



International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation
(IWAS)

IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

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



ACTIVITY REPORT 2019

from January 2019 upto December 2019.

Sport Executive Committee:

Composition of SEC

The Sport Executive Committee consisted of 6 people. Unfortunately due to personal reasons Competition Officer Niels ten Hagen (Ned) and Development Officer Nikolaj Sylvest Richelsen (Den) resigned from their duties. Other SEC members divided the tasks. As a result of this the coopted Secretary Kenny Verbraekel (Bel) received full voting rights.

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.

Representing the SEC and the movement the Chair participated in the major IWAS related events. Attending the IWAS World Games opening ceremony in Sharjah and the following General Assembly gave not only the chance to present the Sport to all the IWAS nations but also to keep the networking relationship running.

Really important was also the participation in the EB meeting in Cape Town allowing to bring observation and the sport point of view into the discussions.

Another important moment was the VISTA Classification Meeting where a lot of contacts (classification or more generally sport related) are always started.

Technical and Classification Committee:

Appointing Officials for QT

The procedure for appointing Officials for the IWAS Powerchair Hockey Qualification Tournament in Prague went on during 2019 and actually turned out to be more complicated than foreseen. Few Officials who confirmed their availability in the first place had to step down from the appointment and be replaced. This situation made clear we will need to organise more courses especially for Classifiers but also for Observers and Jury.

IPCH Officials

All the committees continued their work, after the WC2018 it became clear that Referee Observers need a specific training that is different from Jury's one and more similar to Referees. Therefore Referee Observers were moved under Referee Committee jurisdiction.

App development for match table

As we have seen on WC2018, there is still quite some testing to be done on the Match table management app. At the same time there has been interest expressed by several people asking whether it would be available to use outside of the official tournaments. That was always the plan and it requires some refinements and further development. The aim is to bring the app to the level where it can be used simultaneously by multiple tournaments with multiple administrators and match tables after which we would make it available to the IPCH community. Currently, the app supports one active tournament with one field, which is functionality that needs to be expanded. The project will be continued in 2020 and possibly tested in some tournaments or similar situations.



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Vista 2019

Vista 2019 was held in Amsterdam where IPCH was represented by Fabio Rodo and Kees van Breukelen, who was also selected as speaker for some presentations.

Classification Research on Trunk Functionality

In September 2019 the report of the practical study about the influence of limited trunk mobility on the arm-reach by Powerchair Hockey was made available. The report was written by Sjoerd Vennema, for his third year internship of the program Health and Technology at The Hague University of Applied Science between February 2019 and September 2019.

The title of the report is: "Does limited trunk mobility increase the volume of action for powerchair hockey players? - A study into the influence of limited trunk mobility on the horizontal volume of action in powerchair hockey athletes."

The goal of this study is to show whether powerchair hockey players with limited trunk mobility have a greater horizontal volume of action than powerchair hockey players without trunk mobility. Players with limited trunk mobility are players who have trunk mobility in a maximum of two planes. They do not therefore have the maximum trunk mobility in 3 planes of movement. Found literature has shown that the functional reach in sitting position can increase with 140% of the arm length. This however, was only tested in frontal direction.

In this study, eleven Dutch powerchair hockey athletes with limited trunk mobility participated. They were asked to reach in 8 directions, ventral (VENT), ventrolateral stick side (VLSS), lateral stick side (LSS), dorsolateral stick side (DLSS), dorsal (DORS), dorsolateral opposite side (DLOS), lateral opposite side (LOS) and ventrolateral opposite side (VLOS).

Firstly, the participants had to reach in all 8 directions while using their trunk mobility, the order of the directions in which the participants reached could be determined by themselves. Lastly, the participants were again asked to reach in all directions, this time however their trunk was fixed so that the trunk mobility was minimised. The participants were unable to reach as far as before. All tests were filmed straight from above so that the reaching distances could be measured in Kinovea. The data was analysed with the help of the Shapiro-Wilk and Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Tests. A significant difference was found in all 8 directions ($p=0.05$). The clearest significant difference was found in direction VENT, VLSS LSS and VLOS ($p=0.000$), which means that the possibility that the relationship between the variables was caused by chance, can be excluded. It cannot be questioned that limited trunk mobility increases the horizontal volume of action.

