

Q6. How could Sailing once again be part of the Paralympic Games?

Kim Andersen (DEN):

The last four years as World Sailing President have been among the best as I have had the opportunity to make positive change and leave a strong legacy for future generations of sailors that includes among others launching and implementing many good initiatives, including working with MNAs to expand Para Sailing.

It was unfortunate that Para Sailing was removed from the Paralympics before my tenure, but during my time this has been among my priorities to ensure that we put in place a strong Para sailing structure with the goal of once again being part of the Paralympic Games. With our new 2020-2023 strategy for Para sailing, which shows how World Sailing will continue to grow, promote and develop all Para disciplines worldwide I believe that we have a strong foundation to make our case to the IPC. Para sailing has a unique capacity to include people from all ages and abilities. Alongside encouragement to MNAs to make Para sailing more inclusive and welcoming at all levels domestically. Positive steps have been made over the past few years with the Para Sailing Development Programmes (PDPs) to increase participation by 30%. Furthermore, with our strong links to the IPC we have already begun discussions to getting back into the Paralympic programme for 2028.

Quanhai Li (CHN)

It is a critical task of World Sailing to reinstate Para Sailing in the Paralympics. The new executive committee must pro-actively coordinate with the International Paralympic Organization to further understand the entry standards and requirements.

I will continue to improve the development plans for the disabled athletes, find appropriate ways to encourage more athletes to participate in the sport and support the regions to host more parasailing events. We would like to encourage more countries and regions to participate and address this in the services plans, in this way it will be easier for the countries and regions that are not active in parasailing to be involved.

Scott Perry (URU)

Sailing is particularly suited for disabled athletes. It is one of the very few sports which can accommodate almost every disability classification. Parasailing does not have any age restrictions. Parasailing is practiced by both genders in competition with each other; all parasailing events are open. Perhaps uniquely in some classes para-sailors regularly compete with able sailors.

The former IFDS (International Disabled Sailing Federation) was merged into World Sailing at the November 2014 AGM. Two months later, in January 2015, we learned that the application the IFDS had made to remain part of the Paralympic Games had failed to secure a spot for sailing at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. This was a bitter disappointment particularly as we had just merged with the IFDS. However the disappointment does not end there. The IPC also decides which sports are included in several regional games including such games as the Pan American Games. This is particularly frustrating as we know, for example, that the host of the next Pan American Games in Chile would love to include parasailing in the 2023 Parapan American Games.

We face a very difficult task simply because the IPC controls 12 para-sports all of which invariably get included in the Paralympic Games and in regional para-games. Despite the fact that we meet almost all of the criteria the IPC sets for inclusion in the Paralympics we must continue to attempt to be included in future Paralympic Games.

Personally I am committed to parasailing. Ever since we merged with the IFDS I have always asked to be the Board member responsible for parasailing. I attended the Paralympics sailing competition at the 2016 Rio Paralympics and the Para Worlds in Kinsale, Ireland. I have donated two boats (2.4Ms) to my country to start a parasailing program.

Gerardo Seeliger (ESP)

Sailing has become an inclusive sport. Sailing develops and requires many skills. Unlike other Olympic sports, Sailing combines physical shape, intelligence for winning tactics, and a solid knowledge of physics.

Certain limitations can be overcome by the diversity of skillsets(tactics, intelligence, physical shape, knowledge of physics, aereo and hydrodynamics,..) and attitude required by our sport, an encouraging opportunity and motivation to enjoy sailing competition at Olympic level.

We need to favour appreciation of Paralympic events by making them more accessible, and popular.

WS needs to help all our MNAs to have parasailing programs, Continental events, events like Kieler Woche, ...

WS must be actively involved in the political networking with the Sports Governing organisations needed to make sure our Para sailors get back to the Paralympics.

As president of a Foundation helping people with disabilities to find jobs, I have the experience, understanding and a network to be able to assist.

I commit to work hard to achieve this priority goal.