The sport of powerlifting is governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) through the IPC Powerlifting Technical Committee as the International Federation (IF) and represents one of nine IPC sports under the umbrella of the IPC. IPC Powerlifting has developed this Strategic Plan as a sport-specific extension of the overall IPC Strategic Plan 2011-2014 and is in line with the mandate of the IPC General Assembly to further strengthen the development of the IPC sports with the aim of making them self-sustainable. This strategic plan has been developed in parallel with the strategic plans of all other IPC sports following a common framework and recognising their commonalities and combined strengths, while it also carves out the sport-specific long-term strategies and objectives.

Vision, mission and values

The strategic plan development process revealed consensus and a common understanding about the visions, mission and values of the nine IPC sports. It is also considered important to have one common reference to guide and strengthen the sports collectively. Hence here below you find the visions, missions and values applicable to all IPC sports while putting this into the context of powerlifting.

Values

• Athlete centred
• Transparent & Accountable
• Equitable & Fair play
• Professional & Ethical
• Collaborative & Engaging

Vision

Provide a platform for para-athletes to regularly practice and to showcase their ability to their full potential and to reach their sporting pinnacle and dreams.

Mission

Organise successful competitions as part of a stable calendar while encouraging participation and development at all levels and promoting the core values of the Paralympic Movement.

In the powerlifting context this means to serve and foster greater levels of participation, increase development opportunities and generate a sustained growth in numbers of athletes and officials within IPC Powerlifting throughout the world, from grassroots to the elite level, organising and developing successful IPC Powerlifting competitions whilst maintaining and enhancing the overall core values of the Paralympic Movement.

The sport

Powerlifting has been part of the Paralympic Games since 1964. The sport is open to male and female athletes with a physical impairment as defined in the IPC Handbook (in eight groups) who meet the current minimal eligibility criteria and can perform, safely and appropriately, according to the IPC Powerlifting rules. All eligible athletes compete in one sport class, but in different weight categories.

In 1964 weightlifting made its debut at the Tokyo Paralympic Games and featured just men with spinal-cord injuries. In 1992 it was decided that after Barcelona, future Paralympics would only feature powerlifting as opposed to holding weightlifting and powerlifting events. The Barcelona Games featured athletes from 25 countries competing for medals; by the time the 1996 Paralympic Games were held in Atlanta the number of participating nations had increased to 58. By Sydney 2000, the first year women were allowed to compete in Paralympic Games weightlifting event, the sport was widely practised across all five continents. At the London 2012 Games, 200 athletes competed in 20 medal events.

The number of athletes and countries participating will continue to increase in the years to come, thus a strategic plan is required in order to realistically achieve this.
Paralympic Games and World Championships

Strategic priorities
- Implement an athlete qualification system that ensures top-ranked athletes participate during Paralympic cycles and representative participation of all genders across the five continents.
- Guarantee that the 2015 Paralympic Games and 2014 IPC Powerlifting World Championships event programmes are attractive to spectators and live television audiences.
- Increase the awareness, understanding, and value of IPC’s technical, ethical, scientific and safety standards.
- Ensure regular communication and technical reviews with the host cities in order to promote management, presentation, operation, and officiating of the sport at the expected level of excellence.
- Develop the criteria on the applications for World and Regional Championships.

Objectives/outcomes
- Develop a consistent and clear qualification pathway for the 2016 Paralympic Games, ensuring that all four years of the Paralympic cycle remain live.
- Ensure that the National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and National Paralympic Federations (NPFs) are fully supported and have an established mechanism for regular communication with the IPC headquarters.
- Increase the number of National Paralympic Committees and Para-Games.
- Improve the quality of evidence for classification of athletes.
- Increase the number of classified athletes and national teams participating in Paralympic Games and World Championships.
- Develop a consistent and clear qualification pathway for the 2016 Paralympic Games, ensuring that all four years of the Paralympic cycle remain live.
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