

PWSC Report to Council
October 2021
Submitted by Betsy Alison, Chair

The PWSC has had a robust meeting schedule throughout 2021 with much of the focus directed to the bid for inclusion in the 2028 Paralympic Games. That application process should begin later this year with the initial application to the IPC.

Early in 2021, with the support of the Board and the EO, the Mallory Group Agency, based in London, was engaged to help prepare and launch a robust media and communications plan to help with this reinstatement campaign. This campaign launched on October 26 with a #BackTheBid social media campaign that engaged MNAs and sailors globally. This ongoing campaign involves all sailors and supporters: able bodied and disabled, sport icons, sailing leadership and all interested members of the global sailing community. It is the first step in an extended campaign to demonstrate to the IPC and the world-wide social and sporting community that sailing is the most inclusive sport in the world and falls in line with the “We the 15” IPC movement that promotes inclusion of the 15% of global society that has a disability.

In addition to that ongoing work, the PWSC has been engaged in updating Para sailor rankings; exploring the addition of approved equipment to enable more sailors to get on the ranking lists for the approved Para Events (single-person technical open; single person non-technical male and female; and two-person open); working with the Race Management Committee to convert the stand alone Para World Sailing Race Management Manual into an appendix of the World Sailing RMM; updating other relevant PWS documents related to the strategic plan; working on a process to easily update Para sailors on medical and antidoping education; and other effort to increase participation, maintain a high level of MNA participation, and encourage participation by youth, females and intellectually challenged sailors.

Although the pandemic has forced the postponement or cancellation of many events, there has been a great effort both locally and regionally to keep racing going for Para sailors. In fact, in 2021, Para World Championship titles were bestowed at 4 International events despite challenging travel restrictions. Classification was offered at all 4 events, with a team of 2 classifiers at each event.

- Open 2.4mR Gold Cup, Warnemunde, GER included the Single Person Technical Championship within it. 16 Para sailors from 8 countries participated for the Para Technical title and also competed in the Open Championship with the Para Medalists finishing 1st, 2nd and 4th in the overall open championship.
- RS Venture Two Person Para Championship (held within an open championship), Travemunde, GER. 8 Para athletes from 2 countries participated.
- Inclusive World Championship, Hamburg, GER saw 36 athletes from 7 countries sail SV14s in central Hamburg (format was one able bodied sailor/one disabled sailor). This was the second time this event was hosted

in Hamburg with increased participation and great success in helping fulfill the mission of inclusivity within society.

- Open Hansa Worlds, Palermo, ITA in total 185 sailors from 23 countries (AB and Para). Para sailors were awarded the Para Non-Technical World Championship Titles
 - o 303 Male Para: 43 athletes 14 countries
 - o 303 Female Para: 10 athletes 7 countries
 - o Liberty Para: 14 athletes 7 countries
 - o TOTAL of Para Athletes: 67 athletes 21 countries

A PDP (Para Development Program clinic) was held prior to the Worlds in Palermo. There were 16 registered participants from 8 countries, but during the PDP, other countries joined in, with a total participation of 27 sailors from 11 countries.

In 2021, four meetings were held between members of WS and the IPC, three in person. A World Sailing representative will be attending the IPC AGM later this year. I would like to give a special thanks to Jens Kroger who served on the Athlete's Commission and worked hand in hand with the PWSC for the past four years and will continue to work on our LA2028 Working Party. I would also like to issue a warm welcome to Heiko Kroger the new Athlete's Commission rep to our PWSC team.

The PWSC looks forward to working with all the MNAs and Council members to promote the #BackTheBid and Para sailing reinclusion campaign for LA2028. Please be looking for updates and communications from us as we move this effort forward and thank you for your continued support.