

International
Paralympic
Committee

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Athletes' Council Strategy

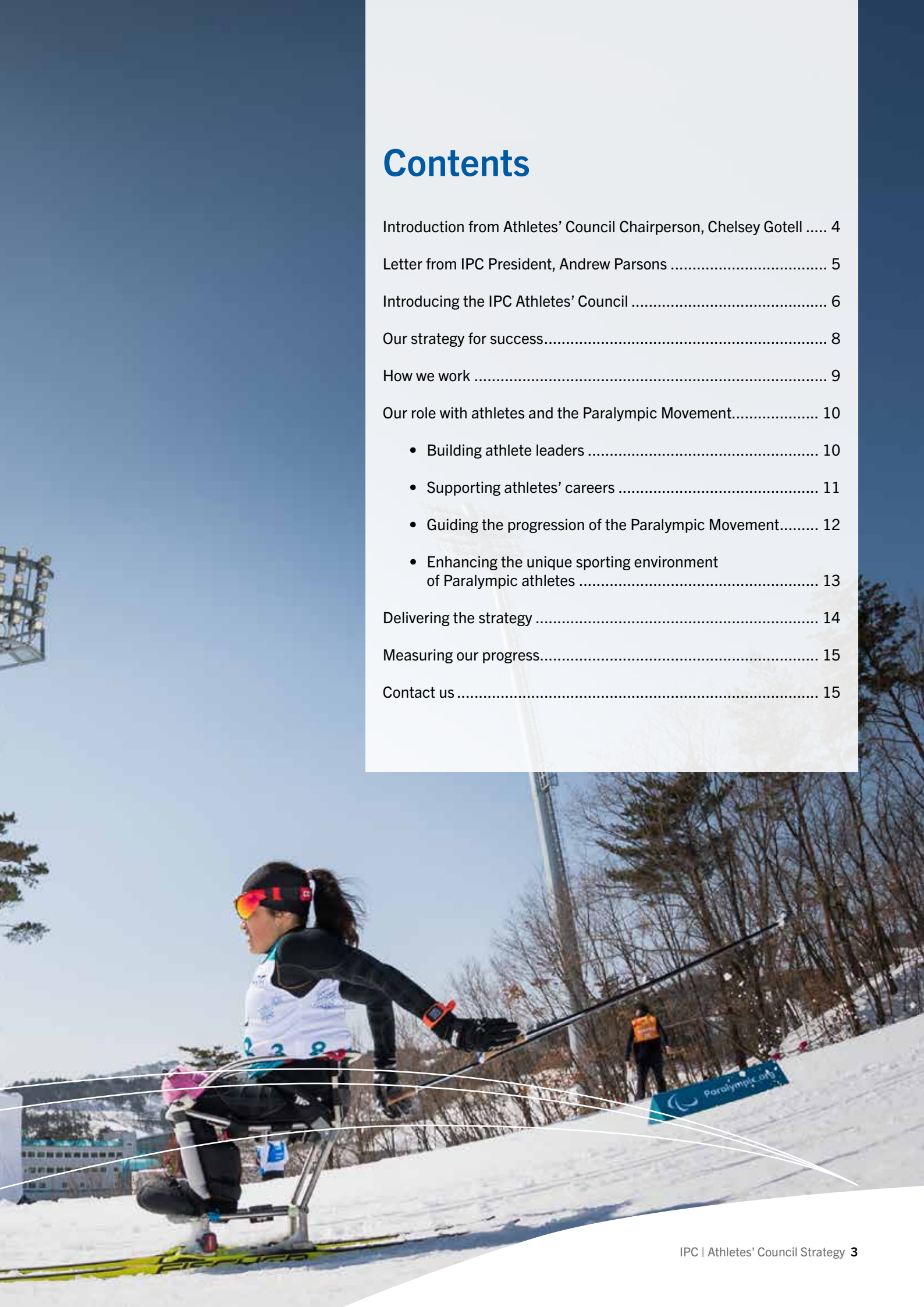
At the heart





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Introduction from Athletes' Council Chairperson, Chelsey Gotell



As the Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council, it is my pleasure to present to you *At the heart*, our strategy for the period 2019-2022.

Developed over the past two years, and after close consultation with athlete representatives throughout the Paralympic Movement, this document serves as a guide to both athletes and the IPC membership as to how we can further build athlete leaders and ensure the Paralympic Movement is athlete-centred.

The elected and co-opted IPC Athlete Council members are fully committed to delivering this strategy between now and 2022, but we cannot do it alone. As with all achievements in sport, they involve a strong team effort and the implementation of this plan is no different.

