



Meeting title	APSO General Assembly
Date	17 November 2022
Time	18:00-19:15 local time
Venue	INNSiDE Berlin Mitte, Berlin, Germany
Chair	Tom Dielen
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin

Participants			
APSO Representatives	Initial	Title	IF
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Dielen	Chair	APSO Vice President	WA
<input type="checkbox"/> Colin Grahamslaw	CG	APSO Executive Board Member	WCF
<input type="checkbox"/> Charmaine Hooper		APSO Executive Board Member	IWAS
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Kurzo		Vice-President	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/> Sally Wood-Lamont		Secretary General	IBSA
<input type="checkbox"/> John Edwards		Paracanoe Committee Chair	ICF
<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Carscadden		CPISTRA CEO	IWAS
<input type="checkbox"/> Norbert Kucera		Secretary General	IWBF
<input type="checkbox"/> Gilles Peruzzi		Head of Track, Para-cycling and Indoor Cycling	UCI
<input type="checkbox"/> Siret Luik		Deputy Secretary General	WA
<input type="checkbox"/> Dominique Ohlmann		Para Archery Committee Chairperson	WA
<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Morgan		Vice President	World Boccia
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Trayner		CEO	World Boccia
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Soutter		Sport Manager	World Rowing
<input type="checkbox"/> Chakir Chelbat		Para Taekwondo Committee Chair	World Taekwondo
<input type="checkbox"/> Olof Hansson		Para Taekwondo Director	World Taekwondo
<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Okimura		Sport Director	WPV
<input type="checkbox"/> Debra Alexander		First Vice President	World Triathlon
<input type="checkbox"/> Eric Angstadt Torres		Para triathlon Senior Manager	World Triathlon
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Allcroft		President	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergey Lyzhin	HSG	Honorary Secretary General	APSO
Invitees			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dimitrije Lazarovski		Development Manager	FIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Liz Riley	LR	General Counsel	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Adam Thew		Legal Counsel	IPC

<input type="checkbox"/> Giovanni Canazza	GC	Membership Manager of IF and IOSD Relations	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Holtz		Managing Director of World Para Sports	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Massimo Dighe		World Para Sport Deputy Director	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Tyler Anderson		World Shooting Para Sport Senior Manager	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Fitzgerald		Head of Para Athletics	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Michelle LaFlamme		World Para Ice Hockey Manager	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Jorge Moreno		Head of World Para Powerlifting	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/> Craig Nicholson		Head of World Para Swimming	IPC
Apologies received			
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabrina Ibáñez		APSO President	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Alistair Williams		Head of Wheelchair Tennis	ITF
<input type="checkbox"/> Raul Calin		Secretary General	ITTF

Agenda		Speaker	Annex
1	Welcome	Chair	
2	Approval of the APSO GA 2022 Agenda	All	
3	Finances		
	3.1 Honorary Secretary General's Report	HSG	
	3.2 Approval of the accounts	All	X
	3.3 Annual subscription fee	All	
	3.4 Appointing of independent auditor	All	
4	IPC Classification Code review	All	
5	Para Sport Partnership program	IPC	
6	IPC Grants application process	All	
7	Milano/Cortina 2026 Sports Program application process	All	
8	LA 2028 Sports Program application process	All	
9	IPC Extraordinary General Assembly 2022	Chair	
10	APSO Statutes amendments	All	X
11	Admission of new members	All	
12	Any other business		
	12.1 Update on dissolution of GAISF	Chair	
	12.2 Update on Women's Leadership courses 2023	HSG	
	12.3 Update on Safeguarding project	HSG	

