



ACTIVITY REPORT 2016- 2018

ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

after European Championship

Sport Executive Committee:

New SEC members:

The SEC is now composed by 5 members as planned after the arrival of Rasmus Nielsen (Marketing and Communication Officer) and Annemieke de Vries (Secretary Officer). They both joined the SEC in the second half of the 2016 without voting rights.

New collaboration and archive platform:

The SEC moved to a new emails system management and collaboration platform. The support of IWAS with the no profit code from GB let the SEC have access to Google Suite (Gmail, Drive, etc.) for free.

This really improved the collaboration tools available for both repository of files and remote working.

Technical and Classification Committee:

Classification system update:

The new Classification System has been approved by Sport Assembly in De Rijp 2016.

The Head of Classification Committee Mr. Kees van Breukelen participated to the IPC Classification Meeting held in Bonn in February 2017 during which the latest updates and changes in the IPC Classification Code were presented. After that IPCH has been involved in the IPC audit regarding the compliance of our Classification System to the IPC guidelines and processes.

Anna Rossi (Technical and Classification Officer) and Mr. van Breukelen are currently in charge of this project which has deadline the end of June.

Classifiers training and Classification sessions:

A Classifier Meeting and Course will be held in Breda during the Paragames (21st-26th June).

IPCH invited all the already licenced Classifier in order to ensure them a proper update but also offered all Nations the possibility to register 1 new Classifier to be trained in order to obtain the IPCH Licence. IPCH considers extremely important to be able to offer a wide group of fully updated IPCH Classifiers in good advance to let National Teams rely on the possibility of requesting advices and information regarding Classification before the upcoming World Championship 2018. This will also allow IPCH to be able to schedule and accept requests for planning Official Classification Sessions before the World Championship 2018 decreasing pressure and uncertainty for athletes and National Teams in the competition. Only classifiers with this new knowledge can be invited for future IPCH



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



competitions.

Contact for a new speed control system:

The contact had during the VISTA Meeting in Girona with a research group from the Netherlands about the use of Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs) on wheelchairs continued. Thanks to the collaboration of the Dutch National Team some discussions went on and there might be the possibility to perform a bench test between the currently used system and their sensors during the Paragames Breda.

Some other companies and groups are currently working on possible improvements and new ways of testing and monitoring speed.

Marketing and Communication committee:

New website and Communication:

The new website www.powerchairhockey.org has been online for almost a year now. The new Marketing and Communication officer, Rasmus Nielsen, is already working on a new and improved graphic that can be used as a coordinated image for the Sport.

He has the support of a strong team of new volunteers he recruited online (most of them have a very strong background in graphic design and webmastering).

The results are at the moment impressive and we will launch soon the new version of the website.

The Communication is increasing for quality and effectiveness since the new member joined the group also on social media (Facebook, Instagram).

Development and Competition committee:

Development new Nations:

In the last period (not strictly 2016) the Sport Executive Committee received a lot of new contacts for developing nations. Some of them, like for example Russia, China, Argentina and Morocco, are completely new. Some others are re-established and renewed contacts, For example the USA and Canada. Last nation expressed the will to become more active by joining several committees and appearing to train officials. Also USA has shown interest in participating more. This is very good news for the growth of the PCH family worldwide. After Europe and Oceania (Australia), America is the third Paralympic region which is officially active and after participating the World Championship 2018 also on the World Ranking List. This is a huge step towards fulfilling the ultimate dream to become a Paralympic sport some day.

Development Events:

Denmark, Spain and Czech Republic are willing to host a Development Event. Niels ten Hagen (Development and Competition Officer) has already visited the venues proposed by Denmark and had a meeting with Tomáš Žůrek in order to start planning the possible event in Brno. In both situation there will be the chance to have a tournament and some educational sessions for Referees, Jury Members, Players, Coaches and also Classifiers. The organisation from the Paragames has approached IPCH to combine their event with another opportunity to train officials. This was successfully done in 2017. There will be a good chance this will happen again in 2019



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



Australia:

After a long silent period the contact with the Australian Powerchair Hockey Organization has been reestablished. They underwent an internal reorganization and they are now ready to come back on the international level. They are even thinking about the possibility to bid for hosting the World Championship 2022. One Australian classifier will join the course in Breda and they express the wish to educate at least a Referee also.

European Championship 2016:

The SEC successfully managed the organization of the EC 2016 after the Madrid withdraw. The feedbacks received from the participants after the event are positive.

