APSO

ASSOCIATION OF PARALYMPIC SPORTS ORGANISATIONS

Meeting title	**APSO General Assembly**
Date	23 September 2025
Time	16:00-17:50
Venue	Space Share Samsung Station Center, Seoul, Republic of Korea
Chair	Sabrina Ibáñez
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin

Participants			
APSO Representatives	Initial	Title	IF
☐ Sabrina Ibáñez	Chair	APSO President	FEI
☐ Tom Dielen	TD	APSO Vice President	World Archery
☐ Charmaine Hooper		APSO Executive Board Member	World Abilitysport
☐ Steve Loader		APSO Executive Board Member	WWR
☐ Richard Perot		Vice President	BWF
☐ Thomas Lund		Secretary General	BWF
☐ Ronan Murphy		Director for Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting	FEI
☐ Olle Dahlin	OD	President	IBU
☐ Michel Alarcon		Global Director - ICF Development	ICF
☐ Petra Sorling	PS	President	ITTF
☐ Raul Calin		Secretary General	ITTF
☐ Ulf Mehrens		President	IWBF
☐ Gabriel Zangenfeind		Secretary General	IWBF
☐ Todd Fraser		Para-Cycling Manager	UCI
☐ Robyn Smith		Governing Board Member	Virtus
☐ Jon Morgan		President	World Boccia
☐ Paul Trayner		CEO	World Boccia
☐ Jiří Snítil		Competition Officer	World Curling
☐ Juergen Schrapp	JS	President	WPV
☐ Elvira Stinissen		Vice President	WPV
☐ David Graham		CEO	World Sailing
☐ Usman Dildar		Para Taekwondo Chair	World Taekwondo
☐ Olof Hansson		Para Taekwondo Director	World Taekwondo
☐ Antoni Arimany	AA	President	World Triathlon

☐ Debra Alexander	DA	Vice President	World Triathlon
☐ Richard Allcroft	RA	President	WWR
☐ Sergey Lyzhin	HSG	Honorary Secretary General	APSO
Invitees			
☐ Christian Holtz		Managing Director	IPC
☐ Felipe Rodrigues		Head of Membership	IPC
☐ Silke Tolonen		Membership Manager of IF and IOSD Relations	IPC
Apologies received			
☐ Colin Grahamslaw		APSO Executive Board Member	WCF
☐ Dimitrije Lazarovski		Development Programme Director	FIS
☐ Rufat Hajili		Executive Director	IBSA
☐ Alistair Williams		Head of Wheelchair Tennis	ITF
☐ Jodie Cameron		Events Coordinator	World Rowing

Agenda			**Speaker**
1	**Welcome**		Chair
2	**Approval of the APSO GA 2025 Agenda**		All
3	**Honorary Secretary General's Report**		HSG
4	**Finances**		
	4.1	**Approval of the accounts**	All
	4.2	**Annual subscription fee**	All
	4.3	**Appointing of independent auditor**	All
5	**APSO Strategy 2025-2032**		All
6	**IPC General Assembly 2025**		All
7	**Admission of new members**		All
8	**Any other business**		All
9	**APSO elections**		
	9.1	**Presentation from APSO Presidency candidates**	
	9.2	**Appointment of scrutineers**	
	9.3	**Election of APSO President**	
	9.4	**Election of APSO Directors**	

