



TONY WALBY

Country: Canada

Date of Birth: 22/8/1973

Sport: Para judo

Discipline: n/a



Sports Career

Paralympic Games : Competed in 2012 and 2016

World Championships : Competed from 2011 to 2015

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

As the Paralympic Movement continues to grow in size and influence, now more than ever the IPC Athletes' Council needs to have strong, confident, and competent members. If elected, I plan to work on behalf of fellow Paralympians to ensure their rights as athletes and as people are protected. I will work constructively alongside fellow IPC Athletes' Council members, IPC staff and IPC members to help reform the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code, to ensure it is consistent and fair in its application across all sports, and that the athlete voice is a central part of the reform process. I am a strong believer in having athlete representation within all sport organisations and will do all I can to support the IPC Athletes' Council's efforts in developing a meaningful athlete voice within all NPCs, IFs, IOSDs and Regions.

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

The Paralympic Movement and its athletes were there when I needed them when I started going blind. I wish to give back, help the movement and advocate for athletes to ensure our voices are heard.

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

I am a proven leader, communicator and planner. I am an experienced NPC Athletes' Council member and chair and NPC and NADO Board member. I am accountable, responsible and a long-term thinker.

How has sport impacted your life?

Sport is a part of me. It has given me confidence, purpose and friendships. It has empowered me, fuelled my self-esteem and personal growth, and given me skills and tools to succeed.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?

A strong and valued voice within the IPC and Paralympic movement on athlete issues: fairness in classification & qualification, needs of athletes with high support needs, and adoption of athlete reps in all NPCs.

Why is the athletes' voice important to you?

The Paralympic Movement would not exist without the athletes. Our athletes must have the ability to help shape the future of the movement and be part of the discussions and decisions that impact them.

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

Transitioning from being a non-disabled athlete to a Para athlete when I lost my sight. I was able to adapt and thrive with the support and inspiration of fellow Para athletes from around the world.