

MINUTES
APSO Executive Board Meeting, 5 April 2023



Meeting title	APSO Executive Board Meeting
Date	5 April 2023
Time	10.00 – 11.30 CEST
Venue	Videocall
Chair	Sabrina Ibáñez, APSO President
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin, APSO Honorary Secretary General

Attendance List		
Participants	Title	IF
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms Sabrina Ibáñez (SI)	President	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr Tom Dielen (TD)	Vice President	WA
<input type="checkbox"/> Ms Charmaine Hooper (CH)	Member	World Abilitysport
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr Steve Loader (SL)	Member	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr Sergey Lyzhin (SLY)	Honorary Secretary General	APSO

Agenda	
1	Welcome from the President
2	APSO/IPC agreement update
3	APSO General Assembly 2023
4	APSO projects 2023-2024
5	IPC affairs and recent developments
6	Issues raised by APSO members
7	Any other business
8	Next Meeting

Minutes	
1	<p>Welcome from the President</p> <p>The President welcomed Executive Board (EB) members to their first meeting in 2023. Apologies from Colin Grahamslaw were received.</p>
2	<p>APSO/IPC agreement update</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that in accordance with the agreement signed between APSO and the IPC it was then APSO duty to organize an annual sport technical meeting. The EB members agreed to host such meeting on 15 June 2023 in a videocall format. The agenda of the meeting was to be built around updates from the organizing committees (OCOGs) of the upcoming Paralympic (Paris 2024 and Milano Cortina 2026) and regional</p>

	<p>(Santiago 2023, Hangzhou 2022 and Accra 2023) Games to the IFs.</p> <p>SLY was tasked to liaise with the IPC and the respective OCOGs in order to facilitate their participation to the meeting.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>APSO General Assembly 2023</p> <p>The EB members discussed the recently announced timeline for the IPC Conference and General Assembly (GA) 2023. It was unanimously agreed to plan for the APSO GA to be hosted on 26 September and in the same city along with the IPC GA, which was yet to be communicated by the IPC.</p> <p>SLY was tasked to secure budget and negotiate the potential venue for the APSO GA in due course.</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that the financial statement for 2022 as well as all related financial documents were transferred to Guedon SA for independent audit of APSO accounts. The result of the audit was to be presented to APSO members at the GA.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>APSO projects 2023-2024</p> <p>SLY presented to the EB members the results of the Safeguarding project The EB members anonymously approved a set of the project outputs to be published on the APSO website and the respective communication to be sent to APSO members. CH informed the EB that World Abilitysport have already used the APSO template for Safe Sport policy and that it was of significant help for the IOSD. She agreed to provide SLY and the EB members with more detailed feedback on the subject in due course.</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members on the outcomes of the 2023 edition of the Women Lead Sports programme. There were 42 successfully graduated participants from the programme this year representing 17 IFs/IOSDs. It was noted that there was a number of positive reactions on social media in regard to APSO leadership course both from participants and from the leadership coach Gabriela Mueller. The EB members unanimously supported the idea of continuing the program in 2024. It was also agreed to invite IPC to take part in the 2024 programme along with IFs and IOSDs.</p> <p>SLY raised the question on potential future project for TV viewership and Social Media data collection from the Paris 2024 and Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games. The EB was of opinion that the matter should be addressed to the IPC and would depend on their agreement with the service provider. TD and SL reiterated importance for IFs and IOSDs of having such data in order to grow their respective para sports globally.</p> <p>SLY informed to the EB that the most recent assessment of APSO members' spending on para sports was conducted in 2019. The EB members were of opinion that the exercise should be repeated in order to have better understanding of how the situation has changed in regard to funding of para sports. It was agreed to conduct a membership survey, which would also include collection of additional information on para sports from the members (e.g. staffing, media coverage, etc). SLY was tasked to draft a survey and present it to the EB for further consideration.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>IPC affairs and recent developments</p> <p>The EB members took a note of the most recent developments in regard to the IPC forgoing the Paralympic Hospitality Center for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, adoption of the IPC Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and recent departures from the IPC Membership team and World Rowing.</p> <p>The EB members welcomed the announcement of the VISTA conference 2023, which was</p>