World Championship Bid Evaluation:

The SEC received two bids for the event and managed to visit both countries (Italy and Czech Republic). Due to nationality of the SEC members with voting rights both the Site Inspection were leaded by Niels ten Hagen (Development and Competition Officer). So far Italy bid underwent 2 Site Inspection in Lignano Sabbiadoro while one was held in Prague (a second one might be planned since the Organizing Committee has recently suggested a new option for the Accommodation venue).

Next Competitions:

It is interesting to see how the sport is quickly growing also by considering that Nations are starting to plan ahead. Even if the bidding procedure for the European Championships 2020 and for World Championship 2022 are not open yet some Nations are already thinking about the possibility to host those events and asking for information about how to properly set up the bid.



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

Sport Executive Committee:

Annemieke de Vries after having collaborated for a year with the Sport Executive Committee as Secretary had to leave the role because of work related and personal instances.

Sport Executive Committee meetings are held every 3 weeks. In addition to this specific working meeting regarding specific aspects of Committees with Heads, volunteers or among SEC people are organized when needed.

Fabio Rodo participated in **IPC General Assembly 2017** - Abu Dhabi, UAE with IWAS delegation achieving to get good contacts especially with FIPFA (Powerchair Football).

Fabio Rodo participated in **IWAS General Assembly 2017** - Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal presenting the sport to the Nations and to the candidates for the new IWAS board.

Technical and Classification Committee:

Classification system update:

The new Classification System has been approved by Sport Assembly in De Rijp 2016.

The Head of Classification Committee Mr. Kees van Breukelen participated to the **IPC Classification Meeting** held in Bonn in **February 2017** during which the latest updates and changes in the IPC Classification Code were presented. After that IPCH has been involved in the **IPC audit** regarding the compliance of our Classification System to the IPC guidelines and processes. The audit has been submitted within the IPC deadline in **June 2017**.

IPC Vista Meeting Toronto:

Mr. Kees van Breukelen participated in this big international meeting.

The main benefit of being here for our Head of Classification has been being again fully aware and up-to-date concerning the IPC driven classification and support the IPCH networking by making contacts with other classifiers/classification coordinators, researchers and discussing classification issues/difficulties.

Research on Classification:

In **November 2017** Dominique van Zaanen and Oscar Blik two students of the School for Applied Science in The Hague (HHS) followed by R.M.A van der Slikke and Kees van Breukelen published the result of a research titled: "The influence of trunk functionality on the classification system in PCH".

Purpose of the research is to investigate the influence of this trunk antigravity posture and mobility on the wheelchair performance. The research question was: what is the influence of different trunk functionalities on the rotational speed (as important parameter of wheelchair performance) and trunk sideways movement during that wheelchair rotation in PCH. The different trunk functionalities are described in 4 athlete groups:

- (1) players with no trunk function at all,
- (2) players with trunk antigravity capability,
- (3) players with limited trunk mobility and
- (4) players with full trunk mobility.

Expectation was that players with antigravity posture and players with (limited) mobility will show a higher rotational speed/wheelchair performance in comparison with players without any trunk functionality.

To get an answer on this research question the wheelchair performance of 25 PCH athletes was investigated.

The group of athletes without trunk function consisted of 7 players, the group of athletes with trunk antigravity



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



capability consisted of 10 players, the group of athletes with limited mobility consisted of 8 players. Players with full trunk mobility were not selected for the research.

In the research, consisting of three wheelchair tests, the rotational speed and sideways movement of the trunk were investigated in (a) rotation with a variable radius, (b) in rotation with handling the stick with a ball and (c) in rotation in a slalom path. The rotational speed and the (sideways) movement of the trunk was measured with four Shimmer sensors: three on the chair and one on the trunk of the athlete.

The data from the research do show a significant difference between athletes with trunk antigravity capability and athletes with limited trunk mobility, $p > 0.05$. Players with trunk mobility do reach a higher rotational speed and can resist the rotational forces on the trunk significantly better.

Based on the results of this research recommendations were made to change the current classification practice:

(1) players with (only) trunk antigravity capability should not be given the same trunk profile score as players with limited trunk mobility (currently this is however the classification practice: they do get both the 0.5 trunk profile score).

(2) Players with limited trunk mobility (trunk profile score 0.5) should not be placed in the same class as players without trunk mobility (trunk profile score 0). In the current practice the 0.5 trunk score is ignored/does not lead to a different class for the player.

