FORMALISATION OF THE NAME OF THE SPORT

The Sport Congress is invited to formally approve: **WORLD POWERCHAIR FLOORBALL** as the official name of the sport.
This decision formalises the outcome of the membership consultation conducted in September 2025 and aligns the sport's official name with its current technical identity, international relationships and future development.

1. The membership has already expressed its preference

In September 2025, member nations were formally consulted on the future name of the sport, with a choice between:

- **World Powerchair Hockey**
- **World Powerchair Floorball**

Each nation was requested to submit **one official response**.
The valid responses were:

- **7 votes – World Powerchair Floorball**
- **3 votes – World Powerchair Hockey**

Two conflicting responses were received from Finland. As the consultation established the principle of one official response per nation, neither could be counted as two national votes and both were excluded from the formal count.
The result was therefore a clear **7–3 majority in favour of World Powerchair Floorball**.
The purpose of the Sport Congress decision is consequently to **formalise the result of the consultation**, rather than to reopen the naming process.

2. Why Floorball reflects the sport today

The use of "Hockey" has an important historical basis. In the early development of the sport, particularly in the Netherlands, hockey organisations played an important role in supporting its growth.

However, the technical foundations of the sport have always been closely connected to **floorball**: the sport uses floorball-derived equipment, including the hand stick and ball, and is played in a floorball-related sporting environment.

The connection with Floorball is not only international or institutional. It is already visible at national level, including in some of the countries that have been part of the Powerchair Hockey movement for many years.

The Netherlands

The Netherlands is where much of the historical development of Powerchair Hockey took place, with hockey structures playing an important role in the early years.

Today, however, the national relationship is evolving towards Floorball. The Royal Dutch Hockey Federation (KNHB) has progressively withdrawn its support for the national Powerchair Hockey team, while the team's planning and international preparation are now supported by **NeFUB, the Dutch Floorball Federation, together with the Dutch Paralympic Committee**.

This represents a significant shift in the national sporting structure supporting the sport.

Finland

In Finland, national Floorball structures are involved in organising and overseeing Powerchair Hockey competitions.
This connection is particularly relevant because Finland has a strong and established Floorball federation and infrastructure. The country has also hosted major Powerchair Hockey championships alongside major international Floorball events, creating opportunities to bring the sport closer to the wider Floorball community.

Denmark

Denmark provides perhaps the clearest example of the terminology already evolving within the Powerchair Hockey community itself.
The sport has increasingly been presented and promoted nationally as Powerchair Floorball. In particular, the 2024 European Championship was promoted locally using the Powerchair Floorball terminology.

Together, these examples demonstrate that the proposed name reflects an existing development within our community, rather than introducing an entirely new identity.

The use of "Floorball" is therefore **already an established reality within the movement**, rather than a new branding concept.

3. An established international relationship with IFF

The relationship with the International Floorball Federation (IFF) has developed significantly and now represents a concrete opportunity for the future development of our sport.

IFF has:

- Attended international Powerchair Hockey competitions.
- Promoted and showcased the sport through its activities and communication channels.
- Included Powerchair Hockey within its work on ParaFloorball.
- Actively engaged in discussions on the development and integration of the sport within the wider Floorball movement.

This engagement has progressed beyond informal discussions. IPCH and World Abilitysport have established a Memorandum of Understanding with IFF, which is also being presented to the Sport Congress as part of the broader development of our international relationships. The MoU establishes a framework for closer and more practical cooperation, supporting the development and promotion of the sport, including opportunities to expand into new countries and engage with national Floorball federations and their existing networks, while maintaining the governance of the sport under World Abilitysport.

Adopting World Powerchair Floorball would align our official denomination with this developing partnership and strengthen our ability to build on the opportunities it offers.

The name change is therefore not simply a matter of terminology. It is a strategic decision that aligns our identity with an international federation that has demonstrated its willingness to work with our sport and support its future development.

The name reflects an international relationship that already exists and provides a practical foundation for the next stage of our development.

4. The international Hockey pathway does not provide a comparable opportunity

The sport has a long-term ambition to develop within the Paralympic Movement. To understand how this ambition could realistically be pursued, discussions have taken place with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), through the support and involvement of World Abilitysport, regarding the position of Powerchair Hockey within the existing international Paralympic Structure.

These discussions have confirmed that **the existing International Para Hockey structures do not provide a pathway for our discipline,** which differs fundamentally from established forms of Hockey in its equipment, playing system and technical characteristics.

The international Hockey framework is not prepared to recognise an additional discipline for athletes with physical impairments of this nature.

