



THE INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (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 competitions. The IPC is committed to enabling Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and to developing sport opportunities for 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.

The vision of the IPC is “To enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world”.

The IPC was founded on 22 September 1989 with the aim to create an international representative organization of elite sports for athletes with a disability. It was furnished with a democratic structure and with democratically elected representatives from these organizations. The Paralympic Winter Games in Lillehammer in 1994 were the first Paralympic Games under the governance of the IPC.

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.

There are a total of 25 sports on the Paralympic programme (20 summer and five winter). 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.

In November 2003, the IPC took important steps toward a new future when the General Assembly (its highest decision-making body) adopted new governance and management structures following a Strategic Review. A motion that will lead the IPC Sports towards more self-sustainability and eventually independence from the IPC also passed. In addition to the NPCs and IOSDs, the sports and regional bodies now have the option of becoming full members of the IPC.

The IPC Executive Committee mandated a Constitutional Committee, which in 2004 fine-tuned the governance structure and developed a new constitution for the IPC. An extraordinary General Assembly was held in November 2004 to approve the new IPC Constitution as well as to approve the bylaws outlining the new electoral system. The Executive Committee was replaced by a



Governing Board and a new Governing Board was elected by the General Assembly in November 2005. The new structure was implemented during the election year in 2005.

The IPC is now composed of the General Assembly, the Governing Board, the Management Team, and various Councils and Standing Committees.