



IWAS ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

Presented to the IWAS General Assembly of Nations during the
IWAS World Games – November 2009



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INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION

List of Serving Officers during the Period

President

Mr. Paul DePace, USA

Vice President

Mr. Juan Palau Francas, ESP

Members at Large

Dr. Oriol Martinez, ESP - Sports Science & Medical Officer

Mr. Seyed Amir Hosseini, IRI, - Marketing Officer

Mr. Rudi Van Den Abbeele, FRA – Sports Services

Mr. Karl Vilhelm Nielsen – DEN

Ms. Radka Kucirkova, CZE

Secretary General/Executive Director

Ms. Maura Strange – GBR

Honorary Treasurer

Mr. Bob Paterson – GBR

IWAS Sports Officers/Representatives

Mrs. Ann Webb, Wheelchair Archery Representative – GBR

Mrs Konstantina Sotiriadi, Chair, Athletics – GRE

Mr John Teunissen, Chair, Electric Wheelchair Hockey - NED

Mr. Alberto Martinez Vassallo, Chair Wheelchair Fencing – ESP

Mr. Alf Boyle, Chair, Lawn Bowls - AUS

Mr. Brad Mikkelsen, Chair, Wheelchair Rugby – USA

Mr. Leandro Olvech, Table Tennis Representative – ARG

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/8

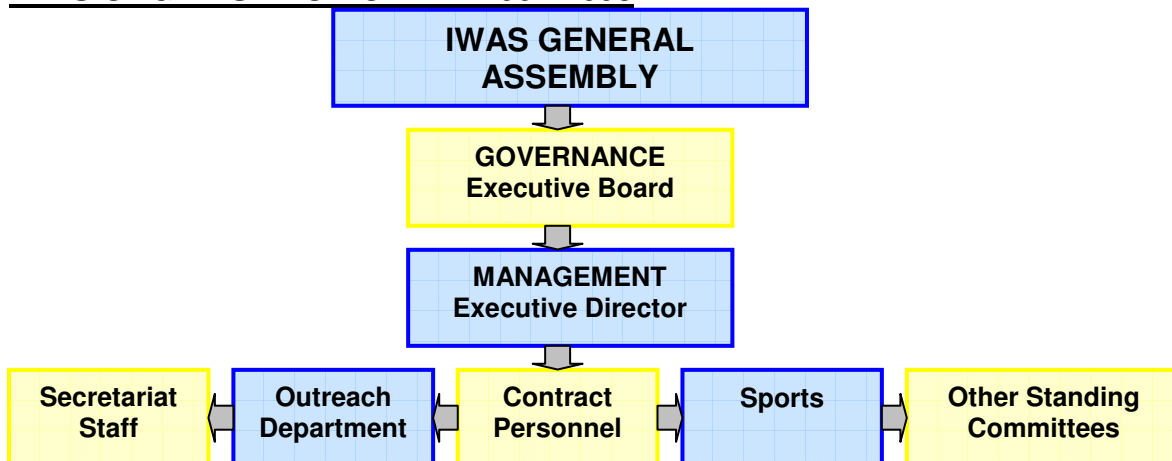
PRESENTATION OF REPORTS – BY PAUL DEPACE, PRESIDENT

The International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) is a Charitable Company (limited by Guarantee and registered in England and Wales with Companies House (2713410) and the Charity Commission (1011552).

IWAS is obliged to produce and file Annual Reports for Companies House and the Charity Commission as well as its membership. IWAS therefore produces two separate reports which together cover all requirements – a comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the Charity's Accounts, carried out by CAAS Accountants, and this Annual Operational Report, which covers all the activities of the Federation.

It should be noted that there are new reporting practices (as disclosed in SORP 2005) and being a smaller Charity, the Federation falls below the audit threshold of £500,000 sterling. The Executive Board considers that an independent examination of the accounts is sufficient for the Federation's needs.

IWAS ORGANISATION CHART 2007-2008



The Executive Board meet at least once a year face to face and conducts regular teleconference meetings and electronic voting by email. The Executive Board is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the Charity.

Recruitment & Election of Executive Board (EB)

The Directors of the Company, who are also Trustees for the purposes of charity law under the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association, are known as the members of the Executive Board.

The composition of the new Executive Board to run the amalgamated organisation of ISMWSF and ISOD under its new name of IWAS was identified for the period 2005-2009. Elections for the IWAS Executive Board 2009-2013 will be held during the IWAS Games to be held in Bangalore, November 2009. The Federation's Secretary

General in accordance with the Federation's Memorandum & Articles of Association (Constitution) made call for nominations, motions and mandates in June 2009.

The Charity's focus is providing development and sporting opportunity for persons with a physical disability. As such, the Executive Board members seek to ensure that the needs of this group are reflected through the diversity of the Trustees, with all members having a background in one of more aspects of sport governance and/or management and 4 of these additionally being ex athletes.

Personal and business skills of Executive Board members are taken into account when allocating portfolio/job descriptions. An annual assessment of EB members' performances is undertaken.

Trustee Induction & Training

Every opportunity is taken at events and meetings to provide new trustees with familiarisation sessions about the Charity and the context in which it operates. All members are posted updates sent by the Charity Commission to keep them up to date with current affairs and their legal and financial responsibilities.

Risk Management

The Executive Board recognises its obligation to conduct a review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. This has resulted in implementing a contingency policy for the Charity's reserves:

To retain in reserves the minimum level needed to cover staff redundancies should the Federation no longer have the financial means to continue operations. Currently, this is in the sum of £45,000 based on actual salary levels to cover redundancies and associated tax and pension payments.

The implementation of procedures for authorisation and review by members to minimise internal control risks is under consistent monitor. Compliance with health and safety of staff and visitors to the HQ offices is managed by the Charity's Office Manager.

Further reviews of potential risk areas are undertaken on a regular basis and the comprehensive Games Event risk management exercise undertaken by HQ staff has resulted in establishment of contract principles and new bidding undertakings designed to strengthen IWAS indemnification from financial risk.

During 2008/9, the HQ and Finance Committee implemented the decision made by the Executive Board to reduce risks associated with outreach accounts. This resulted in the centralisation and holding of sport specific accounts at HQ rather than on a personal or alternate name basis in a different country, thus avoiding any difficulties when access to accounts needed to be passed on to new elected personnel. A system of application and justification has been put in place to support the sport accessing the money/receiving reimbursement for authorised expenses. Monies held in the name of IWAS, but in other accounts in other countries were also assessed with regard to accessibility and adherence to IWAS financial regulations, and steps are being taken to rectify where necessary.

During 2007-8 the Executive Board took responsibility to implement a succession strategy to cover future key staff appointments for the period 2010 to 2012 and beyond.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

West Asian Office

During the IWAS Junior World Games 2008 in USA I met with Seyed Yousef Mousavinasab and President Mahmoud Koshravi Vafa to discuss the future of Iran's leadership in the development of the IWAS western Asian region. Following are the points that were agreed upon:

1. Iran will agree to support the IWAS Western Asian Office for the next four years
2. Iran through the IWAS Western Asian office will furnish support to the India for the IWAS World Wheelchair and Amputee Games 2009 in Bangalore
 - a. Yousef would be included to join the site visit team at no cost to the India Organizing committee to determine what form this support would take.
 - b. IWAS Western Asian office will consider assisting India OC by managing the sit volleyball event
3. Iran through the IWAS Western Asian office will host an event on Kish Island in March of 2009, including
 - a. An IWAS Executive Board Meeting
 - b. As meeting of the presidents of the countries in western Asian to plan the next four years of development. It was discussed that there are two distinct cultures in Muslim Western Asia, Persian and Arab, and it was agreed that it would be in the best interest of the success of the event to invite an Arab leader, probably from Kuwait, to assist in the planning of the and also signing the invitations
 - c. This meeting should also include an actual development event for the 25 member nations in the region, perhaps a classification training session. Iran would furnish the athletes and work with the IWAS headquarters to select the trainers.

Beijing Paralympic Games 2008

On the occasion of the Beijing Paralympic Games, where the two IWAS governed paralympic programme sports of Wheelchair Fencing and Wheelchair Rugby performed magnificently, Maura Strange and I took the opportunity to spend some time discussing athletics as well as other issues with Xavier Gonzalez, CEO of IPC and later met with Dina Sotiriadi, IWAS Athletics Chair to further review our next steps for IWAS Athletics.

