

IPC Athletes' Council Meeting

09 – 11 November 2018

Bonn, Germany

Executive summary

Reports

The IPC Athletes' Council (AC) was updated by reports from the Chairperson (Chelsey Gotell), IPC CEO (Xavier Gonzalez) and IOC Athletes' Commission Member (Danka Bartekova). Reports were also provided by some of the Regional Organisations. AC members Monica Bascio reported from her attendance at the IOC Americas Athletes' Forum and Americas Athlete Workshop and Suk Man Hong reported on his attendance at the Asian Para Games.

Anti-Doping Update

IPC Anti-Doping Director James Sclater provided a global overview on testing statistics of Para athletes and the IPC's global testing statistics. Furthermore, he highlighted that the IPC Anti-Doping Department will be reviewing their testing strategy for the coming year.

James also gave an update status about the suspension of the Russian Paralympic Committee and on the lifting of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) suspension by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Classification update

In line with the IPC Athletes' Council strategy to improve communication with athletes, the group organised a Facebook Live session to discuss classification via the Para Athlete Club. The IPC Medical and Scientific Director Peter Van De Vliet led the discussion by answering questions that had been submitted in advance to the Athletes' Council Chairperson. During the one-hour session, there was an average of 45 viewers.

After announcing that the live session would take place, the Para Athlete Club had approximately 280+ new member requests. This highlighted the interest from the athlete community and the need for further such two-way dialogue between athletes and the IPC.

Requests also came from NPCs, IFs, coaches and classifiers, which were managed through the administrative end of the group to monitor new members. Members of the Facebook group were engaged in comments and additional questions.



By 7 December the session had been viewed 760 times. The Facebook Live session video is still available on the closed Para Athlete Club group.

Governance update

Ahead of the session on the IPC governance review, Mike Peters, the IPC's Chief Operating Officer, and Liz Riley, the IPC's General Counsel, joined the meeting to discuss IPC governance, IPC AC Bylaws and Membership Rights and Obligations.

IPC governance review

The Council had an informative brainstorming session with Maria Clarke, a member of the IPC Governance Review Working Group. Maria gave an overview of the group's terms of reference, areas they are focusing on and an insight of the overview of where they are, and work done so far. The brainstorm session focused on ideas and changes for consideration in the IPC's governance review as the organisation looks to become more athlete-centred. This included reviewing the effectiveness of the AC bylaws and election process, and putting an athlete lens on the IPC constitution, Membership and Rights Obligations, organisational structure and functions.

Outreach outlook 2018-2019

The Athletes' Council was provided with an overview and update of the 2018 outreach activities. In addition to written reports provided, relevant Athletes' Council members gave brief reports of the Outreach World Championships events they attended. The IPC Athletes' Council was present at the following 2018 World Championships and multi-sport Games

- Boccia World Championships
- Wheelchair Basketball Championships
- Wheelchair Rugby Championships
- Para Canoe World Championships
- PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games
- Asian Para Games

2019

Members of the Athletes' Council plan to be present at various World Championships during 2019. IF Athlete Reps are encouraged to touch base with their relevant IPC Athletes' Council member liaison to discuss scheduled World Championships for their sport. If an IF Athlete Rep is unsure who their AC liaison is, please contact athletescouncil@paralympic.org.

IPC Athletes' Forum 2019

It was reported that the IPC had not received any formal bid to host the 2019 Athletes' Forum. A few possibilities of hosting were discussed during the meeting and the plan is to have secured a



venue and have it communicated by end of December 2018. The Forum is scheduled to be hosted in the second half of 2019. Further details regarding the Forum format and participants are under discussion.

Athletes' Council Strategy and Implementation

The Athletes' Council Chairperson presented the draft strategy to the IPC membership at September's IPC Membership Gathering in Madrid. The Council discussed the implementation of the long-term strategy which will help the athlete community thrive both on and off the field of play. The strategy will be launched in 2019, and includes programmes, resources and various opportunities to be implemented.

Athletes' Hub

An online platform, currently called the IPC Athletes' Hub, will launch in 2019 and will be a one stop location for all IPC Athletes' Council communications, athlete focused resources and strategy resources.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in the first quarter of 2019.

In case of any questions, please contact us:

IPC Athletes Council athletescouncil@paralympic.org <https://www.paralympic.org/athletes-council>