Further investigation have also been done on the use of half points to better and more precisely assess the Arm Profiles

Working with half point classes will give us new opportunities: we can, easily, integrate also half point Arm profiles without changing the way we do assess the athlete currently. The classification (system) is still 'out of balance' when we only integrate half point Trunk scores but no half point Arm scores.

Research on the Arm profiles are planned to be done in April and May 2018 on the classification data of 70 recently classified Dutch national players and on the classification data of another 70 international players from Italy, Swiss, The Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Denmark, 140 athlete data in total.

Classifiers Manual:

Thanks to several feedbacks coming from Classifiers, after the course, and some players as well a revision of IPCH Classification Manual was released in October 2017. The revision fixed some typos and better explained some aspects and processes to make the manual friendlier to read and understand.

Classifiers meeting and training:

A **Classifier's Meeting and Course** was organized in Breda during the **Paragames (21st-26th June 2017)**.

IPCH invited all the already licensed Classifier in order to ensure them a proper update but also offered all Nations the possibility to register 1 or more new Classifiers to be trained in order to obtain the IPCH License.

15 participants (5 new Classifiers) from Australia, Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain and Switzerland attended the classification course. The classification course was leaded by Kees van Breukelen and was held in connection with the Paragames Breda, where Belgium, Switzerland and The Netherlands were competing in a tournament. This was also an opportunity to start the reclassification of players.

Classification Session:

Paragames Breda (21st-26th June 2017) – teams classified 3 (Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium) for a total of 33 players.

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017) – teams classified 5 (Italy, Finland, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark) for a total of 36 players.

Referee Course:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017)



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



Instructors: Mr Davor Matijašević from Slovenia and Mr Ilkka Antero Siiki from Finland.
9 participants from Australia, Belgium, Finland Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and The Netherlands.
Both Theoretical and practical session have been organized.
Participants whistled the tournament as well to complete the evaluation on the practical exam. Only 1 (Julian Delgado from Spain) has passed the theoretical exam that remains valid for the next course but not the practical – a proper and completed feedback was sent to Spanish Federation in this regards).
In this occasion Mr. Fabrizio Imparato also renewed his licence as IPCH Referee.

Jury Member and Observers:

The growing needs of our sport brought SEC to the decision of having 2 kinds of Jury Members the Referee Observers and the Technical Jury Members. The first one will have the task to observe and give feedback to our Referees with the aim of supporting them in increasing their skills and expertise while the second ones will have the task of supervising the Match table, the speed controls and the respect of point system on the field.
Both roles are relevant and need training. IPCH aims to set up proper guidelines for education/training.

Jury Member Course:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017)

Instructors: Mrs Dorte Berenth from Denmark and Mr Lauri Oksanes from Finland.
Three Jury Members from Australia and Italy participated to the course.
Both theoretical and practical session have been organized All Jury Member obtained the licence and both had tasks on the match table and as observers during the tournament.

Marketing and Communication committee:

New website release:

In early 2017 we released our new website. The goal was to make it easier to navigate and a place to find all necessary information regarding Powerchair Hockey. At the same time we wanted it to be more in line with the new visual identity we later rolled out across all our media platforms as well as all new documents.

New visual identity:

We created a new visual identity to go along with the existing logo for IPCH. The new visual identity included new fonts, colors and designs guidelines. This was to make sure there is a recognizably look whenever you see official documents and social media content coming from IPCH.

Whenever new IPCH documents are released or old documents are updated, the new design principles will be followed.

Social media:

In 2017 we also increased our social media presence. Both using public social media content as well as using social media to reach out to new nations in more direct messages.

We have increased our social media following by expanding our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram with more content on a more regular basis.

This have also resulted in new nations reaching out via Facebook direct messages to our page.

Together with more personal interactions via private social media messaging together with public social media content we have also spiked interest from already active nations that until now haven't been participating on a international level.



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



After reaching out to players from USA, we created a video for social media about the state of their PCH. This was a trial to include them more in our organization. It worked well being one of the most views video of 2017. Later same year they at first accepted their allocated spot at the 2018 World Championship for the first time ever. This also spiked the interest for Canada to participate, which also resulted in them jumping in to take the spot from USA when they later had to withdraw from the World Championship.