One of the goals that we put forward in the discussions with Xavier Gonzalez was to better align IWAS goals and programmes with those with the IPC as the overall umbrella. In that matter, and with the leaving of Amy Farkas of IPC development staff, we proposed that IWAS take a larger role in development. We continue to pursue these discussions across all aspects of our relationship with IPC.

We laid out the program of major IWAS competitions - Junior Games every year (Switzerland 2009, and Czech Republic 2010) and World Wheelchair and Amputee Games every 2nd year (Bangalore India 2009 and pending Seoul Korea 2011). We advised Xavier Gonzalez how the Iranian support of the IWAS west Asia office had been renewed for the next four years and our next development event would be in Iran this spring. We made the point that these major events were opportunities not only to develop athletes but also to provide training opportunities for classifiers, officials, coaches and Organising Committees. This will be a major point in IWAS plans for the future.

With regard to athletics classification and rules, it is clear that the all athletes (and supporters) have as a goal participation in the Paralympic Games and the IPC holds the keys to the gate to the Games for athletes, classifiers and officials. It is our responsibility (IWAS and all those who are truly in the movement to help athletes) to ensure that these athletes have a smooth pathway to the Paralympic Games without political issues getting in the way. For that reason we (both IWAS staff and volunteers) will at this time accept the IPC Governing Board determination that the IPC is the international federation (IF) governing athletics, including the 40s and 50s classes. The point was heavily underlined that we saw the IPC GB action as heavy handed in taking the intellectual property compiled by many years of ISMWSF, ISOD and IWAS but I see our acceptance of the IPC system as the best step for the athletes and the movement. Xavier Gonzalez did agree during this conversation, that IWAS does hold expertise in the 40s and 50s and we told him how important that it was to include IWAS experts within the athletics committees. He advised that he was unsure as to what the structure of athletics would be for the next years, and we have ensured that further progression in this area is being enabled. Maura Strange has taken this forward and gives additional report as Secretary General/Executive Director in this Annual Report.

Other duties in Beijing included meeting with Amar Singh of NPC India about the 2009 games and a meeting with the NPC Turkey about the possibility of advancing Amputee Football through IWAS. Please also read the Secretary General/Executive Director's report and see the Executive Board motions for the General Assembly, which will give further demonstration of the activities and discussions held over the past 18 months.

We are happy therefore to report during the past two years, IWAS has focused on a development role in the Paralympic movement. We have built on the assets of the organization's experienced HQ staff and dedicated volunteer experts to conduct two IWAS World Junior Games during the period in South Africa and USA, an IWAS World Wheelchair & Amputee Games in Chinese Taipei, and to further develop and promote our Athletics World Series, consolidating the athlete pathways from grass roots to international in our two Paralympic programme sports of Wheelchair Fencing and Rugby and advancing the development and competition provision objectives of Electric Wheelchair Hockey.

Our Executive Board, HQ and Member Nations look forward to conducting a minimum one international junior event per year, a World Games every seconding and continuing the promotion and expansion of sport specific provision for IWAS Sports, with a particular objective at regional level opportunity.

As always, your President, Executive Board, and HQ staff remain interested in the questions and recommendations from Member Nations and volunteers as to how we could better advance the movement for the athletes.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

JUAN PALAU FRANCAS – IWAS VICE-PRESIDENT

It is an honour for me to be able to present to you this report laying out the political position and general development of our IWAS Federation. Especially of the activities carried out in 2008 and half of 2009, where the celebration of the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008 clearly stands out as a monumental achievement, where Athletes that have come through the IWAS programmes have been the major protagonists. I want to present this memory as IWAS Vice President to the IWAS Executive Board so that it is taken to the IWAS General Assembly to take place in Bangalore (India), in the November 2009

IWAS Beijing 2008 Vice President business

The 2008 Paralympic year has been developed with multiple sport events at world and qualification level for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games

There have been a lot of work associated with IPC and the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games Organization Committee; this whole activity has been undertaken by the IWAS General Secretary to whom we all have given our support and required help, developing mainly the following exercises:

- Service classification verification
- Status of the Observers
- Participation quota for IWAS sports
- Coordination and distribution of slots for Wheelchair Rugby
- Coordination and distribution of slots for Wheelchair Fencing
- Distribution of slots B-partite for Wheelchair Fencing
- Visa and Accreditations
- Lodging
- Tickets for the IWAS International Technical and of Classification Team

Strategic Plan Review

The IWAS 2006-2010 Strategic Plan has been revised during the years 2008 and 2009 to distribute it to the IWAS Nations members and other stakeholders by the middle of 2009, since it should form and to strengthen the bases and objectives of the IWAS Federation, next to the Development Forum that took place before the IWAS General Assembly 2009, will provide some good foundations for the new

Executive Board and IWAS Executive Director/Secretary General for a good development of the Strategic Plan 2010-2014.

IWAS Sports Program

We should continue in the work without pause of giving all the competition opportunities for the high affected IWAS athletes and to the athletes that cannot reach the standard of the Paralympic Games and other international events.

- **Track and Field:** The main objectives of IWAS Athletics are to provide a complementary and contributory service to the paralympic movement, providing the international link to the very elite level:

- A global program of events for the classes 40+ and 50+
- A program of events for the athletes junior, so that they have the opportunity to move from a national level to an elite level.

It has been recognized and appreciated by the whole paralympic movement that the IWAS Track and Field program plays an important role in the development of the athletes around the world.

- **Electric Wheelchair Hockey:** This is a sport completely targeted at the most severely disabled IWAS athletes and it maintains an attractiveness and interest for a wide audience. In November of 2008, in their European Championships, they attracted the interest of the FIH, International Federation of Hockey who they will include it in their promotional video on the sport as a first initiative of collaboration, a section related to Electric Wheelchair Hockey

The sport has developed a good strategic plan and is diligently making incursions to achieving its goals. The IWAS Executive Board is happy of to support and to provide advice for its objectives. Congratulations to their responsible and directive team.

- **Wheelchair Fencing:** Training, experience and good job in competitions in Europe, allow us to say that the Fencing is a perfect model of rehabilitation and social adaptation for people with physical disability.

Through the efforts of the European Confederation of the Commission of Fencing for Physical Disabled, in cooperation with the European nations and endorsed by IWAS Wheelchair Fencing, a series of Junior Camps has continued during the period under review, with the objective of establishing Novice / Junior wheelchair fencers with competitions in with their own program and international Championships.

- **Wheelchair Rugby:** This sport follows its unstoppable development towards independency. Its participation in the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008 was a great one offering vibrant and technically very developed games in this major Tournament, and some final matches that were the envy in interest and display of many other more consolidated sports.

IWAS World, Junior and Regional Games

The inscriptions for IWAS World Junior Wheelchair & Amputee Games 2008, in Newark, New Jersey, USA, surpassed participation objectives, with more than 21 nations inscribed for the 3 sports of Athletics (T and F 40s and 50s), Swimming and Powerlifting. We hope the current competition of IWAS Junior Games in Switzerland follows its steps and overcome the success and the participation of IWAS Junior Athletes, the base and future of our federation.

Now we wait with great expectation and renovated ambition a new great challenge and future insurance of our next success IWAS World Games in Bangalore (India) in November 2009. These IWAS World Games began to consolidate a project of games around the world, have already shone in Oceania (New Zealand 1999 and 2003), South America (Brazil 2005), Asia (Chinese Taipei 2007) and now in the old and honourable India.

Finally, IWAS is proud of announcing its intention to expand the successful program of its Games and to include Regional Games based every four years. We aim to carry out the First Wheelchair & Amputee Regional Games starting from the year 2010.

Economic aspects and IWAS Budget

Finally but not less important, we should stress the economic aspect since our budgets are ambitious to cover our development programs, but not guaranteed. Due to the great importance that the IOSDs carry out as the source and development of sport and athletes in the paralympic movement internationally, our activities can be seen as sustaining and supporting the whole paralympic movement. IPC, as the guardian and governor of the paralympic movement should take the responsibility for all of its members, so that this source and activity remains durable, of endowing economically from enough means to the IOSDs so that they are better able to carry out this development task. The IWAS members nations should also realize that without an international address they won't be able to develop their development potentials, consequently our member nations should sustain with their annual and indispensable quotas this supra-national structure that is marked and it defined as the engine of the development of sports and sporting opportunities for wheelchair, amputee and Les Autres athletes in the world.

