

EPC Conference

Dubrovnik: 25 June 2005

Athletes with a Severe Disability

Athletes with a Severe Disability

- The Commission on Athletes with a Severe Disability was established in 2003 and became an IPC Standing Committee in November 2004
- To advocate and advise on the strategies and policies necessary to obtain the full inclusion of athletes with severe disabilities at all levels of Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement

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Terms of Reference 1:

- Review existing data on participation rates (and historical data and trends) for athletes with a severe disability

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Terms of Reference 2:

- Identify barriers to participation by athletes with a severe disability based on research data and historical trends

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Terms of Reference 3:

- Inform IPC of additional research needed to understand issues and barriers faced by athletes with a severe disability

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Terms of Reference 4:

- Communicate barriers to participation in sport for athletes with a severe disability to IPC leadership

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Terms of Reference 5:

- Assist IPC in developing a strategic plan to address barriers and increase participation by athletes with a severe disability in all levels of IPC

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Terms of Reference 6:

- Guide IPC in the implementation of the 'athletes with a severe disability in sport' element of its strategic plan

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Challenges:

- Problem of definition
- Ongoing need for historical data
- Quotas and formulas
- Lack of coherent strategy or action plan

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Definition:

- An athlete who requires assistance from a person during competition based on the rules of the sport
- An athlete who requires support staff for daily living functions based on the Paralympic Games environment (including travel/transport, personal support and transfers)

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Ongoing need for historical data:

- The collection of historical data on the participation of athletes with a severe disability at Paralympic Games from 1992 onwards

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Quotas and formulas:

- The Commission is aware that this needs to be overviewed and revised

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Lack of strategy or action plan:

- Possibly generated by CASD at its January meeting?

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Further action is required in each of the following areas:

- Definition
- Analysis of historical data
- Priorities
- Proposals for change
- Building a strategy or action plan