



International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation
(IWAS)

IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

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



ACTIVITY REPORT 2018

from January 2018 upto December 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 proposals for the next Sport Congress 2020.



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Sport Congress 2018 & Sport Executive Committee Elections:

Attached the Sport Congress minutes

During the Sport Congress 2018 the Elections for Sport Executive Committee for the period 2018-2022 took place.

Current chairman Fabio Rodo (Italy) and Miro Reijonen (Finland) was candidates for the position as the chairman. Fabio Rodo was re-elected as chairman of the Sport Executive Committee.

Anna Rossi (Italy) was running unopposed as Technical Officer and won re-election.

For the position as Development Officer, Miro Reijonen (Finland) was running against Nikolaj Richelsen (Denmark). Nikolaj won the election and is now a new member of the Sport Executive Committee.

Former Development Officer, Niels ten Hagen (the Netherlands) didn't receive support from the dutch federation and could therefore not seek re-election. We thank Niels ten Hagen for the hard work and time he have put into the Powerchair Hockey movement. We look forward to work with you again.

For the position as Communications officer, Rasmus Dissing Nielsen (Denmark) was running unopposed and received election.

After the result of the elections in the Sport Congress that followed the IPCH World Championship 2018, the new elected SEC decided to recruit some more people to fulfill some of the vacant positions left.

Kenny Verbraekel accepted to join the Sport Executive Committee as Secretary Officer

Niels ten Hagen accepted to join the Sport Executive Committee as Competitions Officer

Since they have not been elected directly by the Sport Congress they will participate in all activity of the Sport Executive Committee but without voting rights.

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:



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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 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.

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 the 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. Licence 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:

During the Sport Congress 2018 the new concept of the World Ranking System and the consequent list was shared among the Nations. The new World Ranking System is based on the results of the individual games, putting more weight on newer results. Each team will get points for every game they play based on the result, the opponent and the type of tournament the games are played in.

2008 was chosen as base year since from that moment the Official Competition have been all regularly played every 2 years (European Championships or World Championships and European Qualification Tournament 2011). The basis of the system are therefore the result of the EC 2008 and the World Ranking List existing in the beginning of that year which includes all the previous results as well.



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All games played since that in official events are used in calculating the current World Ranking List, updating the list after each tournament.

The formula for calculating the points per match is: Basepoints*WRL placement modifier*Type of match

Basepoints are the following: 3 for a victory (2 after extra-time), 0 for loss (1 after extra-time) and 1 for draw. These basepoints, as said in the formula, will then be multiplied by two modifiers, the "type of match modifier" and the "WRL placement modifier".

The type of match modifier is an indicator of the importance of the tournament and stage the match is being played. The modifier is highest for World Championships final (5.5) and lowest for a friendly tournament game (1). The WRL placement modifier is based on the placing difference between the two teams on the latest World Ranking List before the tournament. This means that if team A is far above team B in the WRL, team B has a higher multiplier and viceversa it will be smaller for team A. The closer two teams are on the World Ranking List used as base the closer the multiplier will be to each other. The modifier is always at least 0.1, it cannot be less than that.

New teams (that are not in the previous World Ranking List), will be added on the bottom of the WRL, if two new teams are playing against each other the multiplier will be 1.

Teams will also get points for participating in tournaments and placing in the top three on Regional Championships (ex. Europeans Championship) or World Championships.

The World Ranking List is updated after each tournament, adding the total match points a team has gained during the tournament, the participation points and possible bonus to the points the team had before the tournament started.

On the 1st of January each year the points are multiplied with 0.8, this guarantees that more recent results have more weight than older ones.

After the Sport Congress during a total review of the calculation some mistaken formulas and therefore results were found.

Development and Competition committee:

IWAS IPCH World Championship 2018:

See the competition report attached.

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. Former IPCH development officer Niels ten Hagen was 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.

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



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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.

ParaGames Breda 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.

Bidding procedure EC2020:

A letter of Intent for hosting the competition has been received from Finland. The procedure is now ongoing and site inspection will be organized in 2019.

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 promote 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.