As final reflection, I would like to leave open a question for our future: When we will be able to develop a Sport Without Adjectives?..... only sport.

The whole paralympic movement already this implied in an integration process / inclusion of our sports, but it is now our responsibility that these processes respect our athletes, technicians, coaches and referees..... **WHO ARE THE TRUE STARS OF OUR SPORT?**

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

MAURA STRANGE – IWAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SECRETARY GENERAL

Introduction

The Executive Director/Secretary General (ED/SG) is accountable for the management function of the Federation and as such is the organisational link between management of operations and governance. The function of ED/SG is responsible for the direct implementation of the Federation's strategic plan, policies and the delivery of its goals and as such reports to the Executive Board. The SG is a member of the IWAS Executive Board, but is not a trustee of the Federation. The ED/SG is directly answerable to the President of the Federation.

Until such time as the Federation realises a full complement of staffing and contracted personnel within HQ, Regions, Sports and outreach departments commensurate with management delivery objectives, the management function continues to be met with the support of elected Officers, Sports, Standing and Ad hoc Committees and individual appointments. The present Secretariat staffing situation remained at the same level as 1993 until June of 2009* and is composed of: Executive Director, Development Manager both full-time and Finance Administrator (1 morning per week). Outreach departmental and contracted personnel reporting to HQ are: Athletics Administrator and Games' Technical Manager and West Asian Regional Office Manager.

At this point, I would like to take the time to recognise David Durrant and the great contribution he has made as Finance Administrator to the Federation for a period of 15 years. Unfortunately, David suffered a serious stroke in December 2008 and will not be coming back to work. Our future financial administration provision for 2009 onwards is therefore under review for replacement.

*I shall be making a presentation to the membership at the General Assembly in respect to succession planning and operational staff development post April 2010, which will explain the provisions I have been making for the future until I fully retire post 2012 Paralympic Games.

Purpose

To report on all activities under the responsibility of management, as well as any interface with other organisations/committees related to the IWAS Strategic Plan and delivery of associated goals during the period under review and to put forward ideas and recommendations regarding the Federation's operation for the coming period.

Report

The amount of work undertaken by the staff, contracted personnel and sport experts in the period 2007/2008 since our last Annual Report of 2005/6 continues to astound in both capacity and quality. The rate of productivity not only matches, but often outweighs that of a similar organisation with 400% plus more professional staff. We continue to take strategic steps to expand our professional resource through

establishment of special situations with outreach workers and consultants working with the HQ on a pro-bono/nominal fee basis.

I believe that the momentum created by our new, but increasingly identifiable banner of "IWAS" is carrying us forward rapidly, positively and productively.

Our business is sport and opportunity for athletes with a physical disability on a global basis from grass roots to elite. Our focus is therefore development and we have had opportunities during the period under review in the various facets of our operations to take this forward and identify the services we can offer at this level to the paralympic movement. We have not only sustained our objectives, but continue to improve and expand their application.

The period under review commenced with IWAS World Games in 2007 in Chinese Taipei and carried us through the qualification period for the Beijing Paralympic Games 2008 to the Games themselves and our planning for IWAS Junior and World Games for 2009. Our operations therefore have truly focussed on the events that are clearly part of the athletes' pathway to success.

HQ Services

The HQ staff and outreach departments encompass all operational activities of the Federation. We work in concert with all sports in our programmes, Organising Committees, Sports Services, Sports Science & Medical, International Paralympic Committee, IWAS Executive Board and of course our member nations to deliver the main functions as described in the Strategic Plan:

- Provision of services to members/partners
- Provision of competitive opportunity at both sport specific and Games levels
- Provision of development, education, training and accreditation programmes
- Governance of associated principles, policies, rules and regulations

During the period under review, staffing personnel at HQ have been able to focus on promoting our key skill areas in event management to provide further support and assistance in a wide range of competitive opportunity. We therefore now offer an entry coordination service to potential Games Organising Committees. This key knowledge area built up from many years experience is proving to be a boon to Organisers and following provision of this service to the LOC in South Africa 2007 for the Junior Games, the LOC for the forthcoming World Games in India 2009 have also taken up this service.

Plans to expand our service provision on behalf of our membership are flourishing with potential arrangements in the pipeline with other governing bodies (IFs), where Memoranda of Understanding are being set up to provide event organisational and management support to our paralympic partners. The objective of this exercise is to validate and increase the competition opportunities in a wide range of sports as part of the paralympic movement athlete pathway.

We continue to refine, apply and monitor the policies and procedures associated with our regular services and note that there is a marked increase in the number of official events within IWAS programmes well supported by the exercises undertaken by the HQ in respect to bid, award and contracts.

Strategic Plan

I continue to refer to the plan 2006-2010 as the backbone of all IWAS initiatives, activities, services and programmes in my organisational and operational planning for IWAS, and reviews of this plan were undertaken at the end of 2008 and early 2009 and presented to the IWAS Executive Board. This information up-date is being distributed to the member nations prior to the IWAS Development Summit and General Assembly in November in India.

Targets in respect to development are being reached, and a key focus has been on increasing the inclusion of lesser developed nations in our service areas. I have included a presentation for the Development Summit and a motion, endorsed by the Executive Board for the General Assembly to incorporate a wider potential service base, which we feel will bring mutual benefit to our national full membership, the Federation's operational achievements and the new service partners, especially countries with need for being involved in development projects, programmes and initiatives.

We have successfully implemented most of the key elements associated with the plan and I look forward to establishing our new Strategic Plan 2009-2013 with the guidance of our membership and active participation at the Development Summit.

IWAS Games' programmes

The IWAS Games' programmes play a major role in a paralympic athlete's pathway. Time and again we have seen athletes emerging from both Junior and World Games programmes into the World Championship and Paralympic Games arenas.

Throughout the period of this report (2007/8), we have continued to strengthen the IWAS Games Operations and now have a strong team, along with the sports, to assist each OC. It is a key part of the IWAS Games philosophy to globalise sport for persons with a disability by providing frameworks and the opportunity to learn for countries with no tradition in holding multi-sport events for sportsmen and women with a physical disability as well as the traditionally strong countries that are more clearly resourced.

Junior – IWAS has continued to progress objectives in respect to Junior event programming, and the Junior Games 2008 were held in New Jersey, USA, expanding the programme from Athletics and Swimming to Athletics, Swimming and Powerlifting. Congratulations USA for taking on the challenge of another sport and for running the IWAS Games concurrently with their own Junior Championships. At the same time as these successful Junior Games were coming to fruition, IWAS Games operations were already into planning period with the 2009 LOC in Nottwil, Switzerland and identifying 2010 Junior Games site in Czech Republic.

World – The Games in Chinese Taipei in September 2007 were a stupendous success and provided a standard on which to build. Our experiences as the IWAS Team, together with that of the Chinese Taipei OC have led to revision of procedures and delegated tasks that should bring benefit to future Local Organising Committees (LOCs). Thank you to the Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee – we trust your experience was as rewarding as ours and the athletes.

Planning for the forthcoming 2009 IWAS World Games began in Chinese Taipei when our national member organisation in India (PCI) identified themselves as keen to host this major event. During 2008, we had a very profitable visit to Bangalore where we discussed and agreed the key points for the Games programme. The President of the PCI, Mr Rathan Singh, put forward the idea of a solidarity programme to assist some countries in the region to participate and IWAS was delighted to welcome this initiative. The Organising Committee are committed to hosting the largest IWAS World Games ever, targeting the participation of over 60 nations and 1200 athletes.

We look forward to great World Games in India and high participation in the sports of Archery, Athletics (IWAS World Championships), Badminton, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Volleyball as well as an IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup and also demonstration/development opportunities for Golf and Wheelchair Rugby respectively.

We have already begun classifier and Technical Official education and training programme planning with the LOC to be held 2 months prior to the Games with follow up during and after the Games as part of the legacy of the event.

