



## ABOUT THE IPC

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. The IPC organizes the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games and serves as the International Federation for nine sports, for which it supervises and co-ordinates the World Championships and other major competitions. The IPC is committed to enabling Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and to developing sport opportunities for all persons with a disability from the beginner to elite level. In addition, the IPC aims to promote the Paralympic values, which include courage, determination, inspiration and equality.

Founded on 22 September 1989, the IPC is an international non-profit organization formed and run by 170 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) from five regions and four disability specific international sports federations (IOSDs). The IPC headquarters and its management team are located in Bonn, Germany. The organization has a democratic constitution and structure, made up of elected representatives. The four IOSDs are:

- [CPISRA: Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association](#)
- [IBSA: International Blind Sports Federation](#)
- [INAS-FID: International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability](#)
- [IWAS: International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation](#)

Whereas other international sports organizations for athletes with a disability are either limited to one disability group or to one specific sport, the IPC as an umbrella organization represents several sports and disabilities.

The first Paralympic Games were held in Rome, Italy, in 1960, bringing a number of sports and disability groups together into one event. The first Paralympic Winter Games were subsequently held in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, in 1976. The Paralympics grew quickly and became an important international sporting event. The need to govern the Games more efficiently and to speak with one voice to the IOC resulted in the foundation of the ICC, the "International Co-ordination Committee of World Sports Organizations for the Disabled" in 1982. Only 10 years later, the ICC was replaced by the IPC. It was the strong wish of the member nations to form this organization with a democratic constitution and elected representatives. The IPC was founded in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1989.

The Winter Paralympics in Lillehammer in 1994 were the first Paralympic Games under the management of IPC. Today, we look back on a history of the organization, which is rapidly

### International Paralympic Committee

Adenauerallee 212-214 Tel. +49-228-2097-200  
53113 Bonn, Germany Fax. +49-228-2097-209

info@paralympic.org  
www.paralympic.org



developing. The Movement's growth is best exemplified through the phenomenal rise of the Paralympic Games. More NPCs competed at the Beijing 2008 Paralympics (3,951 athletes, 146 NPCs) than in the Munich 1972 Olympic Games. In Beijing, the degree of media coverage was unprecedented, as was the attention from the public. With interest in and acceptance for sport for persons with a disability growing, the expansion of the Paralympics is most likely to continue in the future and the London 2012 Games are bound to push the Movement to new heights.

There are a total of 25 sports on the Paralympic programme. For nine of these sports, the IPC currently serves as the International Sports Federation. Other sports are either governed by independent sport federations or are part of a disability-specific IOSD programme.

The IPC aims to promote, without discrimination, the practice of sports for people with a disability; to seek the expansion of sport opportunities from a developmental to an elite level for people with a disability; to create the conditions for athlete empowerment through self-determination; to liaise with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other international sports bodies; to co-ordinate the calendar of international and regional competitions; and to assist and encourage educational programmes, research and promotional activities.