

MINUTES
APSO Executive Board Meeting, 5 March 2024



Meeting title	APSO Executive Board Meeting
Date	5 March 2024
Time	10.00 – 11.15 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"/> Mr Colin Grahamslaw (CG)	Member	WCF
<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 General Assembly 2024
3	APSO Sport technical meeting 2024
4	Update on Women Lead Sports programme 2024
5	Affiliate membership application
6	Update on European Para Championships 2027
7	Other business
	7.1 Athletes’ neutrality checks for Paris 2024
	7.2 Live coverage from Paris 2024
	7.3 IFs’ remuneration for multisport events
	7.4 Other topics
8	Next Meeting

Minutes	
1	<p>Welcome from the President</p> <p>The President welcomed Executive Board (EB) members to their first meeting in 2024 and thanked the EB members for their commitment to APSO duties during the very busy Olympic and Paralympic year for their respective International Federations (IFs).</p>
2	<p>APSO General Assembly 2024</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that there was no in-person general meeting planned by the IPC for their membership in 2024.</p> <p>TD suggested for APSO to host its General Assembly (GA) following the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games in a virtual format in order to debrief and assess the outcomes of the Games and to provide common feedback to the IPC and potentially the Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee (LOCOG). The EB members unanimously supported that suggestion, SLY was tasked to proceed with the respective preparations.</p> <p>SLY reminded the EB members that in order to preserve the 4-year term of office for the EB members and in accordance with article 12.3 of the APSO Statutes, the most recent elections took place in the 2021 GA for the period of 2021-2025, despite the following notion of the same article, which prescribed having elections in the <i>year following the Paralympic Summer Games</i>. SLY was tasked to circulate the respective communication to APSO members that the next election of the EB members, including the President, would take place in the GA 2025.</p>
3	<p>APSO Sport technical meeting 2024</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that he recently had a number of discussions with various stakeholders on potential topics for the 2024 Sport technical meeting. Among those were safeguarding in para sport and multi-para sport events (mainly on the European level).</p> <p>CH reminded the EB members that the Sport technical meeting originated from a necessity to have regular exchanges between IFs and IOSDs on technical matters for their respective sports and that there was a lack of such communications in recent years.</p> <p>The EB members supported the latter suggestion, with mid-May 2024 to be considered as the preferred timeline for the meeting in question. SLY was tasked to proceed with the respective preparations.</p>
4	<p>Update on Women Lead Sports programme 2024</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that 40 women from 26 countries representing 16 APSO members as well as the IPC participated in the 2024 Women Lead Sports programme. Despite the program was opened to male participants this time, no slots were allocated to men by IFs. He also reported that the programme’s coach, Gabriela Mueller, was very positive about participants’ capacities and personal stories and that the selection carried out by their respective stakeholders was excellent.</p> <p>SI informant the EB members that she has attended graduation sessions for both APSO groups on the leadership programme and that participants were very appreciative of being able to attend such a learning course.</p>

	<p>CG shared with the EB members that WCF had registered 4 women this time, however, for an organization of their size, it could be challenging to participate every year with that high number of participants. Therefore, he suggested considering shifting the program’s frequency to a bi-annual format. SLY clarified that in each of the past 3 editions of the programme, there were different IFs participating with a greater number of women than others. Hence, it was expected that if the IF could not commit to the leadership programme with a consistently high number of participants from one year to another, there would be other stakeholders to take up available slots. EB members took note of that clarification and supported continuation of the programme.</p> <p>SLY was tasked with conducting a Request for Interest (RFI) survey for APSO membership in order to define the volume of the next edition of the leadership programme.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Affiliate membership application</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members that an application for APSO Affiliate status was received from Virtus, which was in full accordance with the established procedure and the required standards. After carefully evaluating the application file, the EB members unanimously agreed to recommend APSO GA 2024 to admit Virtus as an APSO Affiliate.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Update on European Para Championships 2027</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members about his recent interactions with key stakeholders of the European Para Championships (EPC) and their interest in coordinating any future editions of the event with IFs at the earliest convenience. He also shared with the EB members that the European Para Championships BV, a Dutch legal entity that owned the event, had received 2 bids from Germany and Turkey to host the 2027 edition of the EPC.</p> <p>The EB members shared the opinion that fair remuneration for IFs for their expertise and sport-related services should be a cornerstone for any future collaboration between the IFs and owners of multisport events, irrespective of the non-profit or profit-oriented nature of the latter.</p> <p>SI underlined that financial profit from being part of multi-parasport events was never sought by IFs and IOSDs. However, their events-related expenses should be adequately covered.</p> <p>To strengthen IFs’ position in any future negotiations with multi-parasport event owners, the EB members tasked SLY with elaborating a template of an IF survey on Paralympic Games-related expenses. In order to support him in this task, the EB members agreed to provide him with their respective IFs’ input.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Other business</p> <p>7.1 Athletes’ neutrality checks for Paris 2024</p> <p>CH shared with the EB members that World Abilitysport commissioned neutral athletes’ background check prior to the wheelchair fencing European Championships to an independent entity. She also reported that only para athletes from Belarus applied for neutral status. The EB members concluded that the situation was consistent across a number of para sports. After an exchange of information, it was revealed that most IFs utilize either Nagra Kudelski or Sportradar services for athletes’ neutrality checks.</p>

	<p>7.2 Live coverage from Paris 2024</p> <p>SL informed the EB members that WPV expressed their serious frustration and concerns about IPC’s broadcasting plan for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, where sitting volleyball was one of the three, and the only team sport on the Games programme with no live coverage planned for their preliminary stage. The issue was addressed in a series of email exchanges and a videoconference call between the IPC and WPV, where the former managed to explain in detail the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders for the Games production plan. The EB members praised IPC’s transparency on such a sensitive subject and agreed for SI to approach the IPC with a request to organize a general call on Paralympic Games’ production clarification for all IFs.</p> <p>7.3 IFs’ remuneration for multisport events</p> <p>The subject was sufficiently covered under item 6; no further discussion took place.</p>
8	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>SLY was tasked with proposing dates for the next EB meeting to take place prior to the APSO Sport technical meeting 2024.</p>
	<p>The President thanked everyone for the productive and fruitful discussion. The meeting was formally closed.</p>