Paralympic Games, Beijing 2008

Both IWAS governed sports on the Paralympic Games programme (Wheelchair Fencing and Wheelchair Rugby) successfully delivered their competition programmes with the support of an industrious local organising committee. The local organising committee (BOCOG) brought the Paralympic Games to a new height and a positive awareness to the world, encapsulated in a cultural context.

Development

IWAS prioritises development and has created a thread in its operational functions linking development aspects into the majority of its programmes and projects.

Development is a word which can carry different meanings according to different contexts, and we must remember that the key to IWAS existence is development. That we have progressed development in some areas is obvious – eg the International Stoke Mandeville Games are now the Paralympic Games. However, the basic premise of the ISMG remains as strong today as it did at the beginning – organisational development, resource development, the need for development of youth, the need for sport specific development, the need for development of pathway from grass roots to elite, within underdeveloped nations or regions – the list is never ending and remains a challenge we all endeavour to meet on a daily basis.

It is true to say that “development” cannot remain the total responsibility or jurisdiction of one organisation or one sport. What we must truly be accountable for, is creating solidarity in principles and standards which we can all buy into, an identification of the different aspects of the term “development” and how it can be delivered to support our nations’ athlete constituency, concerted effort to create realistic resource levels and a clear desire to collaborate and contribute at a sustainable level. Development is not, and never has been a one-off situation or answer.

IWAS has policies and strategies that are broad-based and encompassing all aspects of the term “development” – through the Sports Services Committee,

through the individual sports, through Games programmes etc and it is at the forefront of all our operations.

Our leadership development objective is supported through our knowledge transfer strategy and is already bearing fruit in the HQ. We have also linked this burgeoning knowledge and experience into technological advancement and development.

Throughout the period under review, HQ has investigated through several relationships and partners, the potential of a new web-site incorporating Games event and membership management systems with an aim to launch these in 2009. As I write we have achieved the design and presentation of the web-site and are now utilising the space to improve and expand our communications and promotion of our activities, services and events.

Branding

The projection of our logo and name is continuing to keep our profile at the top tier internationally for International Disability Sports Federations. It is to be said that the new branding across the IWAS family operations and programmes is bringing a more cohesive and ultimately more recognisable look to who we are and what we do. We are extremely pleased with the progress being made in this area and look forward to increasingly positive benefit to the Federation and its membership.

Relationship with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)

IWAS has continued to reaffirm its commitment to the goals of the IPC in relation to the Paralympic Games and movement. Positive action in this regard during the period under review is the acceptance of the IPC Anti-Doping Code as a membership obligation and the development of the IWAS Anti-Doping Code and associated documentation to be compliant with that of IPC and more importantly WADA, who monitor IWAS activities in this area. We have also signed up to the IPC Classification Code and will continue to monitor the sports that we govern to ensure compliance with the international standards for classification.

As an indication of our desire to contribute and reinforce the paralympic movement and recognising a similar objective from the IPC, I have prioritised continued discussion with the CEO of IPC, Mr Xavier Gonzalez and participation in IPC Work Groups.

The IWAS Executive Board made decision at their December 2008 meeting to recognise IPC Athletics as the Governing Body for the sport and we continue to serve the interests of our membership by outlining the services that we can provide in this sport. IPC Athletics needs an infrastructure that is reliable and scheduled in 4 year cycles so that nations can plan effectively. As our President has said: "This competition infrastructure currently is not consistent and in place". IWAS as a founder member of the Paralympic Games and movement and as a partner to IPC has an obligation to ensure that this infrastructure is properly developed and can provide a clear athlete pathway in the sport. We feel that IWAS could be a key asset in this development through the following activities we undertake and which could be built upon for the benefit of all:

- IWAS has such a competition schedule with the IWAS World Games, Junior Games and IWAS Athletics Series:
- These would provide opportunities for IPC to extend the PG brand to more events around the world

- And also deliver better use of the asset of dedicated, passionate and experienced volunteer pools within the IOSD and their families
- While we state that these are scheduled to maximize the sport opportunities for athletes (most thinking elite or emerging elite athletes) the events have several purposes:
 - Opportunities for elite and emerging athletes to gain experience and ranking
 - Opportunities for non elite athletes who may never reach the PGs but gain international experience and grow the base numbers with interest in the movement
 - Opportunities to gain experience for :
 - Coaches
 - NPC
 - Team leaders
 - Officials
 - Classifiers
 - Organizing committees “

The President and I, on behalf of the IWAS Executive Board, also serve on the IPC IOSD’s Council as a consultative and support mechanism to the IPC Governing Board.

We also continue to work very closely with the IPC in respect to the IWAS Paralympic programme sports of Wheelchair Rugby and Fencing. This is a demanding role and responsibility that absorbs the resources of our sport management professionals both pro-bono and staff on a regular basis in order to deliver first-class programmes for our rugby players and fencers in Paralympic Games.

Beijing was a great success in this regard and we have already submitted our application for the reinstatement of team events for wheelchair fencing and increase to the number of teams for wheelchair rugby for London 2012.

Policy, Principle and Regulation Review

This is an ongoing exercise that is undertaken on a regular basis to ensure that the Federation’s constitution and regulations are encapsulating policy and principles established at Executive Board meetings. At the same time, up-dates are required as we move through the implementation of the Federation’s Strategic Plan.

Members will note from our website that we now have an area dedicated to putting the complete Handbook on line and for download, as an easy access to the nations for reference.

Membership

Members will recall that I reported on the obvious need to address the changing roles and responsibilities nationally and the subsequent impact on the types and levels of services the Federation needs to provide in my last Annual Report.

With the support and guidance of the IWAS Executive Board, I have now produced a Service infrastructure, which while recognising that constitutionally we have only one full member organisation, per country, will also encompass services that we can supply to different organisations and at different levels within a country without

impacting on the eligibility and rights of our member organisations. I trust that the presentation of this new infrastructure will answer some of the questions we have in respect to developing nations and partner organisations.

I am pleased also to report that our membership remains at a stable 65 + level and with a few more countries to be ratified into membership this coming November at the General Assembly, I see no reason why we should not be meeting a 70+ target for 2009.

I am always pleased to report on the productive and collaborative relations we share with our member organisations and I believe we have demonstrated good response, support and involvement with member nations in activities at all levels.

Key Meetings/Events attended on behalf of IWAS to May 2009

12 November 2007	Prelim meeting of IPC Paralympic Archive Project
15-18 November 2007	IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup – Paris, France
21-25 November 2007	IPC General Assembly, Seoul, Korea
13 December 2007	Site visit for IWAS WC Fencing World Cup – Malchow
18-22 January 2008	IWAS WC Fencing World Cup – Malchow, Germany
29 Feb – 2 March 2008	IWF EC Meeting in Blackpool, England
7 – 9 March 2008	IWAS Executive Board Meeting – Copenhagen, Denmark
20-25 April 2008	1 st IWAS World Games Site visit to Bangalore, India
5 June	LGPSF Meeting at HQ
21-30 June 2008	Canada Cup & IWAS WC Rugby Sport Assembly in Vancouver, Canada
16 July 2008	Joan Scruton Memorial Service, Stoke Mandeville Partners' meeting for IPC Paralympic Archive Project
18 – 27 July 2008	IWAS Junior Games, Newark, USA
2 September 2008	LGPSF Meeting, Stoke Mandeville
4 – 19 September 2008	Beijing Paralympic Games, including meetings with South American Region with IPC CEO with Sports
12 – 17 November 2008	IWAS Electric Wheelchair Hockey European Championships and Sport Assembly,
1 – 2 December 2008	Meeting with Athletics Chair (Dina Sotiriadi) and Coordinator (Jan Bockweg) re infrastructure, roles and responsibilities
5 – 8 December 2008	IWAS Executive Board Meeting – Aylesbury, England
8 January 2009	Meeting with EPC President and interested parties regarding the sport of football
9 January 2009	Meeting with IPC CEO, Bonn Germany
15 January 2009	LGPSF Meeting, Stoke Mandeville
26 February to Mar 1	Attendance at IPC Athletics Summit
April 24 – 27 2009	IWAS Executive Board Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
15 – 17 May 2009	IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Cup and meetings, Lonato, Italy
25 May 2009	Meeting with Eron Main of Wheelchair Rugby regarding proposed independence – Stoke Mandeville, England
28 – 31 May 2009	Attendance at IWAS Athletics Series Event and meetings potential bidding organisations, Emmeloord, Netherlands

There have also been regular skype/teleconference calls with President Paul DePace, Eron Main (WC Rugby Independence), IPC (partnership building) and Sports (both IWAS and other IFs)

As I close this report on the period October 2007 to May 2009, I leave you with positive notes for the future of our Federation, including a clear focus on our role, responsibilities and focus. I also take the opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to:

- The Ludwig Guttman Paraplegic Sports Foundation for their continued support and in funding the production of new promotional materials
- Sport Focus for their ongoing support to design and deliver our website and to develop a web-based membership management system.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

When I wrote my last report for the 2007 General Assembly I drew attention to the financial blow we had suffered as a result of the failure of ABRADecAR to pay us the money they owed us from the 2004 World games. Much has happened since that time but, despite the personal intervention of our President our attempts to recover the money have been to no avail. This has been a major blow and a great disappointment.