Minutes R: Resolution T: Task I: Information	
1	**Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the APSO General Assembly (GA) and highlighted the significance of the meeting due to the election of a new Executive Board (EB). She noted that, over the past eight years since APSO's creation, the world has witnessed not only tremendous challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, but also remarkable progress across multiple areas, including the growth of the Paralympic Movement and women's sport. She expressed her gratitude to the members of the outgoing Executive Board for their dedicated service, to APSO's founding board members Maureen Orchard and Henk van Aller for their commitment to the organisation's establishment, and to the APSO Secretariat for its ongoing support throughout the EB's term of office. **(I)** The roll call was conducted. With 17 out of 21 members present, the quorum was confirmed. **(I)**
2	**Approval of the APSO GA 2025 Agenda** The agenda for the APSO GA 2025 was amended to include a vote on allowing Sabrina Ibáñez and Tom Dielen to remain as signatories for the APSO bank accounts until the newly elected Executive Board members obtain signatory rights in accordance with Swiss regulations, and to reorder the "Any Other Business" item to precede the APSO elections. The amended agenda was approved. **(R)**
3	**Honorary Secretary General's Report** The HSG informed the members that APSO agreement with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has expired and the process of its renewal was initiated by APSO secretariat. **(I)** The HSG noted that the outcomes of the Paris 2024 debrief were shared with the IPC President and CEO during a videoconference in February 2025. Although the report was very positively received and the IPC Leadership acknowledged the persistent issues raised, there has been no meaningful follow-up to this exchange, and the IPC's overall approach to Paralympic Games preparations has not changed significantly. **(I)** The HSG highlighted the informal APSO members' gathering held during the IPC Open Days in May 2025, which provided an excellent platform for exchanging ideas on marketing opportunities for Para sport and enhancing collaboration on classification management among APSO members. **(I)** The HSG informed members that the 2025 Sport Technical Meeting, held on 21 August, covered topics such as Para sport event entry fee policies, cost models, technical officials, staffing, as well as accessibility and logistics issues. It was noted that the meeting was highly valued by the participants, and that several meaningful knowledge-sharing initiatives were supported, including the development of a common database of reliable hosts and transport providers for Para sport events worldwide. **(I)** The HSG reminded the members that the APSO Classification Commission (ACC) was formally established, composed of six experts from member federations and chaired by Pable Perez from ITTF. The Commission held its first meeting on 26 August 2025 to discuss classification costs, cross-sport collaboration, and the recruitment and training of classifiers. **(I)** In conclusion the HSG reported that the APSO Election Rules and Procedures had been developed by the EB to ensure transparent and efficient conduct of the upcoming APSO elections in full accordance with the APSO Statutes. **(I)**

4	**Finances**	
	4.1	**Approval of the accounts** The HSG presented to the GA the audited accounts for 2024, an interim report on financial situation for 2025 and a budget for 2026. **(I)** TD acknowledged that the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games data collection was made possible in large part thanks to the significant financial contribution of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and expressed gratitude for their support on behalf of the EB. **(I)** The GA approved audited accounts for 2024. **(R)**
	4.2	**Annual Subscription fee** The Chair suggested maintaining the annual subscription fee at CHF 300, but proposed to consider a partial increase for 2027 and beyond, at least for certain groups of APSO members, in order to enhance financial stability and ensure sufficient resources for meaningful APSO projects. **(I)** The GA took note of the proposal and approved maintaining the annual subscription fee at CHF 300. **(R)**
	4.3	**Appointing of independent auditor** The GA unanimously approved re-appointment of Lausanne-based company Guédon Révision SA to a role of independent auditor for APSO. **(R)**
5	**APSO Strategy 2025-2032** The HSG presented the APSO Strategy 2025–2032, a roadmap developed through consultation with members and adopted by the Executive Board. **(I)** The HSG informed the members that the strategy responds to the evolving environment in sport and to members' requests for APSO to become stronger, more unified, and more relevant. **(I)** The HSG highlighted APSO's progress since its establishment in 2017, noting achievements such as safeguarding guidance, women in sport leadership initiatives, member surveys, and enhanced technical collaboration with the IPC. **(I)** The HSG presented APSO's mission—to unite, support, and represent International Federations in the Paralympic Movement—and its vision to be a credible and influential voice for Para sport, guided by the values of unity, credibility, relevance, and shared progress. **(I)** The HSG outlined the four strategic pillars forming the foundation of the strategy: • Smarter Foundations – strengthening governance, compliance, classification, and education through shared tools and training; • Stronger Together – promoting a unified voice and coordinated advocacy among members; • Open Doors – developing partnerships with the IPC, OCOGs, ASOIF and Winter Olympic Federations (WOF) to ensure APSO members are involved in key decision-making processes; • Growth from Within – reinforcing APSO's internal capacity, communications, and member engagement. **(I)** The HSG emphasised that the strategy focuses on doing what matters most and will be implemented through a clear roadmap, with regular updates and opportunities for members to lead specific work areas. **(I)**	