Development and Competition committee:

World Championship Bid Evaluation:

SEC received two bids for the event and managed to visit both countries (Italy and Czech Republic). Due to nationality of the SEC members with voting rights both the Site Inspection were leaded by Niels ten Hagen (Development and Competition Officer). Niels visited Italy for a second time to make sure the promised solutions were accomplished. After having shared the Site Inspection materials and report and sent an official recommendation for the appointment to IWAS Italy was appointed on June 2017 to host the event. The site inspection in Prague was done together with chairman Fabio Rodo. The site inspection in Lignano was with Anna Rossi. It was hard decision. Both nations had a magnificent bid. Due to logistical reasons (mostly the accessibility of the hotels and the safety of the athletes at the sports venue) the appointment for the hosting of the World Championship 2018 was given to Italy. Although the fourth SEC-member Rasmus Nielsen has no voting rights, the meetings and the final advice to IWAS were held together with Niels. This was to make sure there was no Italian involvement in the final advice. This is only fair towards the Czech Republic and the independent vision of fair play.

Site inspection for a possible bid of Denmark

Denmark is considering to bid for an official competition for many years. Because of the Danish rules and regulations, a bit must be prepared years before the event. Denmark has requested IPCH to visit the accommodation they have in mind for the bid. Niels ten Hagen visited the accommodation Musholm as an official satisfaction. The accommodation for the athletes is magnificent. It might be one of the best places to host a large group of severely disabled people/athletes. The sports venue Denmark had in mind is relatively small. The midfield and the accommodation is perfect. The problem is there is no nearby training facility. This might cause big problems for the combination of training and play. Solutions can be found in a larger match schedule where the same field can be used for training and competition or long transportations towards a training venue nearby. The accommodation was judged sufficient. Denmark is facing another problem. The visited accommodation is extremely expensive. There is a big challenge to find enough sponsors and support from the Danish federations.

World Championship Drawing Ceremony:

This happening, was carefully designed by to bring powerchair hockey under the spotlights.

The Ceremony took place at "Stadio Friuli - Dacia Arena", the stadium of the Udinese Calcio S.p.A., a professional football team of the Italian first league (Serie A). Representatives of teams and IPCH's Officials were welcomed by Udinese Calcio and guided in a short tour of the stadium, till going out on the pitch. After this all the guests were accommodated into the press room where, after the authorities' speeches Kevin Lasagna, a player from Udinese Calcio first team extracted the pools. Thanks to Udinese Calcio collaboration the event was broadcasted on their official tv channel and streamed on the web so that also all participants of the 5 stars international tournament left at the accommodation (more than 150 people) could see the Drawing and the press Conference on a maxi screen in the Sport Hall.

Qualification Tournament for European Championship Bid request:

In December 2017 Czech Republic with a Letter of Intent officially showed his interest to host the Qualification Tournament for European Championship to be held in 2019 (EC will then be played in 2020).



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



European Championship Bid request:

Procedure for Bidding for hosting EC2020 is open. Swiss initially showed an interest to host it but no Letter of Intent has followed this first interest. IPCH has been informed Swiss would prefer to bid for hosting World Championship 2022. Spain was also considering to bid for the 2020 European Championship, but decided in the end not to take official steps towards bidding.

5 stars international – World Championship Test Event:

5 stars International (31st October – 1st November 2017) – Lignano Sabbiadoro Italy

The Five Stars International Tournament was organized in Lignano Sabbiadoro (UD), Italy, from 31 October to 5 November. The Italian Federation was looking for the possibility to match the need of classify their players to the need of having some matches to test the players performances in order to select the final 10 for the World Championship. They agreed on using this tournament as IPCH Official Developing Event including some educational and training activities. At the same time the event was meant to be a sort of test for the LOC before the World Championship aimed to help them in the understanding of the strengths and the weaknesses of their workflow and organization. 5 teams were the participating: Italy, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Switzerland.

Worldwide Reach (List of active countries)

World Ranking List

1. - The Netherlands
2. - Italy
3. - Germany
4. - Belgium
5. - Denmark
6. - Switzerland
7. - Finland
8. - Australia
9. - Slovenia
10. - Spain

Active Nations besides WRL

- Estonia
- Slovakia
- Austria
- Japan
- USA
- Canada
- Czech Republic

contacts with new nations in 2017

- India
- Portugal
- Great Britain
- Argentina
- New Zealand
- Morocco
- Russia

Regular National leagues and tournaments have been organized in the active nations - Some International Club tournaments also took place around Europe (ex. Czech Open - Eindhoven, 2 vs 2 Denmark...)



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



ACTIVITY REPORT 2018

from January 2018 to World Championship 2018.

Sport Executive Committee:

Sport Executive Committee meetings are held every 3 weeks. In addition to this specific working meeting regarding specific aspects of Committees with Heads, volunteers or among SEC people are organized when needed.