During the past two years we have staged two Junior Games in South Africa in 2007 and the USA in 2008 and we consider both events to have been successful. In 2007 World Games were held in Taiwan and in 2008 the calendar was dominated by the Paralympics in Beijing.

We have taken advantage of the revised UK regulations for operations of our size by not having a full financial audit at significant cost but have used an external firm of accountants, CAAS, to check our financial records and controls to enable them to issue their report as an Independent Examiner. During the period since the last General Assembly we have introduced a new computer based system to handle our books and, with the help of CAAS and others, this is now going live and will be able to provide us with immediate, up-to-date financial information. This was of particular importance as our long time bookkeeper, David Durrant was taken seriously ill and will not be in a position to return and help us. Our thanks to David and we wish him well after his long service behind the scenes.

The financial results for 2007 and 2008 were satisfactory with the impact of the Paralympics in 2008 significantly reducing the end results as expected.

Amir Hosseini has continued to ensure the funds held in our name in Iran have yielded high interest rates, enabling him to provide some much needed cash as well as promotional items. Our thanks to him.

The Secretariat has been re-organising itself at Headquarters and preparations for Maura Strange's full retirement after 2012 Paralympic Games are well in hand with review of job descriptions and hours and the addition of two new part-time personnel in administration: Morwenna Breen-Haynes and Stacey Ashwell, now learning the ropes and ensuring we give the best possible service to our members from our very limited resources. A full presentation of the operational/organisational structure of the Federation will be made at the forthcoming IWAS General Assembly in Bangalore, India.

We have to bear in mind that our Federation is run on a shoestring and we tread a fine line financially. It is only through the devotion of our staff and contribution of our army of volunteers that we can manage our affairs properly and provide sufficient resources to enable our President to ensure the continued development of IWAS for the benefit of present and future members.

MEMBERS AT LARGE REPORTS

DR ORIOL MARTINEZ - IWAS SPORT SCIENCES & MEDICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Introduction

In my capacity as IWAS Medical Officer, it is an honour for me to endorse this report to the members of the IWAS Executive Board for their approval and presentation to the IWAS General Assembly 2009 to take place in Bangalore in next November, detailing the activities of the Sport Sciences and Medical Committee (SS&MC) during the period January 2008 to first August 2009.

1. Main actions of the Medical Officer in this period

The main action during this period has been the preparation of the Anti-doping program and TUE support for the IWAS athletes in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and the preparation of the new IWAS Anti-doping Code in harmony with the new WADA Anti-doping Code and especially with the IPC Anti-doping Code 2009, for their presentation and approval for the 2009 IWAS General Assembly.

1.1. Anti-doping program and TUE support for the IWAS athletes in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

The SS&MC together with the IWAS Headquarters has been developing the diverse programs to be executed, particularly in relation to IWAS athletes' requirements competing in the 2008 Beijing Paralympics Games, in the sports of Wheelchair Fencing and Wheelchair Rugby.

Likewise the Committee has completed all the terms established under agreement between IWAS and IPC regarding jurisdiction in Anti-Doping from IWAS to IPC during the period of the Beijing Games. In association with this surrender of jurisdiction for the period of the Games, the IWAS Anti-doping subcommittee chairperson Mr. Toni Pascual and the IWAS Medical Officer Dr. Oriol Martínez held the positions of IPC Anti-doping Chairperson and of IPC TUE Chairperson respectively.

It is necessary to remark that IPC has congratulated the IWAS Federation formally to be the only International Federation of the Paralympic Movement that has fulfilled prompt and professional attention to all the requirements that in Anti-doping program its athletes need, meeting the Play True ethic. I want to thank, on behalf of all the members of the committee, the support of the IWAS Secretary General and of the IWAS Headquarters that has facilitated these congratulations for the IWAS SS&CC.

1.2. Implications of the new WAC (wada-ama) and the new 2009 IPC Anti-doping Code for IWAS Federation.

In the first half of the year 2009 the IWAS Anti-doping sub-committee with the full collaboration of the IWAS General Secretary analyzed the characteristics and the main changes of the new World Anti-doping Code (WADC effective January 2009) approved by WADA and also specially the harmonization to the new IWAS A-D Code with the 2009 IPC Anti-doping so that a total coherence in the fight against the doping in the whole spectrum of the paralympic movement is guaranteed. The main and important changes that will affect IWAS A-D Code for their Anti-doping program are:

- Change in the definition of the Doping.
- Change in the sanctions for infraction of the Code.
- Participation of other stakeholders in the Anti-doping administration: for example the National Anti-doping Agencies.
- Mutual recognition – Jurisdictional actions.
- Disappearance of the Abbreviated TUE .
- New TUE requirements for the use of beta2 agonist in the use of the Asthma or their clinical variants.
- New 2009 WADA Prohibited List.
- Adaptation of the IWAS A-D Code to the requirements of the WADA International Standard for the Anti-doping Control.
- Adaptation of the IWAS A-D Code to the requirements of the WADA International Standard for the TUE process.
- Adaptation of the IWAS A-D Code to the requirements of the WADA International Standard for the Laboratories homologation.

All these changes have been implemented in the new 2009 IPC Anti-doping Code, which has been studied and revised by the IWAS Anti-doping sub-committee in the first half of the 2009 year and it will also be effective first January 1 2009. These two documents have been the base for elaboration of the first draft of the IWAS Anti-doping new code that will be approved by the Executive Board during 2009 and high for their ratification to the IWAS General Assembly of Nations 2009.

As a transitory measure the SS&MC proposes to the IWAS Executive Board the transitory use of the 2009 IPC Anti-doping Code like base regulation in application of the IWAS Anti-doping programs and jurisdictional and legal regulation. This transitory period will conclude in the moment that the new IWAS Anti-doping Code is approved by our Executive Board and the IWAS General Assembly.

- This proposal application of the SS&MC are carried out under the future philosophy of the "Mutual Recognition"

The new IWAS website, shortly to be refreshed, will hold all relevant details, forms, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), Advice and links to WADA, IPC and other IFs for international athletes and coaches.

1.3. Sport Sciences and Medical Committee (SS&MC), actual structure and members.

In disposition to the approval to the new IWAS Anti-doping Code the IWAS SS&MC has reorganized its structure and enlarged its membership, keeping in mind that after the elections of IWAS to the Executive Board during the General IWAS Assembly the new positions will be able to propose changes in their structure and current members, being exercised the democratic power of the nations members and their represented.