In accordance with the findings of the study the Classification Committee started an evaluation about the way trunk assessment is currently performed in Powerchair Hockey players. Further investigation will be conducted on IPCH level and possibly during the IPCH Euro Stars 2020 in Lignano Sabbiadoro. Objective is to finalise a review of the trunk assessment methods and eventually of the Classification Manual for the Sport Congress 2020.

Classification ITALY May 2019

Italian Powerchair Hockey Organization (FIWH) requested the possibility to organize a Classification Panel in May during the Italian League Playoffs in order to have an assessment of 17 players.

In general NOSD can request the organization of Classification Session and in addition to this according to Art. 27.1 in IPCH Classification Manual "IPCH may make arrangements (subject to the approval of IWAS) for some or all of the components of Athlete Evaluation to be carried out at a place and at a time away from a Competition. If so, IPCH must also implement Protest provisions to enable Protests to take place in respect of any Evaluation Sessions carried out away from a Competition." Normally a team delegation counts on 10 athletes max.

The Technical & Classification Officer assessed the situation together with the SEC and the Head of Classification. As this was a brand new situation never faced before some ground guidelines were agreed in order to make sure future requests could be handled in accordance and in a fair way.

In agreement with art. 27.1 IPCH agreed to allow the Classification session to happen in Italy in May but the results will be kept on hold for confirmation on the international field. The classified athletes got an indication of their entry class based on their physical and technical assessment. All were given an OA status so their class would not be final until confirmed during observation on the field during an official IPCH tournament or competition and not published on the Masterlist.



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Courses for EuroStars planning

Opening application + need to perform interviews with refs + other procedures work very hard with each of the prospective referees and having too many of them only means that each of them gets a part of the attention they need and deserve. Also, we need to point out that this is not a course for beginners. We are looking for referees that can manage games on the highest level - we do not teach them the basics or the rules. The skills required to obtain the international licence extend beyond basic skills and we want to give the chance to candidates with the highest likelihood of success. We feel that it is the best way to establish that in a 15-minute interview with each candidate. Also, since the level of English is of high importance, we can assess that very well in this way.

Speed system

Further research and evaluation have been done about the speed control topic. One option came from Germany where a group of players, mechanics and technicians put together a new option for speed control. The structure is similar to the one currently in use in Powerchair Hockey but all the rolls are cabled so the result is given in a display. The cost of the machine is €1.500, more expensive than the one produced by Italy but cheaper than the Powerchair Soccer one. In order to test the system in a proper way an official request to bring it to an Official IPCH Tournament will be sent to Germany.

Appointing Officials EC2020

In October 2019 IPCH started appointing Officials for the EC2020: Anna Rossi (Italy) was appointed as Technical Delegate and Aina Budde (Denmark) as Assistant Technical Delegate

Aina Budde offered to help IPCH and was asked as Assistant Technical Delegate as she has many years of experience as team manager for the Danish national team and therefore could provide a great added value to the organization.

The process for appointing Referees, Referees observers, Jury Members and Classifiers also started. Some unofficial requests of availability were also sent to make sure people could know with good advance and get planned in time. Official appointments are scheduled for the beginning of 2020.

Competition committee:

Site Inspection QT during Prague Games

From 10 to 12 May 2019 Technical Delegate Niels Ten Hagen (Ned) and Technical Delegate Assistant Kenny Verbraekel (Bel) performed a second site inspection for the Qualification Tournament. The Clarion Congress Hotel and the Sport Hall Economy University Trebesin were approved. Although the LOC has a lot of experience in organizing big club tournaments, the TD and TD assistant mainly focused on clearing up the official Organization regulations.

IWAS Powerchair Hockey Qualification Tournament for European Championship

See the competition report attached.

ParaGames Breda 2019 unofficial tournament:

After the contacts in 2018 with Paragames Breda Organizers an invitation was shared among all Nations by IPCH to support the OC who was willing to make the tournament an official IPCH competition including some educational courses and training for Officials. Unfortunately there was no budget and no logistical structure to allow the tournament to be recognized as such for 2019.

Organizers were not ready to follow all the rules and to face the expenses for an Official competition (f.e. travel and accommodation costs for Officials, IWAS sanction and Capitation fee etc...). In addition, the logistics and accommodation together with a lacking communication with participants still resulted in being a problem (teams themselves have been complaining about this also in the previous editions of the tournament).

