

MINUTES

APSO Executive Board Meeting, 23 June 2025



Meeting title	APSO Executive Board Meeting
Date	23 June 2025
Time	11.30 – 12.30 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"/> 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 2025
3	APSO Strategic Plan
4	APSO Sport technical meeting 2025
5	APSO Classification Commission
6	Issues raised by APSO members
7	Other business
8	Next Meeting

Minutes	
1	<p>Welcome from the President</p> <p>The President welcomed the Executive Board (EB) members to their first meeting of 2025. She introduced the busy agenda and noted that the current EB's term of service is approaching its conclusion. She proposed a detailed discussion on potential improvements for future APSO elections, particularly regarding the establishment of clear role descriptions and a code of conduct for election campaigns. She encouraged all EB members to share their thoughts openly and actively.</p>

2	<p>APSO General Assembly 2025</p> <p>SLY informed the EB members about the preparations for the APSO General Assembly (GA) 2025. The EB agreed that the GA will take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on the afternoon of 23 September 2025, the day prior to the IPC Conference. SLY noted that the exact venue had not yet been confirmed, and it was agreed that the formal GA calling notice would be circulated to the APSO membership with an appropriate note regarding the venue.</p> <p>CG noted that in recent years it has become evident that the hybrid format of meetings, while enabling broader attendance, significantly compromises the quality of discussion and is costly to arrange. The EB members agreed that most APSO members would be attending the IPC Conference and the General Assembly in Seoul the following day, and therefore decided to hold the GA in an exclusively in-person format.</p> <p>SI suggested enhancing the standards for APSO elections by introducing a dedicated Code of Conduct, a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement, and other measures to ensure future elections align with good governance principles. It was proposed to adopt the templates prepared jointly by SLY and FEI Director of Governance, Francisco Lima. The Executive Board approved the proposed templates, subject to the implementation of a few recommended amendments regarding formatting and wording.</p> <p>The EB unanimously agreed to conduct the 2025 GA elections using paper ballots, citing the disproportionately high cost of electronic voting systems.</p> <p>CG suggested that the presence of independent scrutineers would be essential to ensure the APSO elections are conducted to a high standard. The EB unanimously agreed to consider appointing scrutineers from among members that do not have candidates standing for election. The specific individuals will be identified once the list of candidates and attendees is confirmed. It was decided that the appointment of scrutineers will be subject to a vote by the GA.</p> <p>SI suggested giving the candidates for the APSO Presidency an opportunity to address the GA prior to the approval of the scrutineers. The EB members unanimously supported this proposal.</p> <p>SI suggested that the FEI host a cocktail reception for GA participants following the conclusion of the meeting. The EB members agreed to the proposal.</p>
3	<p>APSO Strategic Plan</p> <p>SLY presented the final draft of the APSO Strategy for 2025-2032. He noted that the Strategy was shaped by input from APSO members during the Strategic Session held in November 2024, as well as through one-on-one interviews with IFs and external stakeholders. These insights were processed by the informal working group, which consisted of TD, SL, World Boccia President Jon Morgan, Quantum Consultancy Head of Insights & Analytics Krzysztof Kropielnicki, and SLY. SI thanked the members of the group for their diligent work.</p> <p>The EB unanimously approved the APSO Strategy and agreed to propose it to the GA for members' endorsement.</p>
4	<p>APSO Sport technical meeting 2025</p> <p>SLY proposed to hold the annual APSO Sport Technical Meeting in a virtual format during the second half of August 2025, with the discussion focused on various aspects of hosting a Para sport event. The EB approved the proposed format, timing and topic.</p>

	<p>CH reminded the EB members that the Asian Paralympic Committee GA was scheduled for 10-15 August 2025 and the European Paralympic Committee GA for 29-30 August 2025, both of which will potentially involve participation from several IFs and IOSDs. The EB took note of these arrangements and tasked SI and SLY with identifying a meeting date that would avoid conflicts with these major events.</p>
5	<p>APSO Classification Commission</p> <p>SLY presented to the EB a draft of the Terms of Reference for the APSO Classification Commission, the establishment of which was clearly identified as necessary following discussions with APSO Members during the IPC Open Days 2025.</p> <p>The EB approved both the proposed Terms of Reference and the creation of the Commission. SLY was tasked with informing APSO Members of this decision and inviting them to submit nominations for Commission membership. It was agreed that the final size of the Commission would be determined with consideration of the number of applications received.</p>
6	<p>Issues raised by APSO members</p> <p>6.1 IPC Election candidates at the APSO 2025 GA</p> <p>World Boccia raised the question of whether APSO should consider inviting candidates for the upcoming IPC elections to the APSO GA to present their vision regarding engagement with IFs and IOSDs.</p> <p>The EB agreed that such an approach is consistent with the newly adopted APSO Strategy. However, the EB also acknowledged that inviting all candidates for IPC Governing Board positions (given their typically large number) could risk overwhelming APSO's own GA agenda. To ensure the meeting remains within the planned two-hour timeframe, the EB decided to invite only the IPC Presidential candidates to address the APSO GA, should they wish to do so and provided that this does not conflict with the IPC's election rules and procedures.</p> <p>6.2 Formal recognition of APSO by IPC and delegation of duties</p> <p>FIS raised the question of whether APSO should proactively seek formal recognition within the IPC structure, advocate for the inclusion of an IFs' and IOSDs' representative on the IPC Governing Board, and request the delegation of specific tasks related to Para sports to APSO.</p> <p>The EB agreed that securing a permanent seat for an IFs' and IOSDs' representative on the IPC Governing Board has been a longstanding topic in the relationship between the two organisations, and that it is now explicitly reflected in the APSO Strategy.</p> <p>SI noted that the current agreement between APSO and the IPC partially addresses the other elements of the question. The EB agreed to revisit and potentially revise this agreement upon its renewal, either later this year or in 2026.</p> <p>6.3 Renewal of IOC-IPC agreement</p> <p>IWBF raised the question of whether APSO has any involvement in the negotiations between the IOC and IPC regarding the renewal of their partnership agreement, which is set to expire in 2032.</p> <p>The EB acknowledged that APSO has never been involved, nor is it currently involved, in any such negotiations. It was further noted that it would be highly unrealistic for APSO to become directly engaged in these discussions, should they take place.</p>

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7	Other business No other subject was proposed for discussion.
8	Next Meeting SLY was tasked with proposing dates for the next EB meeting to take place prior to the APSO GA 2025.
	The President thanked everyone for the productive and fruitful discussion. The meeting was formally closed.