The structure and current members are the following one:

IWAS SS&MC Chairperson:	Dr. Oriol Martínez (Spain)
IWAS SS&MC Members:	Dr. Bassam Qasrawi (Kuwait)
	Dr. Rafael Martínez Cayere (Puerto Rico)
	Dr. Luca Michelini (Italy)
IWAS Anti-doping Sub-committee:	Dr. Toni Pascual (Spain) – Chairperson
IWAS TUE Sub-committee:	Dra. Norma Angélica Patiño (Mexico)
	Dr. Johnson Niño-Soto (Colombia)
	Dr. Oriol Martínez (Spain) – TUE Sub-committee chair

2. Anti-Doping programme – Follow - up Process 2008 -2009 (August)

During this period the IWAS Anti-doping Sub-committee has supervised the following controls with the following results:

2.1. Official Anti-doping Controls 2008 2009 (out Paralympic Games 08): 52

- Electric Wheelchair Hockey: 15
- IWAS Junior Games: 6 (not confirmed)
- Wheelchair Fencing: 16
- Wheelchair Rugby: 15

2.2. Official Adverse Anti-Doping result (just 31st July 2009): 2 both in national level

- Wheelchair Fencing: 1: 1 Not positive case for TUE correct process
- Wheelchair Rugby: 1 Not positive case for TUE correct process

2.3. TUE's procedure (out Paralympic Games 08): 48 – just 31st July 2009

- 29 Abbreviated TUE in 2008 – 19 Standard TUE 2008 / 09
- W Rugby: 29 – W Fencing: 4 – W Hockey: 23 – Others: 2

2.4. IWAS Anti-doping data base 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games

	A*TUE's	S*TUE's	TOTAL
IWAS	5	3	8
W. Fencing	2	1	3
W. Rugby:	3	2	5

SPORT	OUT		IN		TOTAL	
	Tests	Samples	Tests	Samples	Tests	Samples
Total	3	4	14	16	17	20

WHEELCHAIR FENCING	1	1		8	9	9	10
WHEELCHAIR RUGBY	2	3		6	7	8	10

2.5. Official Adverse Anti-Doping result IWAS Athletes during Beijing: None

3. Other IWAS SS&MC activities

During this period the SS&MC has carried out other regular activities as follow:

- 3.1. Regular SS&MC Meetings
 - One Meeting to the Sports Sciences and Medical Committee, in Beijing.
 - 4 IWAS Anti-doping Sub-committee 2008, three in Barcelona and one in Beijing.
 - 4 IWAS Anti-doping Sub-committee 2009, three in Barcelona and one in Bonn.
- 3.2. Other meetings:
 - The IWAS Medical Officer as an IWAS Executive Board Member participated in the 2 IWAS Executive Board meetings carried out in 2008, ie in Copenhagen (Denmark) and Stoke-Mandeville (Great Britain), but was unable to attend the EB meeting in Prague (Czech Republic) in 2009 due to the coincidence with other international meetings.
- 3.3. TUEC Sub-committee organization:
 - During this period the IWAS SS&MC Chairperson before the budget lack for meetings of this sub-committee and being necessary its quick organization at the beginning of 2009 has been carried out a net among the members via e-mail of all the information and of the processes that should be continued and a phone conference.
- 3.4. Scientific activities
 - During this period the Dr. Oriol Martínez participated as speaker, in his capacity of IWAS Medical Officer, in the Paralympic Symposium taken place in the XXX Sports Medicine World Congress - FIMS Barcelona 2008

4. Proposals IWAS Sport Sciences and Medical Committee for 2009-2010

- Definition, implementation and approval to the new IWAS Anti-doping code, version 2009.
- Lend service according to 2009 IWAS Anti-doping Code: Anti-Doping controls, Educational Programme and TUE Procedures.
- Supervise the Controls and TUE in IWAS Official Sports and the IWAS Official Events and Games.
- Development of the Educational Anti-Doping Programme during 2009 - 2010: Especially in the IWAS Junior Games to be held during this period, as specific education for young athletes.
- To maintain our good relationships and collaboration in all topics which are of the SS&MC, with the IPC. Especially with the IPC Anti-doping Committee, IPC TUE Committee and IPC Medical & Scientific Department.
- Open good relationships with WADA-AMA organization in specially to define the role, the responsibilities and the jurisdiction of IWAS in the paralympic movement and their function of an International Federation and organizer of regular multi-sports games.
- Finally, carry out all the actions required the IWAS Executive Board and IWAS Headquarters.

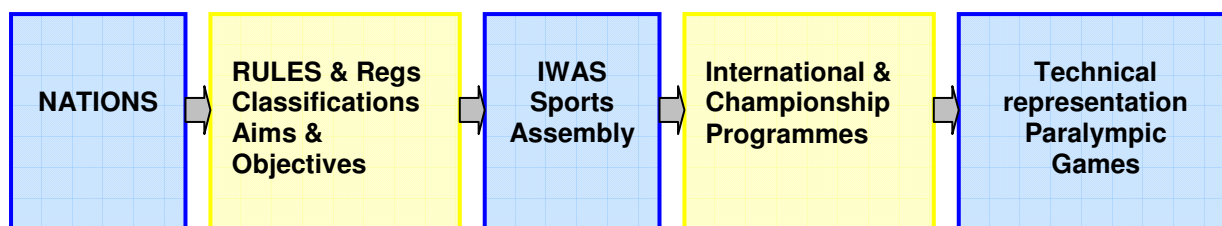
SPORTS ACTIVITIES REPORT

Summary for the Period September 2007 to end 2008

The primary role of the IWAS programmes in sport is to provide increasing opportunities for all athletes with IWAS classifications, within the framework of sport specific technical rules and regulations as determined by the respective Sport Assembly. It is an objective of all IWAS sports to recruit and improve participation and standards globally. The IWAS sports programme includes events/activities/classification at different levels and, in addition to IWAS governed sports, includes collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with IPC sports.

WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE ATHLETICS*, WHEELCHAIR FENCING AND RUGBY

IWAS maintains an autonomous and singular function in respect to governance of international competition and championship programmes from international grass roots to elite Paralympic level in the sports of Wheelchair & Amputee Athletics*, Wheelchair Fencing and Rugby.



***Please note effective from January 2009 and in a spirit of collaboration and support for the sport of athletics in the paralympic movement, IWAS Executive Board made the following policy statements at their Board Meeting in December 2008:**

It was agreed as a positive and supportive stance to the sport of Athletics that the following policies should be followed by IWAS:

1. That IPC is recognised by IWAS as the IF governing athletes in the sport within the paralympic movement, including class 40s and 50s, and that steps will be taken to ensure all IWAS Athletics officials and committee members are aware of this policy and comply with it.

2. That IWAS policy is to continue to contribute to the sport's technical and classification development, through education and training, junior and senior events and identifying appropriate nomination to IPC Athletics Committees.

IWAS ATHLETICS

KONSTANTINA SOTIRIADI, CHAIR IWAS ATHLETICS SPORT TECHNICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Introduction

This report is submitted to IWAS Executive Board for approval and presentation to the Members of the General Assembly in 2009. The report focuses on key events and provides a summary of activities undertaken during the period under review. More specifically it covers the meetings of the IWAS Athletics Executive Committee, the IWAS Athletics Events, the developmental projects and other activities.

Meetings of the IWAS Athletics Executive Committee

Since the elections in 2006, the new IWAS Athletics Executive Committee has met three (3) times in Prague (2007, 2008 and 2009). These meetings have been joined by the Athletics Coordinator and Members of the EB.

The purpose of these meetings was to make plans for the year ahead, produce the calendar, work on developmental projects and take decisions which the EB had to approve.

In between times the Committee Members have had regular communication regarding several technical issues.

IWAS Athletics Competitions

During the IWAS has organised Athletics Championships for the Juniors, Athletics Championships during the IWAS World Games, IWAS Athletics Series and other International Competitions. More specifically:

1. IWAS Athletics Junior World Championships

- IWAS Athletics Junior World Championships, Johannesburg, South Africa, (01/04/2007)
- IWAS Athletics Junior World Championships, Newark NJ, USA, (18/07/2008)
- IWAS Junior Athletics World Championships, Nottwil Switzerland, (12/07/2009)

2. IWAS Athletics World Championships

- IWAS Athletics World Championships during the IWAS World Games, Tapei Taiwan, (09/09/2007)
- IWAS Athletics World Championships will also be held during the forthcoming IWAS World Games, Bangalore India, (25-30/11/2009)

3. IWAS Athletics Series

- 2008 IWAS Athletics Series with 4 Competitions: Dutch Open Emmeloord- NED, International Meeting Duisburg-GER, Nelli Cooman Games Stadskanaal - NED and the Swiss Open in Huttwil, (2008)
- 2009 IWAS Athletics Series with 7 Competitions: Croatian Open in Reijka, Dutch Open in Emmeloord, International Meeting in Duisburg, Nelli Cooman Games in Stadskanaal, International Meeting in Stoke Mandeville, Track Meeting in Ibach and the Swiss Open in Huttwil, (2009)

(Note: In 2009 IWAS Athletics Series there was an incredible increase of the competing athletes and countries as well. The participating countries were: USA, JPN, RSA, GBR, UAE, CRO, IRL, NED, GER, AUT, AUS)

4. Other Competitions

During 2007:

- IWAS 5K World Championships Road Race, Cedartown USA, (26/06/2007)
- IWAS 10K World Championships Road Race, Peachtree USA, (04/07/2007)

During 2008:

- IWAS ½ Marathon World Championships Road Race, Lisbon Portugal, (16/03/2008)
- 1st International Athletics Meeting, Dubai, UAE, (12/04/2008)

During 2009:

- 10K World Championships Road Race, (11/02/2009)
- Fazaa international Track and Field Meeting, Dubai, UAE, (19/02/2009)

Developmental/Educational Programs

In the framework of its developmental role, IWAS Athletics has developed an Education Program for Classifiers and Sport Officials. This Program consists of 3 Levels:

Level 1 - National Trainee

Level 2 - National, International Trainee

Level 3 - International

At each Level two parts (theory and practice) plus an exam test are included. The Trainees must successfully pass one level in order to move to the next one.

