



Meeting title	APSO General Assembly
Date	26 September 2023
Time	16:00-18:15 local time
Venue	The Art Hotel & Resort, Manama, Bahrain
Chair	Sabrina Ibáñez
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin

Participants			
APSO Representatives	Initial	Title	IF
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabrina Ibáñez	Chair	APSO President	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Colin Grahamslaw	CG	APSO Executive Board Member	WCF
<input type="checkbox"/> Charmaine Hooper		APSO Executive Board Member	World Abilitysport
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Kurzo		Vice-President	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Lund	TL	Secretary General	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/> Frédérique Reffet Plantier		Secretary General's Office Senior Manager	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Olle Dahlin		President	IBU
<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Sainsbury		Executive Director	IBSA
<input type="checkbox"/> John Edwards		Paracanoe Committee Chair	ICF
<input type="checkbox"/> Raul Calin		Secretary General	ITTF
<input type="checkbox"/> Ulf Mehrens		President	IWBF
<input type="checkbox"/> Gilles Peruzzi		Head of Track, Para-cycling and Indoor Cycling	UCI
<input type="checkbox"/> Siret Luik		Deputy Secretary General	World Archery
<input type="checkbox"/> Dominique Ohlmann	DO	Para Archery Committee Chairperson	World Archery
<input type="checkbox"/> Rudi Van Den Abbeele		President	World Abilitysport
<input type="checkbox"/> Udo Ziegler		Secretary General Wheelchair Fencing	World Abilitysport
<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Morgan		Vice President	World Boccia
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Trayner		CEO	World Boccia
<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Okimura	LO	Vice President	WPV
<input type="checkbox"/> Debra Alexander		First Vice President	World Triathlon
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Allcroft		President	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergey Lyzhin	HSG	Honorary Secretary General	APSO

Invitees				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Perrot		Para Badminton Athletes' Commission Chair	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Felipe Rodrigues	FR	Head of Membership	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nyasha Mharakurwa	NM	Membership Manager of IF and IOSD Relations	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Cabo	JC	Membership Programmes Senior Manager	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian Holtz		Managing Director of World Para Sports	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jorge Moreno		Head of World Para Powerlifting	IPC
Apologies received				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tom Dielen		APSO Vice President	World Archery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steve Loader		APSO Executive Board Member	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dimitrije Lazarovski		Director for Para SnowSports	FIS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alistair Williams		Head of Wheelchair Tennis	ITF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Olof Hansson		Para Taekwondo Director	World Taekwondo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eric Angstadt Torres		Para triathlon Senior Manager	World Triathlon

Agenda			Speaker	Annex
1	Welcome		Chair	
2	Approval of the APSO GA 2023 Agenda		All	
3	Honorary Secretary General's report		HSG	
4	Finances			
	4.1	Approval of the accounts	All	X
	4.2	Annual subscription fee	All	
	4.3	Appointing of independent auditor	All	
5	IPC Grants and application process		IPC	X
6	IPC Classification Code review		All	
7	IPC General Assembly 2023		Chair	
8	Athletes with Russian/Belorussian passports		All	
9	European Para Championships 2023		All	
10	Any other business			

Minutes		
R: Resolution	T: Task	I: Information
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the APSO General Assembly (GA) and reminded members that her second and final term as APSO President was due to end in 2024. (I)</p> <p>Roll call was carried out. With 15 of 20 members being present the quorum was reached. (I)</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the APSO GA 2023 Agenda</p> <p>The Agenda for the APSO GA 2023 was modified to include item 9 "European Para Championships 2023" and subsequently approved. (R)</p>	
3	<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 for the second consecutive year and took place in February and March 2023. In total 44 participants were registered to the course of which one was a male. It was noted that 25% of participants were national level coaches. (I)</p> <p>LO informed the members that World ParaVolley participated to the course with a maximum of 6 women in the past 2 years, including herself, and that there were clear benefits for the IF. She encouraged APSO members to participate in the future editions of the course. HSG informed the members that Alison Creagh, another graduate from the APSO leadership course in 2022, was elected President of the Australian Paralympic Committee earlier in September 2023. (I)</p> <p>HSG presented results of the APSO survey on spendings towards para sport and various aspects of classification management. There were 19 completed surveys received from APSO members with only 1 of those having no breakdown on para expenses. On average there were 11 staff members available to para sport per IF (variation 0-90, median – 4). It was noted that in World Rowing and World Triathlon 100% of their staff was dealing with para sport matters on a regular basis. (I)</p> <p>HSG informed that with EUR 575.000 received via the IPC IF Grants by APSO members in 2022, they have spent the same year more than EUR 5.600.000 on para sport in total. Average expenditure per IF made it EUR 310.000 per year (0.1-4% of annual expenditure for integrated Olympic/Paralympic IFs), with a range of EUR 71.000 – 1.200.000 for individual IFs. (I)</p> <p>It was concluded that there was even split between IFs in terms of approach to medical data management systems. Some IFs were using IPC SDMS or its clone while the others managed documents via cloud server with limited access. There was also very diverse approach between IFs towards management of classifiers. Extract of detailed responses on these two subjects were made available to IFs upon request. (I)</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that the topic for the 2023 Sport Technical Meeting held on 15 June was Paralympic and regional Paralympic Games, where organising committees from Paris 2024, Milano-Cortina 2026, Accra 2023 and Santiago 2023 presented their progress reports to IFs. (I)</p> <p>HSG informed the members that APSO was planning to collect viewership data from the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The research was to be conducted by Intelligent Research In Sponsoring GmbH (IRIS) in collaboration with Association of Summer Olympic International Federation (ASOIF) so methodology to be consistent between Olympic and Paralympic Games. The viewership data was to be measured at least in 19 countries and was to be based on live coverage only. (I)</p>	