This strategy is for the whole Paralympic Movement. It needs to be endorsed, supported and implemented at all levels from the IPC Governing Board and management team to all of the IPC's 200+ members.

I am confident that by delivering this strategy, which covers four priority areas, we can build athlete leaders and support all athletes on and off the field of play. We can help guide the progression of the Paralympic Movement by ensuring the views of athletes are recognised and valued, while further enhancing the environment and experiences for all athletes.

Ultimately, to achieve our priorities, at the heart of the Paralympic Movement is where athletes need to be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gotell', written in a cursive style.

Chelsey Gotell
IPC Athletes' Council Chairperson

Letter from IPC President, Andrew Parsons

On behalf of the IPC Governing Board and management team, I would like to congratulate the IPC Athletes' Council for the production of this strategy and offer our full support to its implementation.

If the Paralympic Movement is to be truly athlete-centred, then all athletes – whether current, future or retired – really must be at the heart of everything we do. Their voices need to be heard and involved in the decision-making process, as ultimately what is decided will impact them, both on and off the field of play.

This plan - the first of its kind to be produced by the IPC Athletes' Council – has taken a lot of time to produce. It has taken time because the views of athlete representatives from across the Paralympic Movement, from National Paralympic Committees to international federations, have been heard, taken in to account and formulated into four priority areas.

This is an athlete generated plan for the whole Paralympic Movement and I sincerely hope all athletes and IPC members will utilise it as a guide to make further progress.

By working together and putting athletes at the heart, we can all make the Paralympic Movement even stronger.