The Programs have been implemented in many occasions. Most important IWAS, in cooperation with DIR foundation Gold for Africa, is planning competitions and training seminars for Classifiers and Sport Officials in Addis Abbeba, ETH, (Oct. 2009) in order to assist the African countries.

Rankings, Records and Databases

IWAS offers a very well informed and detailed database of all athletes over the world since 2003. In this database the best performances of each athlete have been captured.

Records that have been found are: World Records, Paralympic Records, World Championships Records, African Records, American Records, Asian Records, European Records, Oceania Records and, finally, Junior World U20 Records started from the Switzerland IWAS Athletics Junior World Championships.

Other Services

IWAS Athletics had offered several other services to the local organizers and to the athletes. These services were assistance to the organizers for better planning and organizing the event, management of competitions, appointment of Officials (Classifiers, Technical Delegates and International Technical Officials) and delivery of Training Seminars during competitions.

Technical issues such as point scores (possibility to calculate points for track events not only by world records), communication with the timing system, results (on paper and in html) in IPC Athletics format, submission of the results to IPC Athletics, etc, have been also resolved or improved.

Cooperation with IPC

IWAS Athletics has established a good working relationship with IPC Athletics. Two Members Maura Strange, IWAS Executive Director/Secretary General and Dina Sotiraidi, Chairperson of the IWAS Athletics Executive Committee participated in the IPC Athletics Summit and were included in two different working groups, where they each serve to work with IPC to develop key support for athletes seeking a clear pathway to success.

Future Planning

The plans for future competitions so far are as follows:

- 10K world championships road race Al-Ain United Arab Emirates, (February, 2010)
- ½ marathon world championships road race Lisbon Portugal, (March, 2010)
- IWAS Junior World Championships Olomouc Czech Republic, (July, 2010)
- IWAS series 2010

Summary

The period under review has been a busy and very productive time with significant competition opportunities for the athletes.

The IWAS Athletics Sport Technical Executive Committee would like to thank everybody who has contributed to IWAS in organising and implementing successfully all the above activities, specially those members who will not run for another term. Finally, we would like to welcome all the new persons who will be elected for the new term and wish them success.

IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING

ALBERTO MARTINEZ VASSALLO – CHAIR IWAS WHEELCHAIR FENCING SPORT TECHNICAL EXECUTIVE

As happens every 4 years, after the Paralympic Games, the activity of nations that practice our sport slows down for a period. We do, however, have to be mindful that the growth of our sport and our objectives related to Paralympic Games programme relies upon clear, consistent and regular opportunities across all weapons, in both genders and in all classes.

During the period under review, the IWAS WC Fencing Sport Technical Executive, under the leadership of the Chair, Alberto Martinez Vassallo continues to put in place activities in support of fencers, from stability of infrastructure, regulatory framework and competitive opportunity from youth through to Paralympic Games levels.

Classification

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing (IWF) since 1998 supervises classification at all international competitions with the presence of one or two IWF authorised international classifiers. Due to our efforts in this regard, we have been a sport that has minimal to nil classification requirements at Paralympic Games, thus meeting IPC's ultimate goal of a classification free Paralympic Games.

In order to maintain this level of best practice, we continue to implement the 2006-2010 classifier training and accreditation plan and, after seminars carried out in

Argentina, Brazil, Lonato and Paris, IWF is now in the position of having a classification team composed of 6 “Master” International Classifiers, 10 International Classifiers and 22 National Classifiers, with more in the pipeline.

Referees

The Referees Commission began its work within the period under review under the leadership of Mr Jozsef Nagy of Hungary, a member IWF Sport Technical Executive Committee. There is now in place a referees training programme with protocols established for examination of potential candidates.

Rules & Regulations

The IWF Competition Rules were brought up to date in 2008 creating a single Rules book incorporating the FIE and IWAS rules for fencing together. This initiative was led by Vittorio Loi, Vice Chair of IWF. This new publication also includes the specific regulations of IWAS, ie World Cups, Regional and World Championships. Further Chapters are being added as they are developed, ie equipment, youth and other themes related to the sport of Wheelchair Fencing.

Growth & Recognition

Several new IWAS member nations have joined the wheelchair fencing family, such as Austria (AUT), India (IND) and United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the period under review and there remains other interest from traditional fencing countries that are within FIE to encourage and set up wheelchair fencing programmes in their own countries.

Wheelchair Fencing is recognised as a sport section of IWAS, which provides legal and financial identity for the sport. Wheelchair Fencing maintains an annual calendar of competitions which are used as qualifier and ranking competitions to Championships and the Paralympic Games.

The relationship with the International Federation of Fencing (FIE) has been excellent for the past 8 years and IWF has been invited to EB of FIE and close cooperation in the FIE Medical, Referees and Equipment Commissions. This close collaboration has supported other initiatives and activities during the period under review and we are currently planning our second joint World Championships with FIE to be held in Paris France in 2010 following the success of joint Championships in Turin, Italy in 2006.

The new President of FIE, Mr Alisher Usmanov from Russia, elected in December 2008 is also well known to us as he has given significant support to IWF in his previous position as President of the European Confederation of Fencing through the organisation and sponsorship of youth camp initiatives.

We expect to be able therefore to continue maintaining very good relations with FIE and continue developing the joint programme of competitions and especially the training and accreditation of technical personnel and development in new countries.

Competitions held during period under review:

18 – 20 January 08	World Cup – Malchow, Germany
2 - 5 May 08	World Cup – Montreal, Canada
23 – 25 May 08	World Cup – Lonato, Italy

21 June 08	Invitation only World Cup Tour Master Sabre – Verona, Italy
3 – 7 July 08	World Cup – Warsaw, Poland
5 – 18 September	Paralympic Games WC Fencing – Beijing, China
25 October 08	Invitation only World Cup Tour Master Epee – Milan, Italy
1 – 5 May 09	World Cup – Montreal, Canada
15 – 17 May 09	World Cup – Lonato, Italy
5 – 11 July 09	European Championships – Warsaw, Poland

Wheelchair Fencing Development Priorities 2009 – 2013 Operational and Regional Development

1. OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All operational time to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing operations is achieved mainly by volunteers, ie by members of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Sport Technical Executive Committee and the IWAS Secretary General. To this we can add the professional support provided by IWAS HQ. However, it is not sufficient for our needs as we continue to grow and compete for space at the Paralympic Games. To this end we must address the need to deepen our human resource pool to support an expanding infrastructure.