Minutes	
R: Resolution	T: Task I: Information
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the APSO General Assembly (GA) and informed members that due to overlap between FEI and APSO General Assemblies the President was not able to attend the latter, therefore the GA was to be chaired by Vice President. (I)</p> <p>Roll call was carried out. With 14 of 17 members being present the quorum was reached. (I)</p>
2	<p>Approval of the APSO GA 2022 Agenda</p> <p>The Agenda for the APSO GA 2022 was approved. (R)</p>
3	<p>Finances</p>
3.1	<p>Honorary Secretary General's Report</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that online leadership courses for women engaged in Para sports was successfully organised by APSO and took place from January to March 2022. In total 40 women representing 13 APSO members and other Para-sport organizations (e.g., the IPC, British Paralympian Association) graduated from the course. (I)</p> <p>The leadership course received high praise from participants, few of whom won their next election campaigns on a national level or otherwise were promoted. Also graduates from the APSO leadership course were introduced to women in sport leadership network via LinkedIn closed community, which also included their Olympic peers. (I)</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that another beneficial project was the Nielsen Sports Workshop on TV and Digital viewership data obtained from the Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 Paralympic Games. The workshop was held on 22 June 2022 and was attended by representatives of 15 APSO members and included not only the Nielsen Sports' analysis of the trends in Para sport viewership but also included case studies and best practices for social media campaigns from among IFs. (I)</p>
3.2	<p>Approval of the accounts</p> <p>The HSG presented to the GA the audited accounts for 2021, an interim report on financial situation for 2022 and a budget for 2023. Following the recommendation from independent auditors, the most recent transfer from the IPC factually received by APSO in 2020 was equally split between 2020 and 2021, which was reflected in the amended APSO accounts for 2020 and the presented accounts for 2021. (I)</p> <p>The Chair informed the members that APSO Executive Board (EB) was in negotiation with the IPC on conditions for the renewed APSO-IPC Agreement which would replace the initial agreement that was in place for 2018-2021 and which would have an effect on APSO revenues. (I)</p> <p>The Chair updated the members on the ASOIF Council's decision to disband ASOIF Para Sport Consultative Group, for which he was the chairman, primarily due to existence of firmly established and effective APSO. Nevertheless, Sergey Lyzhin would remain available to carry out HSG duties at no cost for APSO as well as there was possibility to receive further financial support from ASOIF on a project basis, subject to <i>ad hoc</i> agreements between two umbrella organisations. (I)</p>