Therefore SEC together with Paragames OC have decided not to be an Official tournament for 2019.



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The Development Officer and the Competition Officer will still be available for them already in the process of organizing the tournament for advice and in order to train them to be ready to become an IPCH Official competition hopefully in the next edition.

Para Games Breda was held as an unofficial competition from June 27th to June 30th - 2019.

Therefore results did not count or affect the World Ranking List and Officials were not appointed by IPCH but each team brought his own referee, not always IPCH Licenced.

No training or education courses took place.

Organizational and logistics issues were still reported from the participating nations, this will be considered if the Organizers will approach again to make the competition official and will be one of the major topic for discussion for the future.

1st Site inspection Finland Helsinki 13th May 2019

The first bid presented by Finnish Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities to host the EC2020 was about Helsinki as the host city of the event. Rasmus D. Nielsen and Anna Rossi were appointed for the Site Inspection in Helsinki that took place on 13th May 2019.

The site inspection started with the visit of the Accommodation venue: Scandic Park in city centre of Helsinki. The accommodation received very positive feedback from the IPCH Inspectors as the rooms were spacious and very accessible even those not specifically intended for wheelchair users that already got high low beds in them. The site inspection continued with the visit of the first training facility option that was based in the garage of the Hotel. IPCH Inspectors raised doubts about the suitability of the space especially in regards of temperatures (max temperature reachable also with hot ventilators would have been around 18°), noise level (the garage would have worked as such for the most part of it), safety (both for the possible presence of moving cars and for the presence of poles and structural element in concrete that would have been very very close to the boundaries of training field). Competition Hall suggested was Töölön kisahalli, an historical sports pavilion from the '30 used for the Olympic games in 1952. Even if the distance between the Accommodation and the Competition hall was very short (around 600 mt) the way was quite difficult (uneven surface - public transportation railways crossing the way, ups and down on the street) for sure not doable without assistants and with Sport Chairs. Töölön kisahalli is a multisport facility open to the public and to individual use, therefore some access procedure would have required quite a huge amount of adaptations to be accessible for our teams and needs. Many spaces and rooms could be available for different purposes but only few of them were completely reachable by elevator and easily accessible. This would have made things quite complicated and time-consuming, as well as not fully safe during the competition. During the visit to Töölön kisahalli the option of using the second court as a training field was also investigated. Unfortunately the only wheelchair accessible entrance/exit from the second court was a narrow and low service passage through a storage room. IPCH agreed that because of (1) safety issues and (2) challenges in accessibility the second court was not a viable option for the training of the teams. Third option for training was Rehabilitation Center Validia (1,5 km away from Accommodation). IPCH Inspectors agreed this to be the best option among the ones presented for the practice, but it would have requested a strong system of transportation for both players and sport power-chairs that OC was unable to guarantee (OC suggestion was to use public transportation). The site Inspection was also the chance to meet the Media manager and some of the OC members.

Awarding of European Championship 2020 to Finland:

After the site inspection many topics went under discussion within the SEC and Finnish Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities.

The option of hosting the competition in Helsinki had many on hold issues related to accessibility and mostly transportation that would have required a further raise in the participation fee that was foreseen to be already higher than ever before. At this point the SEC and Finnish Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities agreed to consider Pajulahti, that was kept so far as a backup plan, as the main option. A new final Bid was filled and presented with all the information related to Pajulahti, that already hosted the Powerchair Hockey EC in 2012 and went through a complete renovation a few years ago. In order to collect as much information as possible, IPCH SEC also contacted Powerchair Football, who had a competition in Pajulahti a few months earlier and since PCF athletes have very similar needs and requirements as PCH players.



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According to the received documentation and the background information, SEC decided to advise IWAS to appoint Pajulahti as the host for the IPCH European Championships 2020, and to organize a face to face meeting before the competition to work as final site inspection as well.

IWAS officially appointed Finnish Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities to host the IWAS Powerchair Hockey European Championship 2020 on 11th June 2019.

2nd Site Inspection + Drawings 7th-9th October 2019

Every other year, Finnish Sports Association of Persons with Disabilities participate in Apuvaline - a fair about Disability and Mobility, organizing a huge exhibition called Sportsland that provides a great opportunity to get information and experience disability sports and adapted physical activity.

