



Meeting title	APSO General Assembly
Date	4 November 2024
Time	10:00-12:30
Venue	FEI Headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland
Chair	Sabrina Ibáñez
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin

Participants			
APSO Representatives	Initial	Title	IF
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabrina Ibáñez	Chair	APSO President	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Dielen		APSO Vice President	World Archery
<input type="checkbox"/> Colin Grahamslaw	CG	APSO Executive Board Member	WCF
<input type="checkbox"/> Charmaine Hooper		APSO Executive Board Member	World Abilitysport
<input type="checkbox"/> Steve Loader	SL	APSO Executive Board Member	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul Kurzo		Vice-President	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Lund		Secretary General	BWF
<input type="checkbox"/> Ronan Murphy		Director for Dressage, Para Dressage and Vaulting	FEI
<input type="checkbox"/> Riikka Rakic		Head of Strategy, Sustainability & Governance	IBU
<input type="checkbox"/> Jelena Dojcinovic		FIS Membership manager	FIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Dimitrije Lazarovski		Director for Para SnowSports	FIS
<input type="checkbox"/> Alistair Williams		Head of Wheelchair Tennis	ITF
<input type="checkbox"/> Raul Calin		Secretary General	ITTF
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabella Zens		Classification Coordinator	UCI
<input type="checkbox"/> Jon Morgan		President	World Boccia
<input type="checkbox"/> Jodie Cameron		Events Coordinator	World Rowing
<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Okimura	LO	President	WPV
<input type="checkbox"/> Olof Hansson		Para Taekwondo Director	World Taekwondo
<input type="checkbox"/> Antoni Arimany	AA	President Elect	World Triathlon
<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Allcroft		President	WWR
<input type="checkbox"/> Sergey Lyzhin	HSG	Honorary Secretary General	APSO

Invitees				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tea Cisc	TC	Director of Classification	IPC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Krzysztof Kropielnicki		Head of Insights & Analytics	Quantum Consultancy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nick Parr		Executive Director	Virtus
Apologies received				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rufat Hajili		Executive Director	IBSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Edwards		Paracanoe Committee Chair	ICF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Norbert Kucera		Secretary General	IWBF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hannah Stodel		Para Sailing Manager	World Sailing

Agenda		Speaker	Annex
1	Welcome	Chair	
2	Approval of the APSO GA 2024 Agenda	All	
3	Admission of new member	All	
4	Honorary Secretary General's Report	HSG	
5	Finances		
	4.1 Approval of the accounts	All	X
	4.2 Annual subscription fee	All	
	4.3 Appointing of independent auditor	All	
6	IPC Classification update	IPC	X
7	Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Debrief	All	X
8	Any other business	All	

Minutes		
R: Resolution	T: Task	I: Information
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the APSO General Assembly (GA) and expressed gratitude for their participation, both in person and virtually. She highlighted the success of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games for APSO members and noted that APSO was well-positioned to conduct the first-ever Paralympic Games debrief. Additionally, she emphasized the significant growth of APSO since its inception and the importance of evaluating APSO's current and future role collectively, particularly with the anticipated addition of more independent federations. To address this, a strategic session was scheduled to follow the GA. (I)</p> <p>The roll call was conducted in the form of self-introductions. With 16 out of 20 members present, the quorum was confirmed. (I)</p>	
2	<p>Approval of the APSO GA 2024 Agenda</p> <p>The agenda for the APSO GA 2024 was amended to include the admission of a new member at the beginning and was subsequently approved. (R)</p>	
3	<p>Admission of new member</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that an application for APSO Affiliate Membership had been received from Virtus. The APSO Executive Board (EB) reviewed the submitted documents and recommended approving Virtus as an Affiliate Member. (I)</p> <p>Virtus was unanimously accepted by the GA as an APSO Affiliate. (R)</p>	
4	<p>Honorary Secretary General's Report</p> <p>The HSG informed the members that APSO successfully organized online leadership courses for women involved in para sports for the third consecutive year in February 2024. A total of 40 participants registered for the course, all of whom successfully graduated, bringing the total number of APSO program graduates to over 120. (I)</p> <p>The HSG presented the results of the APSO survey on IFs' expenses related to delivering their Para Sports at multi-sport events. A total of 12 completed surveys were received from APSO members. The findings indicated that Integrated IFs (governing sports on both Olympic and Paralympic Games programs) required an additional investment of approximately USD 150,000, while Independent IFs/IOSDs (governing sports only represented on the Paralympic Games program) faced an average additional cost of USD 60,000 to deliver their Para sport competitions. These expenses were above and beyond the funds provided by OCOGs and were attributed to extra flights, accommodation, wages for additional working hours of key staff, promotional campaigns, and enhanced video production. For Independent IFs, an additional concern was the loss of expected revenue, estimated at around USD 10,000–15,000 per multi-sport event, which typically comes from participants' registration fees charged for their own competitions and helps fund events of a comparable scale. (I)</p> <p>SL noted that many IFs had based their survey responses on expenses related to Paris 2024 and anticipated that costs for the next Paralympic Games would likely increase due to greater travel distances and higher accommodation fees for Los Angeles 2028. The Chair emphasized the significant value of the collected data for the EB. It was agreed to keep the survey open to allow other IFs to provide their inputs, ensuring the report could be finalized with comprehensive data. (R)</p>	

