



International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

Unfortunately, the meetings of INAS-FID committees in Bollnäs, Sweden, during April were severely affected by the volcanic ash cloud. Many representatives were unable to travel and, as a result, it has taken longer to conclude some of the matters that should have been resolved at that meeting and delayed publication of this newsletter. However, I am pleased to provide a report of progress-to-date on issues, developments and activities currently happening within and around INAS-FID.

2012 Progress

I am pleased to say that, since the decision of the IPC General Assembly in November, there has been further progress by the research groups; significant advances have been made within athletics, swimming and table tennis; but, unfortunately, the rowing competition in London 2012 will no longer include an ID event. A more detailed summary of the status of IPC/INAS-FID preparation for London 2012 was circulated recently and is available on the [INAS-FID website](#).

Despite the non-inclusion of rowing, the ambition of IPC and INAS-FID remains to see similar numbers of ID athletes in London 2012 as there were competing in Sydney 2000. Member nations may also be interested to note the following: for Rio 2016, INAS-FID has formally requested that, in addition to athletics, swimming, table tennis and rowing, there is also ID competition in basketball and futsal.

2011 Global Games

Three member nations (Australia, Italy and Tunisia) submitted bids to host the 2011 Global Games. After careful consideration, the Executive Committee invited Italy to host an event which will take place between 25 September and 04 October 2011. Further information and entry forms will be available later in the year.

The Executive would like to congratulate Italy on its winning bid and looks forward to a successful competition. We would also like to thank Australia and Tunisia for their interest in hosting the event. The Executive was delighted with the quality of all three bids and is grateful for the efforts made by all three member nations.

Fay Ho – Sport Director (Swimming)

Fay Ho (Hong Kong) has, after many years, decided to step down from the roles of Sport Director for Swimming and Rowing within INAS-FID. Her contribution to this role has been considerable over the years and INAS-FID's sports programme has benefited significantly from her knowledge and experience.

Fay will continue her role within FISA and we look forward continuing to work with her to secure Paralympic inclusion in time for Rio 2016.

Technical staff and Sport Directors

It is a peculiarity of INAS-FID's governance that Sport Directors have been elected on a four-year cycle that is at odds both with the Paralympic cycle and that of the International Sport Federations.

With Paralympic re-inclusion secured and the INAS-FID sport cycle re-configured to match the Paralympic sports cycle, the INAS-FID Executive has agreed changes to the appointment of its Technical staff. This will ensure continuity throughout the Paralympic cycle.

In future, all appointments will take place following the Summer or Winter Paralympic Games (ie. early 2013 for summer sports, winter sport will be confirmed shortly). Roles will continue to be held for four years.

All existing Sport Directors have been asked to continue to serve in their roles, irrespective of when they were appointed, until the next election opportunity.

2011 INAS-FID Conference and General Assembly

The Executive Committee has confirmed that the 2011 Conference and General Assembly will take place in Canberra, Australia, between 07 and 12 April 2011. More information about the event, including registration forms, will be available later in the year. We would also be interested to hear from any member nations having specific topics they would wish to see included in the conference.

INAS-FID Handbook

It is the INAS-FID Handbook which, alongside the Constitution, provides the primary source of reference and guidance on matters of organisational policy, governance, membership services and event management.

Several amendments have recently been agreed by the Executive, including topics such as financial control, roles and responsibilities of officers, records and rankings policy, bid procedures for events and the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

The revisions are implemented with immediate effect and it is important that all member nations familiarise themselves with their substance. The complete Handbook can be found on the INAS-FID website under '[Governance](#)'.

Event organisation and support

Local Organising Committees who successfully bid to host INAS-FID World and Regional Championships are now required to sign a formal contract with INAS-FID. This sets out the standards to which the event must be organised, clarifies the roles of the LOC and INAS-FID and ensures that appropriate management is in place to ensure a successful event.

A condition of the contract is that all future events are branded in accordance with the INAS branding policy. A guide to event organisation, together with a brand toolkit (including logos, font and guidance) will be available shortly on the INAS-FID website.

INAS Moving Forward

The progress of this project was hampered by the impact of the volcanic ash cloud and a number of important decisions were delayed. However, the research has now been concluded and the Executive has agreed a number of changes to the INAS-FID brand. It is anticipated that the project will be finalised in August/September with the new brand going 'live' in the Autumn.

