



LOUZANNE COETZEE

Country: South Africa

Date of Birth: 18/4/1993

Sport: Para athletics

Discipline: T11 1500m/marathon



Sports Career

Paralympic Games : Competed in 2016

World Championships : Competed in 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019

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

My name is Louzanne Coetzee. I am a T11 female athlete from South Africa. I shall compete in the 1500m and the marathon at the Tokyo 2021 Games. I am 28 years old; I love working with people, enjoy a good book and of course, I love running. I have completed my Master's Degree in Social Cohesion and Reconciliation studies with an emphasis on disability in higher education. It goes without saying that inclusivity of, and advocacy for, disability is a great passion of mine. One of my major aspirations in life is to make an impact on the lives of others. I believe that the IPC Athlete's Council will give me this opening. Membership will provide me the opportunity to be a voice for all athletes across the globe and play a part in improving their sporting experience.

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

To provide a voice for athletes globally and to improve paralympic sport for all athletes.

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

I work well in teams, I'm a good communicator, good negotiator and I work well with people.

How has sport impacted your life?

Sport gives me the opportunity to live out my passion for good health and it provides me a platform to raise hope and make others realise that nothing is impossible if you work hard to achieve your goals.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?

I wish to see the Athlete's Council assist in growing the Paralympic Movement by providing equal opportunities for all athletes globally and providing access to para-sport for athletes at grassroots level.

Why is the athletes' voice important to you?

The athletes' voice is important because the Paralympic Movement cannot move forward without taking it into account and developing to meet the athletes' needs.

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

My biggest challenge has been to attract sufficient sponsors to make a career out of athletics and how I've tried to overcome this is by applying to various ambassadorships launched by different brands.