



MALTA
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (NON-ELECTIVE)
of the
MALTA PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday 6th June 2024

TIME: 18:00 - 20:00

PLACE: Institute of Physical Education & Sport
University of Malta, Msida, Malta
Google Meet link also provided to allow virtual participation.

1. REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

1.1. The 2024 Annual General Meeting (the “AGM”) of the Malta Paralympic Committee (the “MPC”) started at **18:00** on **Thursday 6th June 2024**. The meeting was organised as a hybrid physical and virtual meeting, to enable a wide participation amongst members. The meeting formally commenced at **18:20** after allowing members to be present within fifteen (15) minutes of the designated start time, in accordance with the statute of the MPC.

2. OPENING REMARKS BY MPC PRESIDENT

2.1 Prof. Joseph N. Grima, the President of the MPC, gave his opening remarks to the members present. Prof. Grima remarked how the year 2023 can be characterised by a year of many firsts. Lauding the ambitions and aspirations of Maltese Para athletes, Prof. Grima underlined some of the achievements in 2023, from the first time that a Maltese Para athlete (Kurt Farrugia) competed in an international Paralympic rowing regatta; the highest international ranking ever achieved in the wheelchair category Para Darts (Bradley Zerafa); multiple gold and silver medals in wheelchair dancesport (Steven Fenech); the first Para Sport Impact Competition for schools and Para Sport Exhibition; the introduction of Para Powerlifting via an international collaboration with renowned Team GB Paralympic Games silver medallist Ali Jawad; a record

J.B.
JNG

participation of youth Para swimmers at the ASA U12 Swimming Festivals; to Malta's first-ever representative (Vladyslava Kravchenko) within the International Paralympic Committee's Athletes Council.

- 2.2 Prof. Grima noted that 2023 coincided with the 5th year anniversary from the formal re-establishment of the MPC in 2018 and MPC observed how over these years we have not only witnessed new Para athletes join the local Paralympic Movement but also a wider variety of Para sports develop in Malta, from the more well-established disciplines, to new opportunities in Para Rowing, Para Powerlifting, Para Sailing, Para Karate, Para Darts and Para Archery. Prof. Grima stressed that this development was only made possible thanks to the collaborations and joint initiatives with various stakeholders in the sport, education and disability sectors.
- 2.3 In addition, Prof. Grima underlined the role that MPC has in society to do its part to ensure that sport is enjoyed by all as part of our fundamental human right to a fulfilling, meaningful and dignifying life. sport.
- 2.4 Prof. Grima extended the Executive Committee's gratitude towards every single Para Athlete, sports club, coach, parent, national sports association, official, NGOs, funding and project partners, and others who have been active in Para sport over the past year, lauding their dedication to the local Paralympic Movement, commitment and for living the Paralympic Values in their sporting and non-sporting achievements and daily lives.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

- 3.1 Prof. Joseph Grima, President of the MPC, was appointed as the Chairperson (the "Chair") of the AGM. The Chair was: (i) nominated by Malta Judo Federation (represented by Louisa Galea); and (ii) seconded by Malta Tennis Federation (represented by Marc Gingell Littlejohn).

4. ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

- 4.1 The Chairperson proceeded to a roll call of the members present at the AGM and noted the members (full members or associated members) present.
- 4.2 Other individuals present included members of the MPC Para Athletes Council, sports clubs (including Siggiewi Rowing Club, Vikings Sailing Club, and Exiles Swimming Club), coaches, parents, sport professionals, and representatives of funding or project partners.

J.B.

JNG

- 4.3 The Chairperson announced that there was, in accordance with MPC' statute, a valid quorum at the meeting and, therefore, declared that the meeting may commence.
- 4.4 The Chair, on behalf of MPC, thanked those present and allowed time for members present to raise any objections to the commencement of business of the AGM, and for the AGM to be conducted in either the Maltese and/or English language. The Chair noted that no objections were raised and declared the AGM formerly open.

5. NOTICE AND AGENDA

- 5.1 The Chair presented the proposed agenda for the AGM, as notified to members of the MPC in advance of this AGM by email on **Monday 6th May 2024** (a copy of which is appended in "**Annex 1 - AGM Notice and Agenda**").
- 5.2 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any objections to the agenda as proposed, and to propose any amendments or additions to the agenda as proposed.
- 5.3 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the agenda as proposed, and that no members proposed any amendments or additions to the agenda. The Chair declared the agenda to have been adopted *in toto* in the form as circulated to members of the MPC by email on **Monday 6th May 2024**.