Andrew Parsons
IPC President



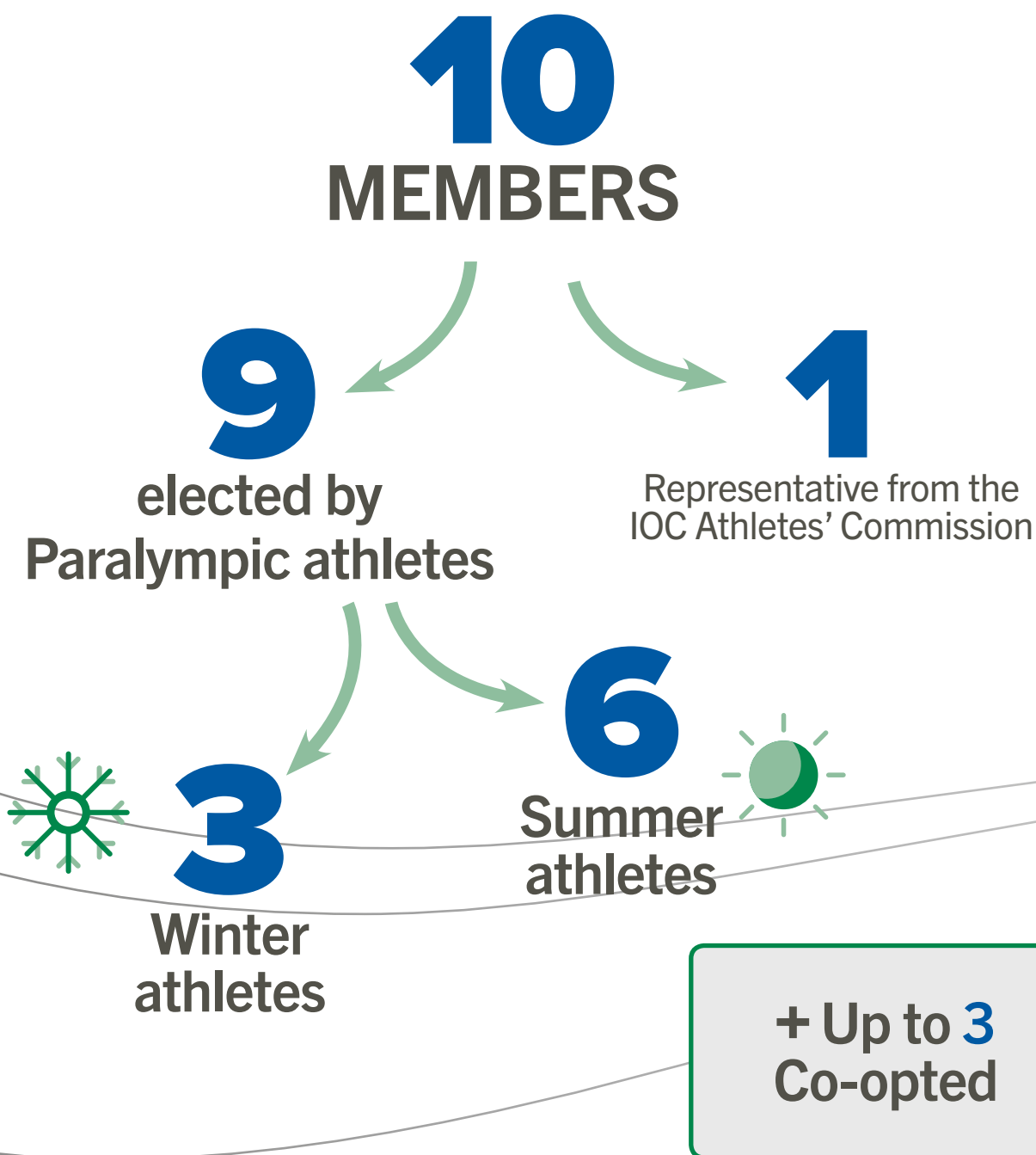
Introducing the IPC Athletes' Council

The IPC Athletes' Council is a highly engaged group of current and retired Paralympians who are extremely passionate about representing all international Para athletes at the highest levels of the Paralympic Movement and supporting them on and off the field of play.

The IPC Athletes' Council is made up of nine elected members. Elections take place at each edition of the Paralympic Games, with six members elected at each Paralympic Games and three members elected at each Paralympic Winter Games.

The Chairperson is elected by the Council for four years, serving as a voting member of the IPC Governing Board and member of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

In addition to the elected members, the IPC Athletes' Council can co-opt up to three additional members on two year terms, to ensure there is balance between gender, regions, sports and disability groups. It also has one formally appointed member from the IOC Athletes' Commission.





Chelsey Gotell
Chairperson
 Para swimming, Canada
 Elected as Chair in 2017



Elvira Stinissen
Vice-Chair
 Sitting volleyball, Netherlands



Monica Bascio
 Para cycling,
 United States of America



Marie Bochet
 Para alpine skiing, France



Kurt Fearnley
 Para athletics, Australia



Gizem Girismen
 Para archery, Turkey



Rudolf Klemetti
 Para Nordic skiing, Finland



Birgit Skarstein
 Para Nordic skiing, Norway



Sarah Storey
 Para cycling, Great Britain



Hong Sukman*
 Para athletics, South Korea



Nurulasyiqah Mohammad Taha*
 Boccia, Singapore



Natalie du Toit*
 Para swimming, South Africa



Danka Bartekova**
 Shooting, Slovakia

*Co-opted members

**Appointed IOC Athletes' Commission member

Our strategy for success



Our mission is to be the voice of all current, future and retired international athletes within the Paralympic Movement, in the strategic direction of the IPC and to support our athletes both on and off the field of play.

To achieve this mission, the IPC Athletes' Council has a leading role to ensure all athlete representatives have the support and resources required to be effective athlete leaders within their country and sport.

