



International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2009

This latest newsletter is the first since last September. Unlike that newsletter, which followed Beijing and focused exclusively on the Paralympics, this one provides a general report on progress-to-date with a number of key issues.

INAS-FID General Assembly

You will all know by now that the next General Assembly will take place in Puerto Rico towards the end of April. I realise that this is a long way to travel for many members, but it is important that we do not allow geography and economics to make us too Eurocentric. Please make every effort to ensure that you are represented. Please note, too, that any nominations for election need to be received by 20 February and any motions for consideration at the General Assembly must be received by 28 February.

As usual, the normal business of a General Assembly will be accompanied by a one-day conference and, as in Gävle during November 2008, it is my intention to provide all present with a progress report on Paralympic re-inclusion and an opportunity to contribute to INAS-FID's strategy and direction. Please let me know if there are other matters that you would wish to see included in the programme.

Paralympic re-inclusion

Since the publication in Beijing of a joint statement by IPC and INAS-FID, committing both organisations to successful re-inclusion in time for London 2012, the sports science members of the joint working group have met again and moved even closer to the identification of systems, processes and procedures that, we hope, will satisfy IPC that INAS-FID is fit for re-inclusion. These systems will be tested thoroughly at INAS-FID's Global Games in July.

In the meantime, there are at least three actions required by INAS-FID: (i) we must indicate to our members that, in future, the only IQ tests acceptable to INAS-FID will be Wechsler and Stanford-Binet; (ii) we must conduct an audit of the ability of all members to comply with INAS-FID's requirements for national eligibility officers, etc; and (iii) we must recruit and train a new INAS-FID international classification panel.

This classification panel needs to be large enough to ensure that all regions are included and that there are enough panel members for at least two classifiers to be available for all future INAS-FID world championships. The requirement of our Global Games will, of course, be even greater and this panel MUST be in place in time for this year's Global Games in July. Please try to identify suitable persons from within your region and your sport.

Global Games

I am sure that we are all looking forward to a successful Global Games in Liberec. There is no reason to doubt this, but this year's Games have added significance in that, as I have already said, they will be used by the IPC/INAS joint working group to test INAS-FID's readiness for re-inclusion in future Paralympic Games. To this end, I must encourage all members of the Executive Committee and the Technical Committee to ensure that our member nations comply with ALL necessary requirements. Any evidence of competing nations, sports officials or individual athletes ignoring or abusing the eligibility or registration process will be extremely damaging (perhaps irreversibly so) to our hopes for re-inclusion.

Please let me know what you think ... good or bad ... about any of the issues raised in this newsletter. Either way, I look forward to seeing you all again in Puerto Rico for this year's INAS-FID General Assembly.

With best wishes ...

Dr Bob Price
INAS-FID President