	TL noted that measuring audience based only on live signal might seriously affect viewership figures for certain markets due to time zone difference. It was suggested that inclusion of re-live and delayed broadcasts into scope of the research could serve better understanding of public interest towards para sports. TL also noted that markets being selected based on Olympic disciplines interest might not have the same relevance for para disciplines of those sports. HSG was tasked to request clarification on those matters from ASOIF/IRIS. (T)
4	Finances
4.1	<p>Approval of the accounts</p> <p>The HSG presented to the GA the audited accounts for 2022, an interim report on financial situation for 2023 and a budget for 2024. He also informed the members that GAISF Extraordinary General Assembly in 2022 decided to dissolve the association, hence the membership fee paid by APSO was reimbursed in full. (I)</p> <p>The GA unanimously approved audited accounts for 2022. (R)</p>
4.2	<p>Annual Subscription fee</p> <p>The GA approved to maintain the annual subscription fee at CHF 300. (R)</p>
4.3	<p>Appointing of independent auditor</p> <p>The GA unanimously approved re-appointment of Lausanne-based company Guédon Révision SA to a role of independent auditor for APSO. (R)</p>
5	<p>IPC Grants and application process</p> <p>FR provided GA with a summary of the Agitos Foundation restructuring that took place in the previous years and which was a part of a general IPC Governance review. (I)</p> <p>NM informed the GA that application process as well as the key parameters of the IF Grant were confirmed for 2024 and remained unchanged comparing to the previous year. The application process was to be opened in October 2023 with the application deadline set for 5 January 2024. Once application to be approved the IFs were to receive 80% of their respective grants in February and March 2024, with reporting deadline being set for 31 January 2025 and the remaining 20% to be transferred once the final report was submitted. (I)</p> <p>NM confirmed that the IF Grant could be used to cover registration fee for participants of the future editions of the leadership course referenced in item 3 of these Minutes. (I)</p> <p>CG raised a question on possibility of covering marketing and communication projects of commercial nature with IF Grant as that would help IFs to professionalise and further commercialise their para sports, hence rely less on IPC Grants in the future. FR explained that limitation of exclusive non-commercial use of funds originates from a legal form of the IPC according to the German Law, therefore projects of commercial nature could not be supported by the IPC. (I)</p> <p>JC presented to the GA Sport Technical Training and Training Camps (STT&TC) Grant which was available to NPCs with precondition that every paralympic sport had to be covered at least once in the NPC Development Program's life span (e.g., 2017-2024). Using of these grants was limited to "blue" and "green" NPCs only due to other 52 NPCs having direct development programs with Toyota under the framework of the TOP sponsorship programme. All relevant information on application process and timelines was to be distributed to the concerned IFs in October 2023. (I)</p>

	<p>CG noted that the vast majority of NPCs to date were focusing their development activities under the STT&TC Grant around summer sports only. It was also noted that the timeline for grant application and fund distribution was suboptimal for winter sports since it fell on mid-season for them. JC replied that STT&TC Grant's timeframes could be extended for that reason. (I)</p> <p>JC informed the GA that there were other development programs available to NPCs which could be also of benefit to IFs. Athlete Competition Support (ACS) Grant cover 2 para-athletes' plus one coach's participation to international sport event of NPC choice, hence IFs could coordinate with the relevant NPCs participation of their para-athletes in IFs' events. Regional Sport Training initiative under which IPC covered IFs' instructors and educators work on sub-regional level was another presented option. TL commented that BWF had a similar program to ACS Grant in place, therefore better exchange of information between the IFs and the IPC on such measures of support deemed necessary. (I)</p> <p>HSG was tasked to distribute slide deck of the IPC presentation to the members (T)</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>IPC Classification Code review</p> <p>Due to absence of Tom Dielen, the member of the Code Review Team who could provide an informative update and the fact that the topic was to be extensively covered in the next day's IPC Conference, it was agreed to proceed to the next agenda item without detailed discussion on the subject. (I)</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>IPC General Assembly 2023</p> <p>The Chair presented to the GA the proposed motions of the IPC 2023 GA. It was agreed that motions proposed for the IPC GA voting as well as the IPC Governing Board's position were clear and non-controversial, thus no further coordination between IFs on the voting items was required. (I)</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Athletes with Russian/Belorussian passports</p> <p>Every IF in attendance shared with the GA their current status of Russian and Belorussian national member association and whether or not athletes from those two countries were allowed to compete in any status. It was revealed that with exception of cycling and triathlon where junior athletes were permitted and were competing as neutrals, no para-athletes with Russian or Belorussian passports were competing or allowed to compete to date. (I)</p> <p>TL shared with the GA that background check of the neutrality for Russian and Byelorussian athletes was found very costly (ca. USD 700 per case at the best) and which required significant investment from IF side. Shifting that burden on athletes applying for neutral status was considered as option for the future. (I)</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>European Para Championships 2023</p> <p>HSG invited IFs to share their experience of the joint European Para Championships which took place for the first time in Rotterdam, the Netherlands in 2023. Feedback from participating athletes and teams across all sports was overwhelmingly positive as they all enjoyed the atmosphere of the multisport event. At the same time significant issues were encountered in several sports from organisational point of view. (I)</p> <p>It was reported that not all of IFs' requirements were met in the process of event preparation and that greater flexibility from some IFs was demanded (unilaterally) by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). DO recommended IFs to be very clear in terms of hosting agreement for any future events of such kind. (I)</p>

10	Other Business No other subject was proposed for discussion. (I)
	Closing The Chair thanked the members and the invitees for their participation to the GA and for fruitful discussion. The meeting was formally closed.