

2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN WORLD PARA ICE HOCKEY



World Para
Ice Hockey



INTRODUCTION

The development of the World Para Ice Hockey (WPIH) 2020-2022 Strategic Plan was an ambitious one-year project conducted in several stages and involving a wide range of stakeholders. Following input from external expertise, the World Para Ice Hockey Manger underwent a guided self-assessment exercise overseen by the internal leadership of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

By means of a questionnaire and extensive consultation with subject matter experts from within the Paralympic Movement and a wide range of external partners and sponsors, these topics were then shared, discussed and further refined to develop areas of strategic focus for the sport. Consolidated insights and emerging strategic priorities were presented to the IPC Governing Board and further validated through workshops with the sport leads. The development of the WPIH 2020-2022 Strategic Plan coincided with IPC's Governance Review, so the project timeline was extended to incorporate findings and recommendations from the ongoing review.

Along with the input and review by the IPC executive team and World Para Sports Managing Director, strategic priorities for the new edition of the Strategic Plan were finalised in late 2019. This strategic framework aims to ensure the future development, sustainability, performance and appeal of Para ice hockey.

This document also outlines the Strategic Objectives for World Para Ice Hockey which represent the end of the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan and the beginning of the operational plan. The Strategic Plan was approved by the IPC Governing Board in January 2020, in which the strategic objectives will be held accountable through an operational plan with measurable targets, responsibilities and timelines.

World Para Ice Hockey would like to thank all the Para athletes, volunteers, representatives of National Paralympic Committees, partner organisations, staff and administrators who contributed to the development of this document. It is hoped that the 2020-2022 WPIH Strategic Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the sport.

HISTORY OF WORLD PARA ICE HOCKEY

Para ice hockey originated in the early 1960's at a rehabilitation centre in Stockholm, Sweden, when a group of people decided to continue playing hockey despite their physical disabilities. The group modified a metal frame sledge, with two regular-sized ice hockey skate blades that allowed the puck to pass underneath. Using round poles with bike handles for sticks, they played without any goaltenders on a lake south of Stockholm. The sport caught on and, by 1969, the Swedish capital had a five-team league that included players with a disability and able-bodied players. That same year, Stockholm hosted the first international Para ice hockey match between a local club team and one from Oslo, Norway. During the 1970s, several other countries began to establish teams, including Great Britain, Canada, USA and Japan. Two Swedish national teams played an exhibition match at the inaugural



Ornskoldsvik 1976 Paralympic Winter Games in Sweden. But it was not until Lillehammer 1994 that Para ice hockey became an official event at the Winter Paralympics with five teams and 57 athletes competing.



Two years later, Sweden hosted the first World Championships in Nynashamn. Since then, the sport has become one of the biggest attractions of the Paralympic Winter Games and one of the most successful team Para sports in terms of spectators and media attention. At the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Paralympics, eight teams and 134 athletes took part in the Para ice hockey tournament. For the first time since Lillehammer 1994, the competition counted with a female player.

In 2019, the World Championships in Ostrava, Czech Republic saw the most spectators at a single edition, with 64,748 across the entire tournament.

Under the governance of the previous Strategic Plan 2013-2018, World Para Ice Hockey (then known as IPC Sledge Hockey) launched in 2014 the women's Para ice hockey programme through the Agitos Foundation's Grant Support Programme - only seven years after the first-ever all-female game in On-

tario, Canada. Still in 2014, World Para Ice Hockey strengthened its relationship with its Olympic counterpart, the International Ice Hockey Federation, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The historic agreement included various areas of co-operation, such as development of emerging countries, players and coaches.

Through the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan, World Para Ice Hockey indicates the steps to be taken into its next phase of development. For the first time in the sport's history, a vision statement and a mission statement outline WPIH's aspiration and purpose.

Furthermore, the strategic plan highlights three focus areas for the 2020-2022 period; namely Development, Competitions and Operations. Each focus area provides an overarching strategic objective, which is further supported by strategic priorities, giving WPIH a clear, measurable, and realistic direction.



OUR VISION

To be the most popular and inclusive team Para sport.

OUR MISSION

To lead, develop and promote the sport of Para Ice Hockey.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Development
2. Competitions
3. Operations

1. DEVELOPMENT:

Attract new athletes through development and high performance programmes

- 1a.** Support new members to further promote the sport through grassroots programmes
- 1b.** Partner with member associations and targeted stakeholders to advance female participation
- 1c.** Provide additional opportunities for junior and youth participation
- 1d.** Develop and implement education strategies for athletes, coaches, officials, classifiers and administrators



2. COMPETITIONS:

Establish a long-term strategy with sustainable, entertaining events

- 2a.** Support members to provide increased access to competitions for all athletes
- 2b.** Further enhance the visibility and entertainment value of events
- 2c.** Offer a portfolio of events to encourage a wider participation of nations in competitions



3. OPERATIONS:

Strengthen operations through good governance, transparency and knowledge-sharing

- 3a.** Ensure athletes' interests and welfare are appropriately represented in World Para Ice Hockey
- 3b.** Enhance capacity and financial sustainability through operational planning and transparency
- 3c.** Partner with members and key stakeholders to share knowledge and best practices with other member federations



The logo for World Para Ice Hockey features the text "World Para" in a smaller, sans-serif font above "Ice Hockey" in a larger, bold, italicized sans-serif font. The text is white and set against a dark blue background. A white curved line arches over the text, starting from the left and ending under the "y" of "Hockey".

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