So, the Organizers suggested to host the Drawing ceremony for EC2020 during this big fair in order to start focusing the attention on the upcoming competition.

Once again Anna Rossi, who was in the meantime appointed as Technical Delegate for EC2020, and Rasmus D. Nielsen, were appointed as IPCH representative for the occasion.

The day before the Drawing ceremony Anna Rossi and Rasmus D. Nielsen, visited Pajulahti with the OC members and venue managers in order to fulfill the need of a proper site inspection of the venues as agreed.

The drawing Ceremony was conducted by the Local Organizing Committee overlooked by IPCH representative Anna Rossi and Rasmus Dissing Nielsen. The eight allocated nations, Denmark, The Netherlands, Finland, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium, were divided into two groups.

After the drawing there was organised an exhibition match between Finnish PCH players against players from the Floorball team Nokian KRP that currently are second in the Finnish floorball league.

Bidding WC2022

Between December 2018 and beginning 2019 Switzerland expressed interest to host WC2022, with the chance to host a combined event between IFF men's Floorball World Championships and IPCH World Championships 2022. Contacts were further during 2019. Swiss paraplegic association presented a Letter of Intent in June 2019.

IPCH EuroStars 2020 Italy

In summer 2019 Italy contacted IPCH offering the chance to host an official IPCH tournament with all criteria to make it valid for World Ranking List and also offering educational possibilities for Officials in February 2020. On 15th September the IPCH sent out an official invitation to all active Powerchair Hockey Nations inviting them to the Tournament and to register Officials for education. 4 teams confirmed their participation.

Also IPCH could activate 4 educational courses for Officials: Referee Course, Referee Observer Course, Jury Member Course and Classifier Course. In the case of the Referee course for the first time ever IPCH got more applications than the number of available slots in the course. As it is simply not possible to have a quality course with too many candidates the appointed instructors decided to conduct some interviews to get to know all the applicants and their background in order to select participants.

Contact for tournament in Barcelona

At the beginning of 2019 SEC followed up on an invitation received at the end of 2018 by Oriol Lozano Rocabruna willing to include Powerchair Hockey in the World Roller Games 2019 to be held in Barcelona from 5th to 14 July 2019. Unfortunately there was no budget available on either side to support the participation of national teams to this huge event to organize a friendly match.



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Development Committee

USA / Canada:

After the participation of team Canada to WC2018 a lot of interest towards the sport raised in North America also thanks to the support of Mr. Jukka Kotti, floorball player-coach—developer-entrepreneur from Dallas. Contacts were made with IFF and Adaptive Sport USA in order to create a proper local network. A Canadian club team also participated in the GP Bulls Eindhoven Tournament in August 2019.

Umoya Sport - India

In March 2019 Aditya K.V, Founder and C.E.O at Umoya Sports India got in contact with IPCH. Umoya Sports is a not-for-profit based in India working in the intersection of sports, education and disability inclusion with the aim to build holistic development to people with disabilities through sports and building an Inclusive sports culture. The aim was to explore the possibility of introducing powerchair hockey in India.

Marketing and Communication committee:

Most social media communication in 2019 was done by cooperating with other organizations and other IPCH officials, who were present at tournaments, site inspections and other events around the world, to bring content to social media, without having the cost of sending the IPCH Communication officer.

The same was done with coverage of the Qualification Tournament in Prague. Content for social media, was provided from both the Local Organizing Committee and our IPCH officials at the event.

The official livestream from the Qualification Tournament, was produced by the Local Organizing Committee and broadcasted to the official IPCH YouTube channel.

In 2019 we tried to strengthen the connection with the North American PCH movement, by sharing more social media content about North American teams, tournaments and players. We covered the Power Hockey Canada Cup with participating teams from the United States and Canada, as well as shared multiple news articles from North American news sources.

Together with the local organizing committee for the European Championship, we organized the drawing ceremony in Tampere, Finland. The drawing ceremony was accompanied by an exhibition match between Finnish PCH players playing against a Finnish Floorball team trying PCH for the first time.

The drawing ceremony was live streamed to the official IPCH Facebook-page.

The IPCH Marketing and Communication Committee team, have throughout the year worked on numerous tasks from updating graphical layout, to further align the visual look across all publications, to making improvements and updates to the website.