INAS-FID Newsletter

As part of the new brand, the organisation will soon have a new website and will be launching a new bi-monthly newsletter.

We want to celebrate the success of athletes with an intellectual disability, include competition performances and reports from our member nations around the World and invite you to submit stories, photos and videos.

New media channels are being developed to bring INAS-FID's online presence to life, but it depends upon you supplying the stories and features to make it happen.

We would like to lay a challenge to all member nations therefore to provide at least one quality story (WORD format) and one photo (high quality jpeg format) each month. We will use the best to include in the website and newsletter.

Membership

INAS-FID is very pleased to welcome the Argentinean organisation FADDIM as the latest member, bringing the current number of member nations to 53.

The quality and range of all membership services is constantly under review and inextricably linked to the role of, and relationship with, its regional affiliates. Not least because the last General Assembly charged the Executive with re-aligning the INAS-FID regions and their member organisations with those of IPC, I am particularly keen to involve the whole membership in a fundamental review of roles and responsibilities.

To set the ball rolling, as part of the INAS Moving Forward project, will be encouraging all members to play an active part in determining future policy and direction.

We are also aware that INAS-FID has not yet issued its membership fee renewals for 2010 and we would like to re-assure members that this will be done as soon as possible.

Regional Classification Workshops

A series of workshops is being conducted throughout 2010 focussing on the new ID classification process. The first took place in Singapore during the early part of June for members of the Asia/South Pacific and was attended by approximately 35 people from across the area. We would like to thank the Singapore Paralympic Committee and the Disability Classification and Research Centre for hosting the event.

The next workshop will take place in Cairo, Egypt, between 21 and 22 September, whilst the European event will take place within the INAS-Europe Conference and General Assembly to be held in Paris during November. Dates for the Americas region will be announced shortly.

Applying for Classification

I would also like to encourage a discussion about the approach taken by INAS-FID member nations with regards to athlete eligibility and classification.

It remains a huge concern for me that the majority of athletes begin the process of applying for classification at the point at which they are selected for international competition. Whilst there will always be some athletes who, owing to their talent, are fast-tracked into an international squad, I believe that nations should begin to consider eligibility for the majority of their athletes at a much earlier point in their career.

It is a key policy of INAS-FID that it does not allow any un-registered athlete to participate in its World or Regional competition programme. There is no 'guest' entry. Yet nations continue to enter athletes for events before their eligibility application has been completed,

often leading to disappointment for the athlete and their team when the application cannot be considered in time, and causing problems for competition organisers.

I believe a fundamental change is needed in the way nations approach eligibility. In November 2009, to try encourage this, the Executive ruled that athletes must appear in the Master List no later than the final entry deadline date for competition.

However at each and every competition since, some athletes have been denied entry because their application arrived too late. The greater level of scrutiny that is now undertaken in assessing an application, together with the increased number of applications received on a weekly basis, have meant that it takes much longer to complete the eligibility checking process.

It cannot be in the best interest of an athlete to leave the classification process to the last minute and I urge you to consider how you approach it in your nation.

Vacancies

INAS-FID is currently trying to increase its volunteer team through recruitment to a number of existing and new positions. These include:

- 3 x Eligibility Committee members (we particularly invite applications from within INAS-FID's non-European regions)
- Translators
- Legal Advisor
- Sport Director – Futsal
- Sport Director – Cycling
- Sport Director – Judo
- Sport Director – Swimming
- Sport Director - Rowing

Further information about each of these posts can be found on the [INAS-FID website](#).

Contacting the Secretariat

Please allow us to remind all members of the current contact details for the Secretariat:

- By phone +44 1924 234 912
- By fax: +44 1924 363 816
- By post: INAS-FID, 6a Caldervale Road, Wakefield, WF1 5PE
- By email: inasregistrations@mencap.org.uk for all enquiries relating to eligibility and classification and inas-fid@mencap.org.uk for all other enquiries.

Please note that it is not necessary to copy emails to both addresses as this causes duplication and delay! Please note, too, that the Birmingham address and PO Box number used previously are no longer valid.

Dr Bob Price
INAS-FID President