Whilst we have in place effective Classification and Referees Commission, it can be seen that this work is a continuum and these are the objectives to be achieved for the next 4 years:

a) Classification Commission

- To develop recently accredited international classifiers through wider experience at World Cups
- Thus leaving the “Master Classifiers” to deal with education & training clinics, re-classification issues and major competitions
- Reviewing the current classification system for wheelchair fencers aligning this with IPC International Standards and a new points system

b) Referees Commission

- Two more members will be added to the Referees Commission to undertake the following responsibilities:
 - To expand the international referees training and accreditation programme into the nations widely practicing the sport of wheelchair fencing in the first instance
 - To examine the referee candidates and evaluate their capacity
 - To appoint referees to all official international competitions, in particular the Regional and World Championships and the Paralympic Games
 - To carry out up-date seminars for referees to renew their licence on a regular basis

In order to relieve the workload on the Chair of IWF who is currently undertaking the following organisational and operational commitments, it is intended that several new commissions will be developed as follows:

c) Competitions Commission

The function of this Commission will be to control and support development and organisation of competitions, and will work closely with the IWAS HQ, primarily to:

- Organise and, if necessary, appoint appropriate personnel to conduct site visits, reporting back to HQ and IWF
- In liaison with HQ, check OC invitations and entry detail
- Designation of Observers or Technical Delegates
- Resolve the issues that can be presented for Directoire Technique attention
- To study and evaluate reports from observers at competitions to improve their organisation and development

d) Technical Commission

This commission will be formed by Technicians (Maîtres d'Armes), ie well qualified technicians with great experience in the sport of wheelchair fencing. Its function will be to:

- Initiate the development of a resource package for new nations
- deliver educational programmes to technicians within the new National bodies affiliating to IWAS for the purposes of wheelchair fencing.
- The educational programmes will be focussed at developing the infrastructure in the sport nationally and include training, demonstration and all activities that can increase participation levels.

e) Rules Commission

The competency and responsibility of this Commission would be to:

- take charge of revision and up-dating of Rules of Competition
- propose to the IWF EC the appropriate changes to IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Rules when FIE changes its regulations
- to develop the protocols appropriate to the incorporation of new materials and frames for the sport for official use in IWF official competitions, including the Paralympic Games

f) Doping Commission

Wheelchair Fencing's Anti-Doping Code is, by virtue of being an IWAS Sport, that of IWAS, which is in compliance with that of WADA and to whom IWAS reports. The associated Anti-Doping rules and regulations are developed by IWAS Anti-Doping Commission and HQ. The competency and responsibility of this Commission would therefore be to:

- to work with HQ in respect to the anti-doping responsibilities at IWF competitions
- monitor that anti-doping controls are arranged and OC provision is made
- Understand the requirements of the IWAS Anti-Doping Agreement and ensure its application at official Wheelchair Fencing events
- Report any discrepancies through HQ to IWAS Anti-Doping Commission

g) Press and Communications Commission

This is a key area for wheelchair fencing to move into and will require close collaboration with HQ staff for distribution and website inclusion.

- Develop contact listings for mass media distribution
- Develop promotional package for introducing sport – video, cd and text to cover pertinent points
- Develop a strategic plan to support introduction of wheelchair fencing in regions where participation level internationally is scarce or nil. This will

require collaboration and coordination with the Technical Commission as it will mean clinics, courses, demonstrations and even competitions.

The development of a Press and Communications Commission should work alongside the development of a Marketing/Income generating Commission so that the two Commissions complement each other.

h) Marketing Commission

This Commission would have the responsibility to:

- evaluate our potential in terms of marketing
 - sponsorship (eg elevation of national to international)
 - wc fencing equipment royalties
 - Funding
- Develop packages for sponsors, product endorsement and project funding agencies
- Create realistic targets
- Generate a stable and regular income level through these exercises

The Marketing Commission would work closely with IWAS for contract approvals and the above commissions to develop programme packages.

2. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Regional Development would come under the remit of the Technical Commission, in close collaboration with the Referees and Classifications Commissions.

An evaluation of regional activity in the sport demonstrates that we have the following practising the sport of wheelchair fencing at some level:

Europe	16 countries	
Asia & Oceania	9 countries	
Americas	North & Central	3 countries
	South	4 countries
Middle East	3 countries	
Africa	0 countries	

Undoubtedly, the Technical Commission should target development in countries where able-bodied fencing is also practised. This would give us the opportunity to target a further 57 countries as presently FIE has 92 active members

I believe that the work to be carried out is extensive, and at this stage the identification of maximum 2 countries each year to be incorporated into our sport would be a reasonable and realistic target.

However, the development of a resource package would help considerably in this area.

IWAS WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

The two main goals for IWAS Wheelchair Rugby during the period under review were competitions and Independency. The prime competition opportunity was the Beijing Paralympic Games, where the competitions held for wheelchair rugby proved very popular with spectators and the matches were close run towards the end of the tournament. Full results of Wheelchair Rugby competitions can be found by contacting IWAS Wheelchair Rugby on <http://www.iwrf.com/>.

Official Competitions held during period under review

25 – 29 June 2008	Canada Cup Wheelchair Rugby Tournament
6 – 27 September 2008	Wheelchair Rugby at Paralympic Games – Beijing, China
23 February 2009	Qualifier Tournament for Wheelchair Rugby European Championships to be held later in year – Dublin, Ireland

Much effort has been expended in the sport defining its pathway to independency and satisfying all parties that this is a viable move forward.

IWAS Wheelchair Rugby took on Eron Main as a consultant in this area for most of the period under review and he worked in close cooperation with the IWAS Executive Director/Secretary General to make sure that the IWAS Executive Board was kept up-to-date. This included a couple of face to face meetings and a few skype teleconferences, addressing such subjects as:

- Business plan
- Governance infrastructure
- Constitution and incorporation
- Draft Transfer of Governance Agreement
- Letters to IWAS Membership and IPC on the subject

Full details on the proposed independency can be found on the Wheelchair Rugby website <http://www.iwrf.com/>.

The relationship between IWAS and Wheelchair Rugby will continue even when the sport becomes independent as they have signalled that they are ready to continue working with IWAS in development of the sport and on the Games' programmes.

The IWAS Executive Board has been presented with the documentation and information so far developed by Eron Main (draft business plan, Governance document and Incorporation by-law) during the EB meeting held in Prague 24th to 26th April 2009. It is felt that a great deal of progress had already been made to support a smooth transfer of governance, and IWAS is keen to make sure that the presentation to the General Assembly is a strong one to support the motion for independency. For this reason, the IWAS Executive Board has asked that a presentation be made by Wheelchair Rugby at the IWAS General Assembly in support of the motion for independency to include the following:

- Finalisation of business plan to include wider projections on what it will cost to govern and manage the sport independently and where the income would be sourced to cover the cost, which operations can the new IWRF undertake and which will be longer term projections
- Has the sport identified an initial start up budget to establish themselves independently, ie where is the cash injection coming from (reserves/outside resources?). Needs to be clear
- Provision of minimum 6 year operational budget (2010 2016) and fundraising plans
- Written undertaking/charter of the 25 national organisations agreeing to sign up and pay membership to the new IWRF as an independent body, commencing January 2010

We take the opportunity to wish Wheelchair Rugby well in the future and to our continuing relationship to bring opportunity to players world-wide.

IWAS MEMBER COUNTRIES

ALGERIA	HAITI	NORWAY
ARGENTINA	HONG KONG, CHINA	OMAN
AUSTRALIA	HUNGARY	PAKISTAN
AUSTRIA	INDIA	POLAND
AZERBAIJAN	IRAN	PORTUGAL
BAHRAIN	IRAQ	PHILLIPINES
BARBADOS	IRELAND	PUERTO RICO
BELARUS	ISRAEL	QATAR
BELGIUM	ITALY	RUSSIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	JAPAN	SAUDI ARABIA
BRAZIL	JORDAN	SERBIA
BULGARIA	KENYA	SIERRA LEONE
CANADA	KOREA	SINGAPORE
CHINA	KUWAIT	SLOVAKIA
COLOMBIA	LATVIA	SLOVENIA
CROATIA	LEBANON	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	LITHUANIA	SPAIN
CYPRUS	LUXEMBOURG	SWEDEN
CZECH REPUBLIC	MACAU	SWITZERLAND
DENMARK	MALAYSIA	CHINESE TAIPEI
ESTONIA	MEXICO	THAILAND
FINLAND	MONTENEGRO	UAE
FRANCE	MOROCCO	UKRAINE
GERMANY	NETHERLANDS	USA
GREAT BRITAIN	NEW ZEALAND	UZBEKISTAN
GREECE		VENEZUELA

Countries in **plum** Not paid 2008 Membership Fee
 Countries in **red** Not paid 2008 & 2009 Membership Fee
 Countries in **blue** New members to be ratification at 2009 General Assembly



**International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation
(IWAS)
Olympic Village
Guttmann Road
Aylesbury
Bucks HP21 9PP, UK
Telephone +44 (0)1296 436179 Fax +44 (0)1296 436484
email: info@iwasf.com website: www.iwasf.com**

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