Meeting with FIPFA:

It was held in Paris in March(12th) in the FFH headquarter attended by:
Rudi Van den Abbeele (IWAS President)
Fabio Rodo
Niels ten Hagen
Nicolas Dubes (FIPFA Board Member)
Donal Byrne (EPFA President)

Since the two sports can be presented to similar athletes although they still show up singularity and differences in sport equipment and classification the general idea, shared among the two groups, is to reach new potential athletes and Nations together presenting a multiple option of practicing sport.

During the meeting a presentation of the two sports has been made and an analysis of the equipment differences of the sport chairs has been conducted. Best scenario for the future would be to have sport chairs that can be easily switched between sports.

The two groups will share invitation in Sep.-Oct, for the IPCH World Championship and the EPFA Champions Cup. After this the new board will develop a more integrated development strategy.

This was also a good chance to share with IWAS President the development vision of our sport.

Meeting Strike Powerchairs:

After the meeting had with FIPFA in Paris we have been contacted by the Strike Powerchairs Company. They are willing to develop a version of their sport chair that can be used in Powerchair Hockey also. The SEC, according to the development vision and considering all the benefits for the actual and potential athletes provided in a conference meeting (8th August) all the possible support. More contacts may be possible participating in FIPFA event in Denmark in October 2018 (TBC).

Sport Congress 2018 Organisation:

The aim of the Sport Executive Committee, along IWAS suggestion to re-name the Sport Assembly and make it more interactive, has decided for the name of IPCH Sport Congress.

The plan of this is to include as much as possible workshops and interactive discussions to promote the involvement of the Nations on the IPCH topics in order to defying the long term objectives and strategy for development as much as possible together.

Sport Executive Committee is also working on developing a platform to allow collaboration and international discussion on motions and proposal for the next Sport Congress 2020.



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



Technical and Classification Committee:

Classification system update:

Research on the Arm done in April and May 2018 on the classification data of 70 recently classified Dutch national players and on the classification data of another 70 international players from Italy, Swiss, The Netherlands, Belgium, Finland and Denmark, 140 athlete data in total.

The results were discussed within the classification committee. With this updated, practical, systematic classification procedure, we can make (more) reliable Arm profiles in full scores or half points, without changing the way we are assessing currently, while the needed data is already on the PCH classification form!

This will make the PCH classification system (more) precise and balanced.

A revision of the IPCH Classification Manual has, therefore, been developed and will become effective after the WC 2018.

Classification education:

Classifiers periodically receive updates and best practices from the Head of the Classification Committee Mr. Kees van Breukelen.

World Championship Officials Appointment:

In agreement with the Sport Executive Committee the process of analysing, inviting and appointing Officials has been completed. Few invited Officials had to decline or withdraw invitation due to personal and work related issues, when possible they have been substituted by the next Officials in line. The aim was to have the best Officials (according to previous competition feedbacks).

New possibilities on Speed control evaluation:

Having received a positive feedback about the speed control system used by Powerchair football the Sport Executive committee has started new research on the Speed Force system.

Thanks to the support we could get from Australia (thanks to Mick Wait - IPCH Jury Member) we could have a first evaluation on it. The Speed Force seems to be faster, safer and easier to use than the current IPCH system but it is really expensive (2499,00\$ per each vs the actual €650 of the IPCH one) and it is not sure it can measure up to 15 km/h (Football speed limit is 10 km/h).

Thanks to the ongoing collaboration with FIPFA the Sport Executive Committee is willing to check opportunities to try and test the system.

Task separation among Jury Members and Referee Observers:

The growing needs of our sport brought us to the decision of having two kinds of Jury Members the Referee Observers and the Technical Jury Members.

The first one will have the task to observe and give feedback to our Referees with the aim of supporting them in increasing their skills and expertise while the second ones will have the task of supervising the Match table, the speed controls and the respect of point system on the field.



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



Both roles are relevant and need training. IPCH will provide the new Jury Members/Observers with the proper and needed education/training in the days before the start of the competition during which they will be tutored by Senior Officials.

To become a Jury Member/Observers English knowledge (especially spoken) is a requirement, in addition to this the involvement in the sport is important (knowledge of rules and regulations of the sport), previous experience with referee observation in PCH or other sports are welcome.

Jury Handbook & Referee Handbook revision:

Before World Championship a new version of this two documents have been completed. Editing will also be done in order for them to be in line with the new IPCH visual identity. As soon as ready they will be updated on the website.

