

# EUROPEAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE



## European Paralympic Committee Athletes' Council and Athletes' Representative Proposal

### EPC Athletes' Council

#### *Role Description*

- Advise on what is needed to ensure that the athlete voice is both included and heard by the EPC, and that athletes are at the heart of their work.
- Establish mechanisms to engage with the wider athlete community and gain regular feedback.
- Lead the EPC's efforts for greater athlete involvement and engagement in its activities. With the support of the EPC office, establish and lead the process to create strategic priorities for the EPC in terms of athletes' needs (e.g. support, advice and guidance, promotion, Paralympic Games, European Games and Youth Games).
- Advise and make recommendations on how these strategic priorities are best introduced and then delivered in the most meaningful, impactful way.
- Work and liaise with the IPC Athletes' Council on issues affecting athletes and ensure those are considered by the EPC Board.
- Ensure that the views of all athletes from all regions of Europe and impairment groups are encouraged and represented by and to the EPC.
- Elect one Athletes' Representative for the EPC Executive Board.

#### *Governance*

- Full EPC members may nominate up to two athletes for the Athletes' Council, where possible taking into account summer and winter sports, gender balance and a spread of sports.
- Preferably the nominated athletes would come from the member's own Athletes' Council or at least be endorsed by the member's Athletes' Council.
- A nomination form is to be used for all nominations
- An EPC nominations sub group will assess the nominations against set criteria and make a selection based on the criteria
- Criteria to include the following:
  - o The Athletes' Council members will have represented their country or territory at sanctioned competition level or above (as defined by the IF) within the previous eight years at the time of their appointment. Retired athletes are welcome.
  - o Summer and Winter sport represented
  - o A variety of sports to be included
  - o Balance of male and female athletes
- There will be a maximum of 8 members on the EPC Athletes' Council.
- The term for the athletes will be for 4 years. For this very first Athletes' Council, the nominations sub-group will appoint 4 athletes for 4 years and a further 4 athletes for 2 years. (This will require additional members every 2 years and support a feasible rotation system).

- For the term of the first Athletes' Council there will be 7 places available as we already have an Athlete Representative in place on the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board will nominate a liaison person to support the EPC Athletes' Council.
- The Athletes Council will meet at least 3 times per year in an online format.
- Members of the EPC Athletes' Council must make reasonable efforts to attend and actively participate in meetings. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings without valid justification, may result in removal from the council commission.

#### EPC Athletes' Representatives on the EPC Board

- The EPC Athletes' Council will elect one Athletes' Representative to the EPC board.
- While there must be one listed Athletes' Representative on the EPC Board, there should be a second backup or replacement Athletes' Representative. In this case, it is recommended that one Athletes' Representative must be retired or not actively targeting upcoming Paralympic Games.
- The EPC Athletes' Representative to the board will have full voting and speaking rights
- Representatives must make reasonable efforts to attend and actively participate in Executive Board meetings
- If an Executive Board meeting is held in person, the Committee members must attend in person, except where the President or Chairperson (if different) permits otherwise.

#### *Practical considerations*

- The EPC will cover travel and accommodation costs for all Executive Committee members to attend in-person meetings of the Committee in accordance with the EPC's financial policies. Where required, the EPC will also cover such expenses for guides to accompany Executive Committee members with a visual impairment, assistance for wheelchair users or those with high support needs.

#### Timeline

- Draft proposal to be shared with the EPC members at the GA in Rotterdam in August 2023
- If approved, nomination forms and process to be sent to members, August/September 2023
- EPC nominations subgroup to be set up, September/ October 2023
- Members to return nominations, November 2023
- Nominations subgroup to apply criteria and select candidates, November/December 2023
- Athletes to be informed of the process outcome December 2023
- EPC Athletes Council first meeting, January 2024