Vision, mission and values

The strategic plan development process revealed consensus and a common understanding about the vision, mission and values of the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Competition, which has led to the development of a clear strategic plan. The plan is intended to help the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Competition achieve its mission and values, which are applicable to all IPC sports while putting them in the context of alpine skiing and snowboard.

The vision of the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Competition is to provide a platform for paralympic skiers and snowboarders with different impairments to reach their dreams and showcase their ability to their full potential and to be an integral part of the IPC Paralympic Family. The mission of the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Competition is to promote the inclusion of the sport of alpine skiing and snowboard as an integral part of the national skiing federations, where appropriate.

The values of the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Competition are:

1. Fair play
   - To promote the Paralympic values of peace, friendship and parity in all competitions.
2. Professional & Ethical
   - To operate in an ethical and professional way.
3. Engaging
   - To provide a platform for paralympic skiers and snowboarders with different impairments to reach their dreams.
4. Transparent & Accountable
   - To communicate openly and transparently to ensure accountability.
5. Collaborative & Integral
   - To be an integral part of the national skiing federations.
6. Integral & Fair
   - To promote fairness and equality in all competitions.
7. Organized & Diagnostic
   - To organize competitions that are accessible, affordable, and inclusive for all skiers and snowboarders.
8. Independent & Professional
   - To ensure the independence and professional conduct of all members and stakeholders.
9. Competitive & Competitive
   - To provide a platform for skiers and snowboarders to compete against each other.

The sport

Alpine skiing is practised worldwide and features seven disciplines: slalom, giant slalom, super-G, downhill and team events. Athletes combine speed and agility while racing down slopes at speeds of around 100km/h. Competition accommodates male and female athletes with physical impairment and visual impairment.

Athletes compete in three categories (visual impairment, physical impairment – standing, physical impairment – sitting), and a results calculation system allows athletes from different sport classes to compete against each other. Skiers with visual impairment are guided through the course by sighted guides using signals to indicate the course to follow. Some athletes use equipment that is adapted to their needs, including e.g. ski or orthopaedic aids.

The first documented Championships for skiers with an impairment was held in Austria in 1949 with 17 athletes taking part. Since 1985, events have been held around the world. The introduction of skis allowed people with physical impairment to ski and race. Alpine skiing was already part of the Paralympic Winter Games in 1994 in Lillehammer, held in Sweden in 1976 with two disciplines and 78 athletes. The sport has grown to now include six disciplines at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games with more than 200 participating athletes.

Snowboard is currently run with one discipline, but in the near future following the Sochi Paralympic Winter Games, new disciplines are planned to be developed.

Athletes in snowboard compete in the standing category (lower and upper limits of physical impairment).

Snowboard counts its first Games appearance at the Paralympic Games in Sochi in 2014. It has been developed under the IPC Alpine Skiing Technical Committee in recent years and in 2013 features nearly 100 licensed athletes with most of them also being on the rankings list.

Alpine Skiing enjoys a close working relationship with its Olympic counterpart FIS (International Skiing Federation). An agreement signed in 2011, allows various areas of co-operation, such as sport rules, training of technical officials and sharing and exchanging knowledge and resources. Many of the member nations already currently have close working relationships or are directly managed and funded by the national skiing federations.

Context and planning process

This sports of alpine skiing and snowboard are governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) through the IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Technical Committee. During the International Federation (IF) and they are part of nine sports under the umbrella of the IPC. The IPC Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Technical Committee developed the Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Strategic Plan as a sport-specific extension of the overall IPC Strategic Plan 2011-2014, existing 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 also setting out the sport specific long-term strategies and objectives.

The common elements which emerged from the integrated development process are described in more detail in the overarching document “Overall IPC Strategic Plan 2011-2014.” This present “Alpine Skiing and Snowboard Strategic Plan” is an excerpt of the overall plan focusing specifically on the priorities in the area of alpine skiing and snowboard thus taking into account the specific IFs and current stage of development. It has been written in a way to be a comprehensive and self-contained document in its own right.
1. Paralympic Games and World Championships

Strategic priorities
- Ensure that the 2014 and 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard World Championships are attractive to athletes and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), as well as to the media and television audiences.
- Ensure a well-validated calendar for the different events, World Cup, European Cup, Asia Cup, North America Cup, Southern Hemisphere Cup, National Championships, IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard.

2. Athlete Development

Strategic priorities
- Produce a long-term competition schedule for four years in advance, focusing on the growth of the sport worldwide and spread of World Cups for top-level athletes with quality assurance through IPC competition management support.
- Produce a long-term competition schedule for four years in advanced notionally structured and spread across Europe Europe Cup/Continental Cups (North America, Asia, and South America).
- Ensure a well-established calendar for the different events, World Cup, European Cup, North America Cup, Southern Hemisphere Cup, National Championships, IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard.
- Develop and implement a kit for collaboration / National Championship competitions, Youth competition circuit and Master Cup.
- Increase the number of opportunities provided to athletes and at major competitions.

Objectives/outcomes
- Build a competition calendar with a detailed schedule for each event.
- Expand the coverage of the sport worldwide, including in Africa, Asia and South America.
- Establish a routine to finalise the sports technical agreements with the host cities no later than 10 months prior to the start of the competition.
- Establish a pool of highly qualified classifiers and a network of other volunteers in accordance with the competition and classification of the different circuits.

3. Paralympic Brand

Strategic priorities
- Establish a brand development section in the IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard, and ensure appropriate structures for the further development of IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard.
- Ensure appropriate sponsorship for IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard.

Objectives/outcomes
- Develop, promote and support low level competition / National Championships event programme is attractive to athletes and spectators.
- Increase the capacity of supervision of officials throughout the World Cup competitions.

4. Funding

Strategic priorities
- Support quality service and support to World Championships and World Cup competitions.
- Increase the percentage of female participants to at least 35 percent.

Objectives/outcomes
- Increase overall IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard revenues.
- Ensure a well-established calendar for the different circuits, World Cup, European Cup, North America Cup, Southern Hemisphere Cup, National Championships, IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard.
- Establish a pool of highly qualified classifiers and a network of other volunteers in accordance with the competition and classification of the different circuits.

5. Organisational Capacity

Strategic priorities
- Provide quality service and support to World Championships and World Cup competitions.
- Enhance the focus by IPC Alpine Skiing and IPC Snowboard in the development of Asia and Southern Hemispheres.

Objectives/outcomes
- Support quality service and support to World Championships and World Cup competitions.
- Increase the percentage of female participants to at least 35 percent.