



## **JITSKE VISSER**

Country: Netherlands

Date of Birth: 29/10/1992

Sport: Wheelchair basketball



### **Sports Career**

Paralympic Games : Bronze medal in 2016, Bronze medal in 2012, competed in 2008

World Championships : Gold medal in 2018, Bronze medal in 2014, competed in 2010

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

Sport has the power to change the world. My dream for all athletes is to inspire people around the world - as athletes, as leaders and as role models for next generations. Realising this dream as a member of the IPC Athletes' Council would be a great honour. Being part of the Paralympic Movement is an incredible experience for each and every one of us. Paralympic sport is increasingly being valued around the world. Now is the time to build on these accomplishments and to make sure that athletes are at the core of all IPC -decisions. As an open, outgoing person it is my passion to bring athletes together and improve Paralympic sport. My teammates call me 'the glue' - because I make us stick together as a team. I kindly ask for your vote, to contribute further to our Paralympic community.

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

To contribute to professionalism within Paralympic sport: enable athletes to become leaders; make the classification system more transparent; and ensure athletes are central to all decision-making.

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

As an open, outgoing person, I love interacting with other people. My teammates call me 'the glue' - because I make us stick together as a team. That is the role I aspire to play for athletes in the Council.

**How has sport impacted your life?**

Sport has been central to every step in my life. I moved abroad, slowed my study pace - all to become a better athlete. The reward is an amazingly rich life, far beyond what I ever imagined possible.

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

The Athletes' Council has achieved a lot, but there is still a lot to do. It is an important tool to ensure that athletes will always be central to all decision-making with respect to our sports.

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

Sport revolves around the athletes. Without athletes, there is no elite sport. Athletes, and their experience, should be central to all future decision-making. That's the path forward for our sport.

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

We practiced four years for Rio. Our journey ended in the semis. We were devastated. Then, we picked up the pieces and rose up as a team, to win the bronze. Two years later, we became world champions.