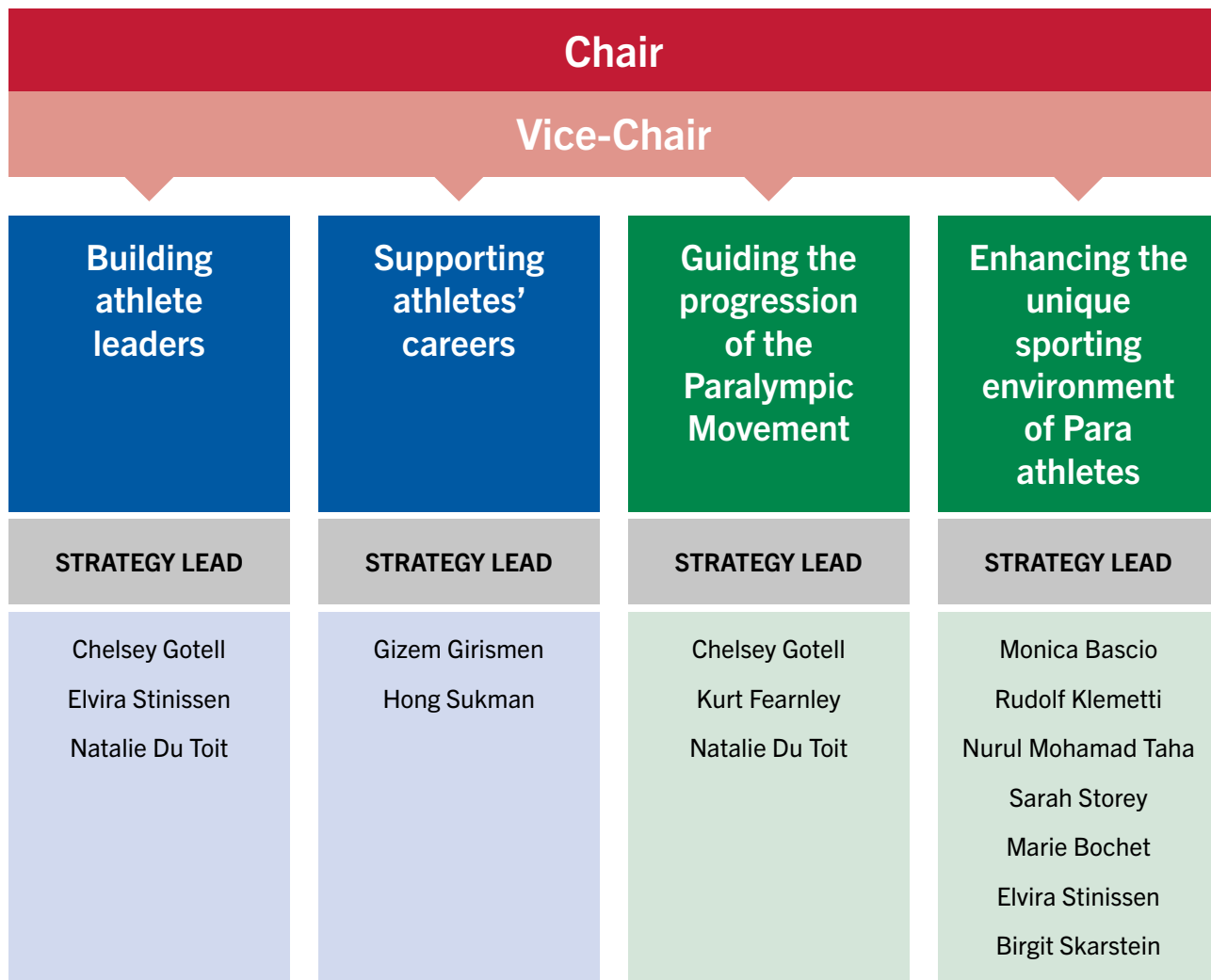
Our strategy will serve as a guideline to all Paralympic Movement stakeholders in creating an effective athlete voice that represents the needs of Para athletes

with their priorities being incorporated into the decision-making process.

After much listening and consultation with Paralympic athletes from around the world, the IPC Athletes' Council have committed to four priorities between 2019 and 2022. These priorities cover our role with athletes and our role within the Paralympic Movement.

How we work

Each of the priorities within our strategy is co-ordinated by one or more of the IPC Athletes' Council members. Each strategy lead(s) oversees the progress made and regularly reports back to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.



Our role with

Building athlete leaders

Priority one

Develop mechanisms to build athlete leaders, effective athlete representation models and improved athlete networks.

To be successful in being a voice that represents all international Para athletes, we must create a strong foundation so that athlete representatives have the right support, tools and resources to become effective athlete leaders. We must also create athlete representation models that meet the needs of Para athletes. This foundation must have a clear and effective path for communication (within and across sports) that ensures information is easily shared both with our athlete community but also from our community back to the IPC Athletes' Council

Objectives

Effective athlete representation: Develop mechanisms to ensure effective athlete representation.

- Create toolkits and templates for athlete representatives that provide guidance, support and maximise the effectiveness of their roles within National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), regional organisations and international federations (IFs)
- Support the development of an athlete leadership programme.

Improve athlete communication: Create a strong platform for ongoing two-way communication between all athlete representatives.

- Create a central athlete hub (web portal) for all athlete-focused information
- Facilitate ongoing written, virtual and in-person communication between athlete representatives
- Promote the use of athlete representatives, councils, advisory groups, athlete focus groups and the IPC Athletes' Forum to the larger athlete community.

athletes

Supporting athletes' careers

Priority two

Equip Para athletes with the tools and resources required to inform and educate them and provide them with opportunities that will help expand their knowledge beyond the field of play.

We want all Para athletes to have access to resources and support that will encourage them to thrive both on and off the field of play, throughout their sporting careers and life transitions. This includes advocating for the development of extended pathways for Para athletes to thrive in their life transition beyond sport.

Objectives

- Support the further development of the Proud Paralympian education programme
- Encourage the IPC, NPCs and IFs in creating opportunities for Para athletes that have retired from sport to stay involved in the Paralympic Movement
- Support the further development of the Adecco Athlete Career Programme.



Our role with the

Guiding the progression of the Paralympic Movement

Priority three

Develop resources that support the IPC membership in creating governance structures that include athlete representatives and promote the benefits of having athlete representation formally included in the Membership Constitutions.