Consequently, continuing to identify ourselves as Hockey would leave our sport without a viable route towards recognition and development within that international structure.

This has a direct consequence for the future of our sport. While the name *Hockey* reflects our history and the role that hockey organisations played in our early development, retaining this denomination does not provide access to the international Hockey system or create a pathway towards recognition within the Paralympic Movement.

Furthermore, **the international Hockey federation structure has not demonstrated the equivalent interest, recognition or commitment to supporting the development of our discipline that is now emerging through the Floorball movement**.

Continuing to identify ourselves as Hockey, without a viable pathway within the relevant international Hockey structures, would leave our sport without a clear route for further development as a parasport through that system. It would mean retaining a historical denomination without the corresponding international framework needed to support our ambitions.

This is not a question of rejecting our origins or diminishing the contribution of the organisations that helped establish the sport. Hockey remains an important part of our history. However, our future development must be guided by the opportunities that exist today, rather than by historical terminology alone.

Floorball offers a concrete alternative. The International Floorball Federation has demonstrated a willingness to engage with our sport, collaborate on its development and explore opportunities to integrate it more closely into the wider Floorball and ParaFloorball movement. This commitment is already reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding between IPCH, World Abilitysport and IFF.

Choosing the name World Powerchair Floorball would therefore align our identity with the international sporting structure that is actively willing to work with us and provide a framework for practical cooperation.

This does not guarantee future Paralympic inclusion. No name, partnership or memorandum of understanding can guarantee such an outcome. However, it provides a concrete development opportunity that is not currently available through the international Hockey pathway discussed with the IPC.

The choice before the membership is therefore not simply between two names. It is between retaining a denomination associated with an international structure that does not offer a viable pathway for our discipline, and adopting a name aligned with a federation that has expressed its willingness to collaborate with us and support our future development.

If we want to preserve and strengthen our long-term ambitions as a parasport, choosing Floorball is the only currently identified route that offers this combination of international cooperation, practical development opportunities and engagement with an established sport federation.

5. What the new name enables

Adopting **World Powerchair Floorball** would align the sport's official identity with the international partnership already being developed with IFF and provide a stronger foundation for its future growth.

This creates opportunities to:

- Engage new countries through established national Floorball federations and their networks.
- Support the development of national structures, clubs and competitions.
- Increase the visibility of Powerchair Floorball within the wider international Floorball community.
- Develop officials, coaches and other technical expertise through closer cooperation.
- Strengthen international promotion and knowledge-sharing.
- Explore opportunities to expand participation and develop the sport in new countries.
- Pursue long-term recognition and development as a parasport through an international structure that has demonstrated its willingness to collaborate.

These opportunities are supported by an existing relationship and a formal cooperation framework, rather than relying solely on the potential benefits of a name change.

The MoU with IFF is particularly important in this respect. It provides a basis for translating the relationship into practical cooperation and development activities, while World Abilitysport continues to provide the international governance framework for our sport.

The proposed name is therefore a strategic enabler: it aligns our identity with the international partnership that offers the clearest currently available opportunity for future development.

6. Why World Powerchair Floorball

The proposed name retains the essential identity of the sport while reflecting its evolution:

WORLD

Reflects the global scope of the sport and the international structure of World Abilitysport.

POWERCHAIR

Maintains continuity with the name adopted by the membership in 2014 and clearly identifies this specific form of floorball.

FLOORBALL

Reflects the sport's technical origins, equipment and playing environment, its existing use in several countries, the increasing involvement of national floorball structures, and its established relationship with IFF.

Decision of the Sport Congress

The Sport Congress is invited to formally approve **WORLD POWERCHAIR FLOORBALL** as the official name of the sport.

This decision will:

- Formalise the 7–3 majority in favour of World Powerchair Floorball expressed through the membership consultation in September 2025.
- Reflect the sport's current technical and organisational identity.
- Align the official denomination with the established and developing relationship with IFF.
- Complement the Memorandum of Understanding between IPCH, World Abilitysport and IFF, which establishes a framework for closer practical cooperation and international development.
- Position the sport within the wider international Floorball and ParaFloorball movement.
- Support the expansion of the sport into new countries through established international and national Floorball networks.
- Provide a clearer strategic direction for the sport's long-term development as a parasport, recognising that future Paralympic inclusion cannot be guaranteed.

This is not a change to what the sport is. It is a strategic decision about the international framework within which the sport can develop.

The Sport Congress is therefore invited to approve World Powerchair Floorball as the official name of the sport and to support the strategic direction it represents for the future of our international community.