

## **IPC Athletes' Council Meeting**

**22 – 24 March 2019**

**Bonn, Germany**

### **Executive summary**

#### **Attendance**

#### **All Sessions**

Elvira Stinissen, Gizem Girismen, Natalie Du Toit, Hong Sukman, Rudolf Klemetti, Sarah Storey, Birgit Skarstein and Monica Bascio

#### **For part of the meeting**

Chelsey Gotell, Kurt Fearnley and Danka Bartekova

#### **Apologies**

Marie Bochet, Nurul Mohammad Taha

### **Reports**

The IPC Athletes' Council (Council) was updated by reports from the Chairperson (Chelsey Gotell), and IOC Athletes' Commission Member (Danka Bartekova). Reports were also provided by some of the Regional Organisations and IPC Standing Committee athlete representatives. The Council Vice Chairperson Elvira Stinissen reported on her attendance at the 2019 WADA Symposium and her role as the Council's representative on the IPC/IOC Alliance Athlete Insurance Steering Group and as athlete representative on the European Paralympic Committee Board. Natalie Du Toit, a member of the Council on the Brand Review Steering Committee and Craig Spence, IPC Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, provided a report on the IPC brand review.

### **Anti-Doping Update**

IPC Anti-Doping Director James Sclater provided an update on the IPC anti-doping programme following the conditional lifting of Russia Paralympic Committee (RPC) suspension. He provided a more in-depth rationale and explanation on the testing criteria that Russian Para athletes must comply with before they can compete at any IPC sanctioned event. James also provided an update of the IPC's Registered Testing Pool (RTP) criteria for selection of athletes, different sports and nations. Furthermore, James explained IPC's jurisdiction as far as testing is concerned for non-IPC sports.



## **Transgender discussion**

Liz Riley, IPC General Counsel, joined the Council for a session to discuss transgender athletes in sport. She highlighted that this is a complex subject that encompasses science and legal aspects and that at the moment the IPC has not yet developed a transgender policy but has begun discussion on the topic. She added that the IOC has transgender guidelines, which are not binding and that each International Federation (IF) would need to develop its specific guidelines considering athletes' health and level playing field.

## **Open Discussion with the IPC President**

President Parsons provided updates on the IPC governance review process and the different options that are available to be explored. He also provided an update on the current IPC Management team following the departure of the CEO and the next steps for the organisation. Andrew also expressed that it is a top priority for the IPC to foster a culture that works alongside and engages athlete representatives and the IPC membership. He spoke to the importance of developing a global network of athlete representatives. He also challenged the Council to think of innovative ways to foster two-way communication with representatives, to ensure that information is reaching the athlete community and that feedback is coming back to the Council for discussion at all levels of the IPC. The Council emphasised that it was important for athletes to be involved in the whole decision-making process, from the beginning to the end and that timely communication was key. Lastly, Andrew assured the Council of his support of their work, the implementation of their strategy and support to athletes at large.

## **Classification update**

Peter Van De Vliet, the IPC Medical and Scientific Director, joined the Council for a session on Classification. The Classification session was exploring different ways on how best the Council can support the Classification Committee in achieving their goals and vice-versa. He highlighted that the Classification Committee is working on developing a model where experts would work with different NPCs to train physicians as classifiers, thereby ensuring that classification is professional across the board.

## **Proud Paralympian Session**

Agitos Foundation Proud Paralympian Managers joined the Council to review the Proud Paralympian programme. The Managers introduced the programme to the members, specifically the members who were elected during the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and co-opted members. The session's intent was to further discuss the Proud Paralympian Programme's target audience as well as the content relevance and the communication to elite and Paralympic athletes.

## **AC Outreach Activities**

The AC Outreach activities continue to offer a platform for the AC to have two-way communication with athletes and IF/Organising Committees' Leadership to talk about athlete representation and any other key topics that affect athletes. Members of the Council plan to be present at various World Championships during 2019. IF Athlete Reps are encouraged to touch base with their relevant IPC Athletes' Council member liaison to discuss scheduled World Championships for their sport. If an IF Athlete Rep is unsure



who their AC liaison is, please contact [athletescouncil@paralympic.org](mailto:athletescouncil@paralympic.org). The Council plans to be present at the following 2019 World Championships and multi-sport Games. The Council was also present at the WADA 2019 Symposium.