Update of Officials Register and Licence system

Registers of all Officials' group have been updated according to the last courses attendance and feedbacks. Licences have been prepared thanks to the collaboration with the Marketing and Communication Committee and will be sent to all before World Championship and from now on periodically updated. (For the Officials appointed to World Championship the expiration date will be updated already).

World Ranking System update:

This topic is very important for the development of the Sport and many Nations have asked for a review, which comes to be necessary also because of the development of the Sport.

Starting from a proposal which was presented by the Technical Committee in 2012 and from all the comments and inputs given to it by the former Sport Executive Committee, a new proposal has been developed.

The proposal has been discussed with Head of Referee Committee Davor Matijasevic and Ilkka Siiki who volunteered to help on this. The Sport Executive Committee finally discussed the topic and a new system will be presented in the Sport Congress 2018.

Development and Competition committee:

Tournament in Tallinn:

Estonia has one official competition team. Therefore they are allowed to participate in the Finnish league. Of course an excellent gesture from Finland to help their neighbours develop. This year it was decided to have the final match day in Estonia to empower the cooperation between the two nations. Estonia organised this match day under the flag of the Finnish Federation. Since a few months there is another nation interested in participating in the Finnish league, being Russia. Estonia and Finland have invited Russia to visit the match day in Tallinn to get more acquainted with the sport and get in touch with officials from Finland and Estonia. PCH development officer Niels ten Hagen is very happy to hear this and decided to visit the tournament. Some unofficial matches were played between Russia against Finland and Estonia against Russia. This was a great step in the development of PCH for Russia. To make sure this great initiative has a good follow-up several meetings were held with representatives from Russia, Estonia and Finland. Estonia has ensured they will do everything within their power to be present at the Qualification Tournament 2019 for the European Championship 2020. Russia has to take a few steps before being able to be invited for the Qualification Tournament. Russia is also interested in organising a development event or bidding for a competition in the near future.



IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

Sport Section of the IWAS
www.powerchairhockey.org
office@powerchairhockey.org



Qualification Tournament for European Championship awarded to Czech Republic:

The bid from the Czech Republic was great. They have put a lot of effort into preparing their bid. SEC discussed the bidding package on several criteria. Besides, a site inspection was done. We can explicitly share that they have used the advice given after the previous bid for the World Championship 2018 was declined. The Czech Republic has done everything within their power to work on the challenges and have come with great solutions. The offered venue is sufficient for a Qualification Tournament of this size (with a maximum of six nations).

The support from local authorities (City Council, Ministry of sports and supporting sports federations) is guaranteed by the Czech Republic. Also financial guarantee is secured by the Czech Republic with a good estimate and great plans for marketing and sponsoring. Czech Republic has the support from the city of Prague. They promised to build a strong LOC with a good mix of knowledge and qualities.

The huge difference compared to the bid for the WC 2018 was in the accommodations for the athletes. In PCH this is one of the most important issue on the bids. Czech Republic offered an accommodation which was already checked before and found not sufficient for the PCH World Championship in 2018. We were able to discuss the challenges we found for the bid of the WC 2018 and they have found solutions for that. The hotel the Czech Republic is offering now is sufficient for a smaller group of athletes, mostly because of the accessibility of the bathrooms in the standard rooms.

Czech Republic has again offered the sports venue which was not sufficient for the WC 2018, mostly because of safety issues and accessibility of changing rooms and logistics (entrance, exits, spaces needed, et cetera). For a smaller competition it was judged sufficient, the accommodation has proven the possibilities with large club events.

ParaGamesBreda 2019 Invitation:

The next edition of Para Games Breda will be held from June 27th to June 30th - 2019

An invitation has been spread to all PCH Nations IPCH is in contact with. IPCH is also considering a possible participation in the tournament by planning a classification session or some educational courses or developing event.

Marketing and Communication committee:

After Italy was appointed to hosting the World Championship 2018, we have been working together with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) to promoting the big event. Both on separate Instagram and Facebook pages managed by the LOC and on the IPCH social media channels.

We see a lot of interest for Powerchair Hockey from many new countries. We have therefore also released a short 30 seconds video explaining the basics of Powerchair Hockey. It serves as a short introduction of Powerchair Hockey for people that are new to the sport.

For the first time IPCH will have a communication team working at the World Championship. They will manage all IPCH communication as well as produce photo and video content for social media to be used both under and after the World Championship. They will work closely together with the communication team from the LOC.