	AA suggested that, in line with the "Open Doors" strategic pillar, the Strategy should also address the relationship between IFs and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and promote closer engagement between these two groups of IPC members. **(I)** JS noted that adopting the 2025–2032 Strategy by the outgoing Executive Board shortly before the end of its term of office seemed controversial. He suggested that the candidates for the APSO Presidency be invited to indicate whether they endorse the Strategy or would approach its implementation differently if elected. DA and RA both expressed their full commitment to implementing the 2025-2032 Strategy. **(I)** OD and PS both suggested that, in line with the APSO Strategy, the organisation should seek a more prominent role in the planning of both the Winter and Summer Paralympic Games. Several International Federations cited well-known instances of differing remuneration fees and service levels for Technical Officials working at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The membership agreed that such issues could be prevented should IFs and IOSDs be consulted in advance of the Paralympic Games. **(I)** The APSO Strategy 2025–2032 was endorsed unanimously by the membership. **(R)**
6	**IPC General Assembly 2025** The HSG informed members that this agenda item had been included to allow the IPC Presidency candidates to present their vision for the relationship between the IPC and the IFs, and to answer any specific questions from the APSO Membership. However, after contacting the IPC Election Oversight Panel to arrange the candidates' participation, it became clear that, due to internal limitations of the IPC electoral rules, such participation would be restricted to presentations only, with no debates or questions permitted. Consequently, it was agreed to repurpose the agenda item to focus on discussing the motions proposed for the IPC General Assembly. **(I)** RA highlighted that although the proposed amendments to the IPC Constitution were presented as clarifications with minimal accompanying rationale, several of them would substantially alter the meaning of the constitutional articles. He referred specifically to items concerning the automatic admission of IFs as IPC Members, the appointment of Technical Delegates for Paralympic Games sports, and the adjournment of the IPC GA in cases where a quorum cannot be met. He informed members that the rationale for these changes had been formally requested from the IPC. The APSO members took note of these developments. **(I)**
7	**Admission of new members** The HSG informed members that the receipt of a membership application from the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) had been expected, as the federation became eligible for APSO membership following the inclusion of Para Sport Climbing in the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games programme. However, the application was not received in time, and therefore there was no basis for voting. The APSO members took note of the information provided. **(I)**
8	**Other Business** **Signatories for APSO Bank Accounts** The Chair explained that, under Swiss national regulations, not every non-Swiss resident automatically obtains bank account signatory rights, even if elected in accordance with the Association's Statutes. Therefore, she proposed authorising Sabrina Ibáñez and Tom Dielen to remain as signatories for the APSO bank accounts for an interim period, until the newly elected Executive Board members obtain their signatory rights. **(I)** The GA unanimously approved the appointment of Sabrina Ibáñez and Tom Dielen as signatories for the APSO bank accounts for the interim period. **(R)**

	Changes to classification procedures AA raised concern regarding the changes to the classification processes introduced with the adoption of the new edition of the IPC Classification Code. The new Code assigns IFs the responsibility for conducting Underlying Health Condition (UHC) assessments of athletes and requires that the first-instance body of appeal on Intentional Misrepresentation (IM) cases be operationally independent from both the IF and the IPC. This means that the IPC's Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) would not handle such cases. TRI expressed the view that both of these areas should remain under the IPC's management to optimise resource allocation. **(I)** TD explained that the changes introduced in the new Code were based on feedback received from IFs, which had expressed dissatisfaction with the high level of IPC involvement in sport-specific regulations and requested greater autonomy over their respective sports. The membership agreed to continue collaborating on a collective approach to UHC assessments and to further discuss the IM appeal procedure among themselves and with the IPC as soon as possible. **(R)**
9	**APSO Elections** HSG informed the members that two candidatures had been received for the position of APSO President and 4 candidatures had been received for 4 positions of APSO EB members. **(I)**
	9.1 **Presentation from APSO Presidency candidates** Both candidates were invited to present their speeches to the GA. DA and RA each addressed the membership, presenting their respective visions and priorities for the future of APSO. **(I)**
	9.2 **Appointment of scrutineers** The Chair proposed the appointment of Olof Hanson and Christian Holtz as scrutineers. The General Assembly unanimously approved the appointment of Olof Hanson and Christian Holtz as scrutineers for the APSO elections. **(R)**
	9.3 **Election of APSO President** Voting ballots were distributed to the voting delegates of APSO Members entitled to vote, and a secret ballot was conducted. DA received 10 votes, and RA received 5 votes. Debra Alexander was elected APSO President for the 2025–2029 term. **(R)**
	9.4 **Election of APSO Directors** Charmaine Hooper (World Abilitysport), Steve Loader (WWR), Richard Perot (BWF) and Jiří Snítil (WCF) were elected APSO EB members for the term of 2025-2029. **(R)**
	Closing In her closing remarks, the Chair expressed that it had been a pleasure to work with all members over the past 8 years and thanked them for their dedication and commitment. The meeting was formally closed.