WADA Symposium	Lausanne, Switzerland	13 - 14 March
2019 World Para Ice Hockey Championships	Ostrava, Czech Republic	27 April - 04 May
2019 World Archery Para Championships	's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands	03 – 09 June
Para Powerlifting World Championships	Astana, Kazakhstan	30 June - 06 July
BWF World Para-Badminton Championships	Basel, Switzerland	21 - 25 August
Parapan American Games	Lima, Peru	23 Aug - 01 Sept
World Rowing Championships	Linz-Ottensheim, Austria	25 Aug - 01 Sept
VISTA Conference	Amsterdam, Netherlands	04 - 07 September
Wheelchair Fencing World Championships	Cheongju, South Korea	17 - 23 September

### **IPC Governance Review Update**

During its last meeting in November 2018, the Council had an informative brainstorming session with Maria Clarke (a Sport Governance consultant who has been brought in to work with the IPC Governance Review Working Group). Following this meeting, the Council Chairperson reached out to the IPC IF athlete representatives to get their feedback on the IPC's current governance structure, the purpose of the IPC and how changes to the IPC purpose would impact their IFs. During the Council's March meeting, Chelsey provided a presentation on the Governing Board's discussion about the IPC purpose and the Governance Review of IPC Sports which took place at the January 2019 Governing Board meeting in London.

The presentation included the history and evolution of the IPC as a Major Event Organiser and an IF, summary of current facts and figures on IPC Sports, IPC's purpose, different possible options that the IPC could pursue and their implications. Chelsey also highlighted that the decision on the governance review lies with the General Assembly (IPC membership) and that the IPC Governance Review Working Group was there to provide recommendations to the Governing Board who would bring the proposed directive to the membership.

### **Human Rights Committee Update**



Juan Pablo Salazar, member of the IPC Governing Board, joined the Council to discuss the proposed concept for the IPCs involvement in the human rights movement. As the Human Rights Committee is still in the early stages of brainstorming, his aim was to discuss the current concept with the Council regarding human rights and sport and to include the Council's feedback and ideas moving forward.

### **Paralympic Order Nomination**

The IPC honours people and organisations that have made outstanding and long-lasting contributions to the Paralympic Movement by awarding them the Paralympic Order. In line with the above, the Council discussed the possibility to put forward a nomination for the Paralympic Order for 2019. The Council members will submit their nominations by a set deadline and the whole council will vote on the submitted nominations. In addition, the Council sees value in nominating an individual or organisation that has made outstanding contributions in ensuring the athlete voice is heard.

### **IPC Athletes' Forum 2019**

An update was provided that the Forum is set to be hosted from 22 to 24 November 2019. A formal announcement will be made in the coming weeks, followed by invitations to the IPC Membership for athlete representatives to apply. The Council also discussed the Forum concept, key topics, sessions' formats among other topics. Athlete Representatives will also have an opportunity to indicate the topics they would like to see included on the Agenda during the registration process. The Forum aligns with the IPC Athletes' Council strategy objective which aims to improve athlete communication by creating a strong platform for ongoing two-way communication between all athlete representatives. The Council plans to use the Forum to bring together, engage, educate and listen to athlete representatives, learning more about their experiences, best practices and issues. All of the feedback and discussion will be used to help the IPC Athletes' Council be more effective in serving the athlete community.

### **Athletes' Council Strategy and Implementation**

The IPC Athletes' Council launched its first ever strategy on Friday 22 March on the first day of the AC meeting. The strategy is found [here](#):

During the meeting, the Council further discussed the implementation of the four-year strategy (2019 – 2022) including timelines and activities that will be carried out to achieve the set objectives. The Council is individually and collectively committed to the implementation of the strategy priorities and responsibilities. The successful implementation of the strategy will require support from the IPC and the whole Paralympic Movement. With this strategy in place, the Council is better placed to support athletes on and off the field and increase accountability.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 20 and 21 November 2019.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the items discussed during March IPC Athletes' Council meeting, please contact us: IPC Athletes Council [athletescouncil@paralympic.org](mailto:athletescouncil@paralympic.org) [https://www.paralympic.org/athletes\\_council](https://www.paralympic.org/athletes_council)