



IPC GOVERNING BOARD BIOGRAPHY

- **Name:** Leila Marques Mota PLY
- **IPC position:** Vice President
- **Elected:** 2025
- **Position (outside of IPC GB):** President of the Portuguese Federation for Sport for Persons with Disabilities, Vice President of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee
- **Nationality:** Portugal
- **Languages spoken:** Portuguese, English
- **Paralympic Games competed in:** Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008
- **Social media channels:** [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)



Leila Marques is a Portuguese physician and four-time Paralympian whose career bridges elite sport, medicine, and leadership. She was elected Vice President of the International Paralympic Committee in September 2025.

Leila graduated in Medicine from the University of Lisbon and specialised in General Practice and Family Medicine. She later completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Sports Medicine. Alongside her work in Portugal's National Health Service, she has led sports medicine initiatives and contributed to education and research focused on athlete health and inclusion.

As a high-performance athlete, Leila represented Portugal in Para Swimming at four Paralympic Games – Atlanta 1996, Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, and Beijing 2008. Her achievements include a short-course world record in the 100m breaststroke (SB8) and multiple medals at World and European Championships.

After retiring from competition, she assumed senior governance roles in sport. She became President of the Portuguese Federation for Sport for Persons with Disabilities and since 2017 she serves as Vice President of the

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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Portuguese Paralympic Committee. She was appointed Chef de Mission for Portugal's Paralympic Team at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

A strong advocate for equality and ethical leadership, Leila chaired the Women and Sport Commission of the Portuguese Olympic Committee and helped develop national leadership and mentoring programmes for women in sport. She was also appointed by the Portuguese Government to co-ordinate the Working Group on Gender Equality in Sport, producing an action plan whose recommendations are already shaping national policy.

At the international level, Leila has contributed to global initiatives that promote inclusion, athlete wellbeing, and fair competition.

Throughout her career as an athlete, physician, and leader, Leila has consistently used sport as a platform for social change, advocating for transparency, fairness, and the empowerment of athletes worldwide.

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