



GLOBAL NETWORK OF PARALYMPIC ATHLETES' REPRESENTATIVES

CONFERENCE CALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JULY 2020

Dear fellow athletes,

Thank you for joining the call with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletes' Council for an update on our activities and the main topics discussed during the recent Governing Board meeting.

Also, on the call we had: Mr. Andrew Parsons, IPC President, Dr. Mike Peters, IPC CEO, IPC Athletes' Council members and IPC senior Management staff.

Below are key points from the call:

Update on IPC Athletes' Council activities

- **Post-nominal letters:** Following the General Assembly motion to honour Paralympians with post nominal letters, the Athletes' Council and Management have made significant progress with plans to launch the project in the last quarter of 2020.
- **Athletes' Council Vice-Chairperson resignation:** Kurt Fearnley is the newly elected Vice Chairperson of the Athletes' Council following Elvira Stinissen's [resignation](https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096113/ipc-athletes-council-vice-chair-resigns) <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1096113/ipc-athletes-council-vice-chair-resigns> on 31 May 2020.
- **Vision Impaired classification survey:** As part of their research, the IPC Classification department conducted a survey with various stakeholders including the Athletes' Council as well as IFs' athlete representatives.
- **Athletes' Forum:** We are currently exploring the next date and venue for the Forum. This will be communicated.

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games Updates

- **Announcement** of the postponement was made on 24 March 2020 with agreement on the new Paralympic Games dates a few days later (24 August - 5 September 2021)
- Paralympic Games positioning principles and road map - <https://tokyo2020.org/en/paralympics/news/tokyo-2020-announces-paralympic-games-positioning-principles-and-roadmap>
- **Qualification Criteria:** The most up-to-date version of the document can be found here: <https://www.paralympic.org/tokyo-2020/qualification-criteria>
- **Competition schedule & venue masterplan:** [On 3 August, Tokyo 2020 released the competition schedule for summer 2021](#) as well as the confirmed venues masterplan. Tokyo 2020 is intending to keep the same competition schedule as was planned for summer 2020 in 2021. Tokyo 2020 is also committed to use of the same competition and non-competition venues (apart from Uniform and Distribution centre) as was planned for

summer 2020. Negotiations are on-going with venue owners and Tokyo 2020 is positive on confirming the venue master plan as per the timelines.

- **Update on Tokyo classification:** Since the consultation round with the IFs and NPCs that took place in March 2020, the IPC Classification Committee and Management Team have been exploring the different scenarios that might occur in return to sport between now and Tokyo and exploring possible solutions to address the classification needs in each scenario. A number of potential solutions and a risk assessment against each possible solution is being explored. Ultimately, this issue will be led by the IFs in collaboration with the IPC, as the IFs are responsible for classification within their respective sports.

Information for Para athletes and IPC members on covid-19

- The IPC continues to issue updates on covid-19 published on the [website](#).

Global consultation regarding athlete protests

- The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Athletes' Council is to launch a [consultation exercise](#) with the global Para athlete community to gather a better understanding on ways athletes could express their views on key subjects at the Paralympic Games, while respecting the Paralympic Movement's values and principles.

IWBF update on Classification

- The IWBF has made progress in assessing the eligibility of 4.0 and 4.5 point players ahead of Tokyo 2020, with 75% of all assessments now being completed.
- In May, IPC extended the deadline for the IWBF as a result of challenges faced completing the process due to the pandemic.
- The IPC provided some clarification on what was considered to be a misleading letter that IWBF sent to its national federations on 11 June.
- The IPC Governing Board considers the IWBF's recent statement to be entirely misleading and therefore felt compelled to provide members with the [full facts and information on this matter](#).

Governance Review

- At the Governing Board meeting, IPC Vice President Duane Kale presented key findings and feedback from IPC members on the IPC Governance Review reform proposal "Remaining Fit for Purpose" which was first published in October 2019.

- Following feedback from IPC members, IPC Athletes Council, Para athlete community and further Board consultation, the IPC will publish an updated governance review proposal later this year, highlighting all updates. A further round of consultation will then take place with the IPC membership.
- Some elements of the IPC Governance Review which do not relate to the Governing Board Composition or Board elections, will be put forward for voting on at the 2021 IPC General Assembly. These two specific elements would need to be approved in advance of a Board election GA and therefore will be considered by the incoming board and if agreed, voting on at the 2023 GA.
- The increased Athlete voice and involvement in decision making is an element that would not be impacted in taking the proposal to the 2021 GA vote.

#WeThe15 update

- The #WeThe15 campaign has benefitted from the Tokyo postponement. It has given us time to develop the campaign, so it is even bigger and better.
- Campaign will launch on 19 or 20 August 2021 and the campaign has two objectives - celebrate the world's one billion persons with disabilities and empower governments, businesses and the public to make changes to drive social inclusion.
- To maximise the impact of the campaign the IPC has partnered with the following organisations to support the implementation: United Nations, UN Human Rights, World Bank, World Health Organisation, International Disability Alliance, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the Valuable 500. President Obama's former Disability Advisor has also been supporting the development of the initiative.
- IPC is working on a plan for how each IPC member can support the launch and implementation of the campaign next year.

The Rising Phoenix: The story of the Paralympics

- On 22 July it will be announced that Netflix has purchased the rights to the Paralympic documentary which is now called The Rising Phoenix.
- The documentary features the stories of several leading Paralympians. It also tells the story of how the London 2012 Paralympics were hugely successful and how Rio 2016 was equally as successful despite the major challenges we faced in the final 12 months. Along the way Sir Ludwig Guttmann's daughters talk about how the Paralympics came to be in the first place.
- In August the first [trailer](#) for the movie will appear before the full film goes live on 26 August.

- The IPC is working with Netflix on a communications plan and will be in touch with IPC members shortly on how they can support activities.

For more information on the IPC Athletes' Council, please see our website:

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletes-council>

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParaAthleteClub/>

If you have any suggestions or ways we can improve on the logistics or execution of the global calls with athlete representatives, please feel free to reach out to us at anytime. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at athletescouncil@paralympic.org.

Thank you and kind regards,

Chelsey Gotell



Chairperson, IPC Athletes' Council