		The GA then proceeded to voting on approvals. The proposed budget for 2023 and the audited accounts for 2019-2021 were unanimously approved. (R)
	3.3	Annual Subscription fee The GA approved to maintain the annual subscription fee at CHF 300. (R)
	3.4	Appointing of independent auditor Following internal market research carried out by the HSG, the EB suggested to appoint Lausanne-based company Guédon Révision SA to a role of independent auditor for APSO. The appointment was unanimously approved by the GA. (R)
4	IPC Classification Code review	<p>The Chair informed the members on the recent developments in regard to the IPC Classification Code review. There were several rounds of discussions and IPC members' feedback collection carried out to date. Wider discussion and a thorough update from the respective IPC department was expected to be provided at the IPC membership gathering on the following day (18 November 2022). (I)</p> <p>LR praised IFs for their excellent cooperation on the Classification Code review. She also shared concerns from a number of National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) over IFs' timelines for changing their respective classification rules. In order to avoid any unexpectedness and misunderstanding between the key stakeholders of the Paralympic movement it was recommended to maintain constant dialogue. (I)</p> <p>CG noted that the IPC should avoid forcing the IFs into the "mandatory" use of the Code in all their activities since situation and timelines are different in different IFs/sports. Instead, the Code should serve as a guideline and a "best practice" example. (I)</p> <p>It was noted that another significant governance issue was that the NPCs by way of simple majority could attain changes that fundamentally impact the IFs but does not affect the NPCs in the same way. In order to make the Code policeable within the resources of the IPC it was recommended to revisit the IPC's decision-making process in that regard. (I)</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that prior to the GA FIS have received request for Visual Impairment (VI) classification of equestrian athlete at one of its events. They have accepted the athlete without charging a classification fee. It was offered for all other IFs to remain open and to accept athletes from other sports for VI classification with no fee where circumstances permit. IBSA, World Rowing and World Triathlon shared their respective conditions for and experiences of cross-sport VI classification. (I)</p> <p>The HSG was tasked to further coordinate on cross-sport VI classification between the concerned members. (T)</p>
5	Para Sport Partnership program (PSP)	<p>HSG informed the members that Citi was the only signed partner for the PSP to date. There were already remarkable learnings and results achieved from that partnership both from World Para Swimming championships and World Para Ice Hockey development programme supported by the partner. The IPC was reviewing and finalizing commercial framework with the support of a consultant in order to make it more flexible, with targeted deadline set for the end of Q1 2023. IF partnerships were considered a key pillar in the PSP programme and was treated by the IPC as mandatory part of it. The IPC planned to roll out sales strategy in Q2 or Q3 of 2023 and to approach IFs with interest from potential partners. (I)</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>IPC Grants application process</p> <p>GC reiterated that the Grant application process for 2023 was launched and that IFs were welcome to provide their feedback on the amended process of application. (I)</p> <p>CG noted that back in 2019 APSO did carry out internal research on comparison between the IPC Grants received by IFs/IOSDs and the actual volume of their spending on Para sports. HSG was tasked to repeat that research in 2023 (T)</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Milano/Cortina 2026 Sports Program application process</p> <p>CG shared with the members his frustration on the fact that Milano/Cortina 2026 Sports Program was not to be finalised until after the one for Los Angeles 2028. The rationale for that approach was not clear as the classification system for the next Winter Paralympic Games should have been already put in place. (I)</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>LA 2028 Sports Program application process</p> <p>The members exchanged on their respective experiences of application process for the LA2028 Sports Programme. It was noted that not all federations have received feedback or remained in dialogue with the IPC in regard to their applications. GC explained that the IPC addressed only those IFs where more information was required. The Chair suggested that there could be certain delays in the process also due to negotiation process between the IOC and the IPC on athletes' quota. (I)</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>IPC Extraordinary General Assembly 2022 (EGA)</p> <p>The Chair informed the members that their feedback on the items of the IPC EGA agenda obtained from the video call on 3 November 2022 was shared with the IPC. As a result, the motions put in place by the IPC Governing Board for the EGA were respectively amended in order to accommodate IFs' recommendations. LR praised APSO for proactive approach and encouraged IFs to remain in constant dialogue. (I)</p> <p>CG noted that in some sports the NPCs of Russia and Belarus were widely engaged in Federations' national members' activities and programmes, therefore clarification was sought from the IPC on how the suspension of those NPCs might affect the concerned IFs. (I)</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>APSO Statutes amendments</p> <p>HSG introduced the proposed amendments to APSO Statutes to the members. It was suggested to amend the criteria for APSO Affiliate membership so that only the Recognised International Federations (RIFs) as per the IPC Constitution could apply for APSO Affiliate membership. (I)</p> <p>Based on recommendation from the APSO GA 2021 it was proposed to simplify the process of Commissions and Working groups creation, providing both the GA and the EB with authority to do so at their own discretion. (I)</p> <p>It was proposed to amend wording throughout the entire text of the Statutes to be in accordance with British version of the English language. (I)</p> <p>The proposed amendments were approved by the GA. (R)</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Admission of new members</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that applications from FIS and IBU were received for APSO full membership, while World Sailing submitted their application for APSO Affiliate membership. The EB reviewed the provided documents and recommended to accept all three IFs as full and affiliate members respectively. (I)</p>

	<p>FIS was unanimously accepted by the GA as APSO Member. (R)</p> <p>IBU was unanimously accepted by the GA as APSO Member. (R)</p> <p>World Sailing was unanimously accepted by the GA as APSO Affiliate. (R)</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Update on dissolution of GAISF The Chair informed the members that dissolution of GAISF was on agenda of its EGA scheduled for 29 November 2022. APSO has been an Associate Member of GAISF since November 2020 in order to be able to benefit from their membership services, such as complimentary rooms at annual meetings (SportAccord Convention, IF Forum) and discounted rates for <i>.sport</i> domain. (I)</p> <p>Update on Women’s Leadership courses 2023 The HSG informed the members that the EB decided to resume in 2023 the online leadership courses for women from Para sports. The registration system was launched and members were encouraged to register their respective participants to the course. (I)</p> <p>Update on Safeguarding project The HSG informed the members that APSO Secretariat was in the process of drafting a template for Safeguarding Policy of International Paralympic Federation. The document intended to be of assistance for those IFs who would like to establish or to update their existing safeguarding procedures and was based on the best practices from among several APSO members. Once the external review phase was to be concluded the template document would to be circulated to all members for their reference. (I)</p>
	<p>Closing</p> <p>The Chair thanked the members and the invitees for their availability and in-person participation to the GA. The meeting was formally closed.</p>