	<p>The HSG informed the members that the topics of the 2024 Sport Technical Meeting, held on 21 May, included resource sharing between IFs in various areas and classification management, focusing on research, training of international classifiers, and addressing intentional misrepresentation. It was noted that the meeting was highly valued by the participants. (I)</p> <p>The HSG updated the members on the viewership data collection from the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. The research, conducted by Intelligent Research In Sponsoring GmbH (IRIS) in collaboration with the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), was progressing according to schedule. The individual Para Sports' reports were expected to be received by early December 2024 at the latest. (I)</p>
5	Finances
5.1	<p>Approval of the accounts</p> <p>The HSG presented to the GA the audited accounts for 2023, an interim report on financial situation for 2024 and a budget for 2025. (I)</p> <p>The GA unanimously approved audited accounts for 2023. (R)</p>
5.2	<p>Annual Subscription fee</p> <p>The GA approved to maintain the annual subscription fee at CHF 300. (R)</p>
5.3	<p>Appointing of independent auditor</p> <p>The GA unanimously approved re-appointment of Lausanne-based company Guédon Révision SA to a role of independent auditor for APSO. (R)</p>
6	<p>IPC Classification update</p> <p>TC presented the timeline for the final stage of the Classification Code review, emphasizing that the implementation of the 2025 Code would begin on 1 January 2025 for sports on the Summer Paralympic Games program and on 1 July 2026 for sports on the Winter Paralympic Games program. She clarified that the three International Standards – covering Intentional Misrepresentation, Classification Personnel and Training, and Classification Data Protection – were integral and mandatory components of the Classification Code. (I)</p> <p>TC also explained that the 2025 Code compliance strategy would extend beyond merely incorporating provisions into the rules and would focus equally on maintaining flexibility regarding implementation timeframes. She outlined the IPC's vision, guiding principles, and planned activities aimed at achieving compliance with the 2025 Code across various IPC stakeholders. TC emphasized that there would be no rigid timeline for IFs to implement the Code. The process would begin with a self-assessment survey, scheduled for completion by September 2025. (I)</p> <p>TC presented the key outcomes of the IFs' classification data collection, which included the number of evaluation sessions, classification opportunities, the total number of classifiers, and the average number of evaluation sessions conducted per classifier per Para sport in 2023. It was noted that less than 1% of these classification decisions were appealed. TC also reminded members that all IFs are required to have a classification appeal mechanism in place and highlighted that the IPC provides access to the Board of Appeal on Classification (BAC) on a fee basis for IFs. (I)</p>

	<p>TC provided a brief update on several IPC projects recently launched, including the central management of Visual Impairments classification services, an online learning course on classification fundamentals, the impairments illustration project, and the IPC’s online learning platform. APSO members acknowledged and took note of these initiatives. (I)</p> <p>CG observed that the new Code compliance requirements would demand significant labour resources from IFs and emphasized the need for greater support from the IPC. TC responded that the IPC classification team had been expanded to assist IFs and noted that the revised grant support would help partially offset these additional costs. (I)</p> <p>AA cited the example of World Triathlon, where the cost of an appeal is borne by the appealing athlete, and suggested that IPC grants or other forms of financial support should be made available to athletes. This would help ensure that classification appeals are accessible to athletes from all countries, not just those from wealthier nations. (I)</p> <p>The Chair thanked TC for her comprehensive report on the IPC classification updates.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Debrief</p> <p>The HSG emphasized that, following the conclusion of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the need for a first-of-its-kind, IF- and IOSD-sourced Paralympic Games Debrief became evident. He reminded the GA attendees that a concise 13-question survey was developed to collect essential feedback from IFs and IOSDs on various aspects of the preparation and delivery phases of the Games. It was noted that all 16 APSO members governing Para sports on the Summer Paralympic Games program had submitted completed surveys. The resulting report highlighted broadly relevant feedback items as well as specific insights and recommendations that, if considered, could benefit all IFs and IOSDs in future Games. (I)</p> <p>The HSG presented a summary of the Debrief report to the members, outlining key challenges and success factors in the preparation and delivery of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. (I)</p> <p>AA emphasized the importance of ensuring parity in per diems paid to technical officials at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, noting there was no valid justification for discrepancies between the two events. (I)</p> <p>LO praised the IPC and the Paralympic Games Organising Committee (PGOC) for providing clear explanations of the classification systems to spectators at venues and to broadcasters. It was noted that this initiative was highly beneficial, and it was agreed that the practice should be continued in future Games. (I)</p> <p>The Chair proposed amending the report to structure the executive summary around critical requirements, such as enhanced financial support for IFs in delivering Paralympic events, followed by best practices and optional but desirable operational recommendations. APSO members agreed to adopt this approach. (R)</p> <p>It was further agreed that the report would be addressed to IPC President Andrew Parsons, IPC Chief Paralympic Games Delivery Officer Colleen Wrenn, and IPC Paralympic Games Sport and NPC Services Senior Manager Juergen Padberg. (R)</p> <p>The members supported the idea of organizing a virtual meeting with the IPC to present the key findings of the Debrief report. It was also agreed to invite the IOC and the PGOCs of upcoming Summer and Winter Games to participate in this meeting. (R)</p>

<p>8</p>	<p>Other Business</p> <p>AA proposed that when the IPC leads projects of mutual concern, similar to those presented earlier by TC, APSO should coordinate collective feedback from its members in addition to IFs' individual interactions with the IPC. He also encouraged APSO members to share information on their respective ongoing investigative projects to minimize duplication of resources and promote better collective awareness and results sharing. APSO members acknowledged and took note of these initiatives. (I)</p>
	<p>Closing</p> <p>The Chair thanked the members and the invitees for their participation to the GA and for fruitful discussion. The meeting was formally closed.</p>