latest edition of the Winter Paralympics at PyeongChang 2018, a total of 141 athletes (101 men and 40 women) competed in five disciplines.



In November 2018, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Ski Federation (FIS) announced a new cooperation agreement for the World Para Snow Sports. The agreement has seen FIS established a sub-committee for Para alpine skiing, Para cross-country skiing and Para snowboard to act as a liaison for technical matters between FIS and the IPC.



PARA NORDIC SKIING

Para Nordic skiing is the collective name for two different Para sport disciplines: Para biathlon and Para cross-country skiing.

Para biathlon was introduced at the Innsbruck 1988 Paralympic Winter Games for athletes with a physical impairment. Athletes with a vision impairment became eligible to compete at Tignes Albertville 1992, while women's events joined the competition programme at Lillehammer 1994. The sport has grown from 36 participants in three medal events at Innsbruck 1988 to 109 athletes in 18 medal events at PyeongChang 2018.

Para cross-country skiing first appeared at the Örnsköldsvik 1976 Paralympic Winter Games in Sweden. Men and women used the classical technique in all cross-country distances until skating was introduced at Innsbruck 1984. Since then, events have been split into two separate races: classical and free technique.



The new technique, however, was not officially used in a medal race until Tignes Albertville 1992. A total of 125 athletes (101 male and 24 female) competed in 25 cross-country medal events at the first Games in 1976. At PyeongChang 2018, 157 athletes (98 male and 59 female) took part in 20 events.



PARA SNOWBOARD

Para snowboard is the newest sport in the Paralympic Winter Games. It was first introduced as a Para alpine skiing discipline at Sochi 2014 and became a separate sport at PyeongChang 2018.

The sport was initially governed by the World Snowboard Federation (WSF), but after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2010, it was taken under World Para Alpine Skiing with a view to continue working with the WSF to develop the sport. Para snowboard owes its success to the determination of a group of pioneering riders who in 2005 began their quest to have the sport included at the Winter Paralympics.

After many years of campaigning, in 2012 it was announced that Para snowboard would make its debut at Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games as part of the Para alpine skiing programme, with two medal events in lower-limb impairment classifications for men and women in snowboard-cross time trial. At PyeongChang 2018 the sport was expanded to ten events with the inclusion of banked slalom. A total of 69 athletes (56 male and 13 female) competed in the Games.



Through 2020-2022 strategic plan, World Para Snow Sports outlines the steps to be taken into the next phase of development. For the first time in the sports' history, a vision statement and a mission statement outline WPSS' aspiration and purpose.

Furthermore, the strategic plans highlight four focus areas for the 2020-2022 period; namely Development, High Performance, Competitions and Operations. Each focus area provides an overarching strategic objective, further supported by strategic priorities, giving WPSS a clear, measurable, and realistic direction.



OUR VISION

To be the most inclusive recreational and competitive Para snow sports.

OUR MISSION

World Para Snow Sports partners with NPCs, IFs & NFs to lead, safeguard and sustainably grow Para Alpine Skiing, Para Nordic Skiing and Para Snowboard through competitions, high performance and development programmes.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Development
2. High Performance
3. Competitions
4. Operations

1. DEVELOPMENT:

Grow sustainable athlete numbers across all World Para Snow Sports

- 1a.** Support members and partners to increase participation offerings through grassroots programmes
- 1b.** Advance female participation in programmes of member associations and partners
- 1c.** Expand opportunities for a wider suite of athletes, including athletes with high support needs



2. HIGH PERFORMANCE:

Provide opportunities to transition from development to high performance programmes and competitions

- 2a.** Set the framework for inclusive education programmes for coaches, athletes, officials and administrators
- 2b.** Provide support to NPCs to develop pathways structures
- 2c.** Further develop an evidence-based classification system



3. COMPETITIONS:

Establish a long-term competition strategy that is attractive to commercial and public partners

- 3a.** Support partners to provide increased access to competitions for all athletes across all regions
- 3b.** Further collaborate and strengthen relationships with IFs to deliver Para snow sports
- 3c.** Standardize the delivery of sustainable competitions which contribute to the growth of the World Para Snow Sports



4. OPERATIONS:

Strengthen operations through best-practice procedures and good governance

- 4a.** Ensure athletes' interests, health & wellbeing are appropriately represented in all World Para Snow Sports
- 4b.** Enhance capacity and financial sustainability through operational planning and transparency
- 4c.** Forge greater relations with key stakeholders and funding partners through two-way communication



World Para **Snow Sports**

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World Para **Alpine Skiing**

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