



## **ALENA KANOVA**

**Country:** Slovakia

**Date of Birth:** 29/3/1980

**Sport:** Para Table Tennis

**Discipline:** TT3



### **Sports Career**

**Paralympic Games** : Competed in 2016, Bronze medal in 2012, Silver medal in 2008, Bronze medal in 2004, Gold medal in 2000

**World Championships** : Bronze medal in 2010, Silver medal in 2006, Gold medal in 2002, Silver medal in 2002, Silver medal in 1998, Bronze medal in 1998

### **Why do you wish to become a member of the IPC Athletes' Council?**

After my injury at the age of 14 sport became an everyday part of my life. I'm a lawyer focused on sports and social law. I've worked for ministries and several NGOs for the disabled, funds and foundations. I'm a long-term member of the executive committee of the Slovak NPC. I'm also a member of the ITTF Athletes Committee since 2010. At the office I'm running for, I would like to use my knowledge and 25 years of experience, being it an athlete as well as an official, to improve the conditions for Para athletes. My effort should contribute to making the IPC AC an integral part of future accomplishments of the Paralympic Movement worldwide. I would like to base my work for the IPC AC on several pillars. Among them I included development and raising awareness of Paralympism, integrating athletes, motivational and educational activities, more females into para sport.

### **Why do you wish to run for the IPC Athletes' Council?**

I have 25 years experiences in the field of Para sports, as an athlete as well as official, which I'd like to put to good use to improve the conditions for Para athletes.

**What special skills, background and expertise will you bring to the IPC Athletes' Council?**

Tokyo was supposed to be my 7th PG (6 table tennis, 1 curling). I'm a lawyer with work experiences in the field of sport and social law. Since 2010 I'm a member of the ITTF Athletes Committee. I speak 3 languages.

**How has sport impacted your life?**

After my injury sport became a part of my life. Just as I've got influenced by the fate of many significant Para athletes, one day I'd love to be the one to inspire and motivate a new generation of Para athletes.

**What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?**

To be a patient listener and pay attention to others' options. I realise that it is impossible to please everyone and comply with everything, but you always need to look for joint solution, try to solve every issue.

**Why is the athletes' voice important to you?**

Because athletes know the best what needs to be improved, what measures to take to achieve the required progress in the forthcoming years. I'd use their voice to push for better conditions for them.

**What is the biggest challenge you have experienced as an athlete? How did you overcome it?**

I've set a goal and went for it. A problem came along? No matter, I did not give way, I did not give up. On the contrary, I've dealt with it with even more determination, dealt with it and eventually overcame it.