



**International Paralympic Committee**



**IPC Women in Sport Committee**  
**Friday, June 24, 2005**  
**Dubrovnik, Croatia**





## IPC Women in Sport committee

- Ms. Ann Cody, USA
- Ms Beatrice Hess, France
- Ms. Jean Stone, United Kingdom
- Mrs. Irena Szewinska, Poland
- Ms Tine Rindum Teilmann, Denmark
  
- Amy Farkas, IPC Headquarters Liaison to the committee





## Role of the IPC

- International governing body of sport for Paralympic athletes
- Responsible for organizing, supervising and coordinating the Paralympic Summer and Winter Games
- Supports the recruitment and development of athletes at local, national and international levels and across all performance levels





## IPC Commitment to Gender Equity

- Brighton Declaration was unanimously endorsed by IPC General Assembly in 1995
- Policies established to address under-representation of women on the field of play and in the boardroom
- IPC appointed representative to the IOC Women and Sport Working Group
- Creation of IPC Women in Sport Commission, now Committee





## Women in Paralympic Sport Milestones

- Sydney 2000
  - First woman executive in charge of organizing Paralympic Games
  - Number of countries bringing women athletes increased to 65% due to new wild card and solidarity funding policies
  - Powerlifting competition for women was added to the Programme
  - Number of women athletes increased slightly to 25.4 %
- Salt Lake City 2002
  - Approximately 24% of athletes were women compared with 21% in the 1998 Nagano Games
- Athens 2004
  - Two new sports for women are included in the program (sitting volleyball and judo)
  - Women represented 31% of athletes competing compared with 25.4 % in Sydney



## Status of Women in Paralympic Sport

- Women athletes:
  - Women represent 31% of Paralympic athletes compared with 40.6% in the Olympic Games
- Women Leaders:
  - IPC Athletes Committee – First woman Chair currently serving, 44% of members are women
  - IPC Sports Council Management Committee - First woman Chair currently serving, 40% of SCMC members are women
  - IPC Sports Council – Woman hold 27% of the SC positions
  - IPC committees – Woman hold 70% of committee appointments
  - IPC Executive Committee – Women hold 9% of the EC positions



## Status of Women in Paralympic Sport

### Athens 2004 Paralympic Games Statistics

- Countries participating: 136
- Athletes (3806 total)
  - 2646 male (69%)
  - 1160 female (31%)
- Athletes with a severe disability (671 = 18% of total):
  - 538 male
  - 133 female
- Universality Wild Cards (60 allocated = 2% of total):
  - 33 male
  - 27 female
- Women athletes by Region:
  - Africa – 36%
  - Americas – 33%
  - Asia – 28%
  - Europe – 29%
  - Oceania – 36%
- 519 Medal Events:
  - 309 Mens' (60%)
  - 183 Womens' (35%)
  - 27 Mixed (5%)



## Role of the IPC Women in Sport committee

- Serves as advocate for full inclusion of girls and women at all levels of Paralympic sport
- Identifies barriers that restrict participation in Paralympic sport for girls and women
- Recommends policies that address barriers and achieve equity from the playing field to the boardroom
- Develops initiatives that lead to increased opportunities for girls and women in Paralympic sport





## IPC committee's Key Objectives

- To increase the number of women competing in the Paralympic Games and the number of countries bringing women to the Games
- To increase the number of women coaching, officiating and administrating Paralympic sports and teams
- To increase opportunities in sport for girls and women with disabilities at local, national and international levels
- To increase representation by women in all IPC decision-making structures including National Paralympic Committees, International Organizations of Sport and Disability and International and Paralympic Sport Federations



## IPC Women in Sport Committee Key Initiatives

- To establish a women in Paralympic sport network
- To conduct leadership training and capacity building in the area of women in Paralympic sport
- To promote “best practices” in sports participation for girls and women with disabilities
- To encourage research to understand the benefits and barriers to participation in sport for girls and women with disabilities
- To connect with the broader women and sport movement



## Women in Paralympic Sport (WIPS) Network

- Purpose: To mobilize the worldwide Paralympic community to increase access to Paralympic sport for girls and women.
- Objectives: To establish a network of people dedicated to increasing opportunities in Paralympic sport for girls and women all over the world.
- Goals:
  - Invite and register people from every NPC, Region and sport into the WIPS network
  - Secure partnerships with national and international organizations
  - Host a “list serv” to connect and sustain the WIPS network
  - Form a WIPS Network in every member nation and 6 IPC regions
  - Conduct Regional WIPS Summits
  - Secure media stories about the WIPS Network
  - Link WIPS Network with broader women in sport community



## Recent IPC Women in Sport Accomplishments

- Secured IPC General Assembly approval of a policy to increase representation by women to 30% in all IPC decision-making structures (including NPCs, IOSDs, Sports)
- Successfully recruited qualified women candidates who were appointed to IPC staff and standing committee positions
- Delivered “women in Paralympic sport” presentations at eight national or international conferences in the past year
- Addition of two new sports for women in Athens 2004 (Sitting Volleyball and Judo)
- Conducted an open forum during the Athens Paralympic Games to increase awareness of the role, objectives and key initiatives of the women in sport committee.
- Conducted first IPC Women in Sport Leadership Summit in December 2004 in Tehran, Iran for the Middle East Region (now Asia)
- Will conduct three IPC Women in Sport Leadership Summits in 2005 (Tanzania, Niger, and Venezuela)



# Guest presentations on women in sport activities



## Next Steps

- Establish a Women in Paralympic Sport Network in your country, sport or region.
- Consider hosting a European Regional WIPS Summit
- Promote and develop opportunities for women as athletes, coaches, officials and leaders in Paralympic sport and engage women in the process.
- Register to participate in the WIPS Network
- Plan to attend the 2006 World Conference on Women and Sport in Kumamoto, Japan (May 11 – 14)

