



VLADYSLAVA KRAVCHENKO

Country: Malta

Date of Birth: 18/7/1991

Sport: Para swimming

Discipline: S5 Backstroke, S5 Butterfly,
SB4 Breaststroke



Sports Career

Paralympic Games : Competed in 2016

World Championships : Competed in 2015

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

Competitive sport has been part of my life since I was five and it has been the main rescue boat that helped me navigate through the rough seas following a life-changing injury. Without any doubt I owe the most rewarding and memorable moments in my life to sport, which is why I remain committed to supporting the development of the Paralympic movement. Given that the movement extends far beyond the Paralympic Games, I believe that it is imperative to maximise the amount and the diversity of the athletes' voices - in particular those coming from small states, developing nations, refugee and indigenous communities, amongst others. Representing an island nation, myself, I will make it my priority to reach out to Para athletes in the most remote corners and ensure that they also feel part of the Paralympic family.

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

Having a deep passion for sport and an extensive experience in the professional and voluntary sectors, I am highly motivated to contribute towards the success and the legacy of the Paralympic Movement.

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

I feel that my expertise in finance, fluency in various languages & experience in leadership roles will contribute to the strategic priorities of the Council that focus on athletes' careers & athlete leadership.

How has sport impacted your life?

Paralympic sport showed me in the most powerful way possible that all our limitations are self-imposed and helped me overcome endless obstacles that came about after I became a wheelchair user at the age of seventeen.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?

My vision is for the Council to be a mechanism within the Paralympic movement through which every Para athlete is empowered to convey their constructive feedback without encountering unnecessary red tape.

Why is the athletes' voice important to you?

Athletes represent the blood that brings life to sport. Putting athletes 'at the heart' not only echoes true spirit of sportsmanship, but certainly contributes to the strong health of sport in the long term.

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

Entering competitive sport without adequate administrative support and talent development pathways. As a result, I worked with numerous stakeholders to set up the first official National Paralympic Committee.