By positively influencing the development of appropriate governance structures within the IPC Membership and wider Paralympic Movement we will provide a strong foundation to make certain that the athletes' voice is recognised and valued.

We will work with the IPC and IPC Membership to offer tools and mechanisms that ensure the athletes' voice is heard and that organisational decisions are athlete-centered.

Objectives

- Encourage the IPC to promote the formal inclusion of athlete representation in the governance structures of the IPC Membership
- Develop resources that promote the benefits of having athlete representation formally included in the Membership Constitutions
- Establish a recognition mechanism for IPC members who successfully incorporate effective athlete representation in their statutes
- Ensure content relevance of the Agitos Foundation Organisational Capacity Programme modules.

Paralympic Movement

Enhancing the unique sporting environment of Paralympic athletes

Priority four

Recognise diverse athlete impairments, advocating for their unique needs that enable them to perform at their best.

Para athletes have unique needs that must be championed, both on and off the field of play. As the primary advocate of athletes' needs, the IPC Athletes' Council is committed to ensuring that our athletes' priorities and best interests are incorporated into shaping the future of the Paralympic Movement.

Objectives

Classification

- Support the IPC Classification Committee athlete representative in developing athlete-focused communication and educational resources that explains classification and relevant updates
- Provide input that will improve the transparency and consistency of the classification system
- Support ongoing discussion for the professionalisation of the classification system for all personnel involved with the governance and application of classification across all sports
- Help streamline the process for athlete involvement in the future progression of the classification system.

Accessibility

- Support the IPC Management Team and IPC Paralympic Games Committee in providing expertise to operational planning for Games Organising Committees and their Athletes' Councils or IF hosted events that are unique to the athlete experience.

Clean and Safe Sport

- Take a proactive leadership role on behalf of all international Para athletes advocating for clean sport, athlete wellbeing and the prevention of harassment and abuse.

Delivering the strategy

As members of the IPC Athletes' Council, we are individually and collectively committed to the implementation of our priorities and responsibilities.

Each Athletes' Council member is aligned with multiple IF athlete representatives to allow for a streamlined and consistent flow of two way communication between our IF athlete representatives and the IPC Athletes' Council. We have also appointed Athletes' Council members to liaise directly with each of the Regional Organisation Athlete Councils or Representatives. Paralympic

athlete experts have also been appointed to each IPC Standing Committee. We will work alongside these athlete experts and their committees to implement many of our priorities.

Effective communication is key to ensuring success. Not just communication among the IPC Athletes' Council members but also two-way communication between our athlete representatives and stakeholders of the Paralympic Movement.

International Federations

Archery	Gizem Girismen	Para snowboard	Elvira Stinissen
Badminton	Monica Bascio	Para swimming	Marie Bochet
Boccia	Nurul Mohammad Taha	Rowing	Birgit Skarstein
Canoe	Chelsey Gotell	Shooting Para sport	Hong Sukman
Cycling	Sarah Storey	Sitting volleyball	Elvira Stinissen
Equestrian	Sarah Storey	Table tennis	Elvira Stinissen
Football 5-a side	Natalie Du Toit	Taekwondo	Rudi Klemetti
Goalball	Natalie Du Toit	Triathlon	Chelsey Gotell
Judo	Natalie Du Toit	Wheelchair basketball	Gizem Girismen
Para alpine skiing	Marie Bochet	Wheelchair curling	Nurul Mohammad Taha
Para athletics	Kurt Fearnley	Wheelchair fencing	Hong Sukman
Para ice hockey	Birgit Skarstein	Wheelchair rugby	Kurt Fearnley
Para Nordic skiing	Rudi Klemetti	Wheelchair tennis	Monica Bascio
Para powerlifting	Hong Sukman		

IPC Standing Committees

Anti Doping Committee	Audit and Finance Committee	Classification Committee	Education Committee	Legal and Ethics Committee	Medical Committee	Paralympic Games Committee	Women in Sport Committee
Elvira Stinissen	Rudi Klemetti	Monica Bascio	Gizem Girismen	Chelsey Gotell	Chelsey Gotell	Marie Bochet	Nurul Mohammad Taha

Measuring our progress

As athletes, we know that one of the key factors in determining long-term success in sport is the ability to constructively evaluate, improve and re-evaluate our goals and priorities. As athlete leaders, we must carry these skills with us, be able to measure and communicate our progress in order to succeed.

By establishing an implementation plan and measuring our milestones, we will continuously and constructively evaluate the success of our strategy and ensure accountability, not just for ourselves, but of the entire Paralympic Movement in ensuring that the athlete voice is truly at the heart of the decisions that will impact the future of the Paralympic Movement.

Contact us

CONTACT US

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