



## IWAS POWERCHAIR HOCKEY

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



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## ACTIVITY REPORT 2017

### Sport Executive Committee:

**Rasmus Dissing Nielsen** volunteered to cover the vacant spot of Head of Marketing and Communication Committee, SEC and IWAS agreed to ask him to become officially part of the SEC as Marketing and Communication Officer but without voting rights.

**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 with IWAS delegation achieving to get good contacts especially with FIPFA (Powerchair Football).

### 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



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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)**

Instructors: Mr Davor Matijašević from Slovenia and Mr Ilkka Antero Siiki from Finland.



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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 regard).

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 has 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 an international level.



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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 led 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).



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### 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...)