	<p>to be held from 31 October to 3 November in Cairo, Egypt. It was decided to encourage APSO members to participate in the conference.</p> <p>SI informed the EB members that following the IPC Governing Board’s internal evaluation of IFs/IOSDs bids for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games programme, each IF was entitled to receive a copy of their respective evaluation report upon direct request to the IPC. SLY was tasked to communicate this opportunity to APSO members.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Issues raised by APSO members</p> <p>FIS suggested APSO to intensify cross-IF cooperation and knowledge sharing in the area of classification in terms of regular operational meetings between heads of classification, joint classification researches and sharing athletes’ classification opportunities where appropriate. SLY informed the EB members that potential scope of such cooperation might require creation of a working group as per article 16 of the APSO Statutes. The EB was supportive of the idea, however agreed that in order to avoid any potential duplication of activities between such working group and various IPC bodies, clear terms of reference for the group should be drafted. SLY was tasked to liaise with FIS in order to elaborate appropriate terms of reference for potential APSO working group on classification.</p> <p>ICF was concerned that there was no sufficient information provided by the IPC on the special projects funding mechanisms replacing the Agitos Foundation programme. It was agreed for SI to address this issue to the IPC senior leadership on behalf of APSO.</p> <p>World Boccia sought opportunities for APSO members to exchange more actively on a number of actual topics, such as sustainability and eligibility rules for transgender athletes in para sports. The EB members were supportive of the idea and tasked SLY to coordinate the exchange between IFs.</p> <p>World ParaVolley was interested in receiving an update on IPC sports separation and potential implications for APSO in that regard. Based on the outcomes of the IPC membership call that took place on 31 March 2023, SLY informed the EB that the World Para Sports Unit Board was created and the first meeting was scheduled to take place in May 2023. The EB members agreed to follow on official communications from the IPC in regard to the preferred format of separation for each para sport. Once that communicated, APSO would then be in position to provide its assistance in admitting the governing bodies for these separated sports as new APSO members.</p> <p>World Taekwondo requested the EB to obtain further clarification from the IPC on suspension of Russian and Belorussian NPCs during the IPC Extraordinary GA 2022 and how that suspension could affect participation of athletes from these two countries in IFs’ events. SLY informed the EB members that during the IPC membership call on 31 March 2023, the IPC President and CEO reiterated that the IPC GA decisions were applicable solely to the sports governed by the IPC. It was noted that participation of Russian/Belorussian athletes in IF events was at the sole discretion of IFs.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Other business</p> <p>FEI Accessibility Guide</p> <p>SI updated the EB members on the progress with the FEI Accessibility Guide preparation. Once finalised the document would become a part of the FEI event bidding package and would assist event hosts in creation of inclusive environment across all future FEI events. The EB members were of opinion that this practice should be shared with all APSO</p>

	<p>members, once the document to be finalised.</p> <p>Joint development projects</p> <p>SL informed the EB members that WWR was interested in having development projects for Africa and South America combined with other IFs. These joints effort would allow participating IFs to reach disabled population in those areas at a lower individual cost and to provide them with opportunities to practice para sports. The EB members were of opinion that should these joint projects be aligned/coordinated with the regional and national NPCs, that would be a valid reason for receiving additional funding from the IPC.</p> <p>Paralympic Games revenues</p> <p>SL suggested for consideration an idea of approaching the IPC in regard to Paralympic Games revenues distribution. With growing commercial value of the Paralympic Games, the current system of IF Grants applications could soon become disproportionate and not in favor to the IFs. It was suggested that the system used by the IOC for the Olympic Games revenues distribution between the Olympic IFs and NOCs could be used as a reference point. The EB members were supportive of the idea in general though decided firstly to obtain the data on IFs’ spending towards their para sports and para disciplines, prior to approaching the IPC with any formal communication. It was agreed to further explore the subject and revisit the idea in the future.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>SLY was tasked to propose dates for the next EB meeting in due course.</p>
	<p>The President thanked everyone for productive and fruitful meeting.</p>