6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

- 6.1 The Chair presented a copy of the previous AGM minutes, held on **Tuesday 18th April 2023**, and the current MPC statute. The Chair noted that no amendments had been made to the statute since the last AGM. Copies of the AGM minutes and the statute were made available to those present.
- 6.2 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any objections to the minutes of the previous annual general meeting, to the statute, and to propose any amendments or additions to the said minutes and, or statute.
- 6.3 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the minutes of the previous annual general meeting of the MPC or to the statute, and that no members proposed any amendments or additions thereto.
- 6.4 The previous AGM 2023 minutes was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Powerlifting Association (represented by Matteo Aquilina); and seconded by (ii) Malta Deaf Sports (represented by George Vella). The Chair declared the minutes of the previous annual general meeting of the MPC to have been ratified *in toto*.

J.B.
JNG

7. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2023

7.1 The Chair proceeded to invite MPC Secretary General, Dr Julian Bajada, to present the Annual Report of the MPC for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Chair explained that key highlights of the Annual Report will be presented during the AGM, noting that the full report will be made available to members following the AGM and published on the website of MPC.

7.2 The Secretary General presented, among other related matters, the following key highlights of the Annual Report 2023:

- **national and international Para sports competitions participated in 2023, including, among others:**
 - ASA Time Trials 2023
 - ASA Easter National Championships 2023
 - ASA Summer National Championships 2023
 - ASA U12 Swimming Festivals 2023
 - World Para Swimming World Series Berlin 2023
 - World Para Swimming World Series Sheffield 2023
 - World Para Swimming World Championships Manchester 2023
 - Para Swimming International Training Camp, Lanzarote 2023
 - Athletics Malta Time Trials 2023
 - World Para Athletics European Gran Prix Jesolo 2023
 - Malta Half-Marathon 2023
 - European Indoor Rowing Championships Paris 2023
 - Para Rowing Development Training Camp Gavirate 2023
 - National Indoor Rowing Time Trials 2023
 - National Indoor Rowing Championships 2023
 - Establishment of Concept2 World Records
 - German Open Wheelchair Dance Sport Stuttgart 2023
 - Dutch Para Dance Para Dance Sport International Amstelveen 2023
 - Para Dance Sport XXV Polish Open Lomianki 2023
 - World Para Darts Hungary Open 2023
 - World Para Darts European Denmark Open 2023
 - World Para Darts Open and Classic Essex 2023
 - World Para Darts World Championships Chelmsford 2023
 - Malta International Para Darts Open 2023
 - Aphrodite Mediterranean Cup Cyprus 2023
 - European Deaf Karting Championships Slovakia 2023
- **initiatives relating to Para sport development**, including joint initiatives with coaches, clubs, national sports associations, and other stakeholders, in particular, in Para rowing and Para powerlifting.

J.B.
JNG

- **the strengthening of established Para sport disciplines in Malta** (including Para swimming, Para rowing and Para archery).
- **the introduction of new Para sport disciplines in Malta** (including Para sailing and Para powerlifting, among others);
- **the implementation of the second phase of the VI Para Sport Project** (sport for blind and visually impaired athletes) carried out in collaboration with The Malta Trust Foundation and various other sports entities, clubs and coaches.
- **the funding sources of MPC:** including funding from sponsors, donations and funding partners such as the International Paralympic Committee, SportMalta and the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector.
- **organisational capacity enhancements:** the engagement of MPC's first full-time employee (MPC Administration and Impact Officer, Ms. Rachel Cachia) and leasing of office space.
- **collaborations relating to outreach and awareness in the community,** including Para sport pen days with entities such as Evolve Badminton Academy Malta, Aquatic Sports Association of Malta, The Malta Trust Foundation and others.
- **Schools competitions under the themes of Para Sport Impact and a second competition in celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.**
- **5-year anniversary celebration activities,** including the Awards Ceremony hosted under the Patronage of the Speaker of the Parliament of Malta.
- **educational, awareness and athlete recruitment activities, including the delivery of the Im'POSSIBLE Educational Programme** in schools, lecturing at the University of Malta Institute for Physical Education and Sport, introductory meetings with parents and Para Athletes, informative meetings with physiotherapists and occupational therapists, among other initiatives.

7.3 The Secretary General also expressed satisfaction at the further growth in the number of active Para athletes, across a variety of Para sport disciplines and a range of eligible impairment classes (including physical impairments, visual impairments, and intellectual impairments). Importantly, it was noted that most active Para athletes are below 16 years of age, auguring well for the development of a pipeline of active and potentially competitive Para athletes over the next 4–6-year timeframe.

7.4 A high-level statistical overview of the active Para athletes (anonymised list, split by gender, age group, Para sport discipline, level of development, and impairment type) was presented.

J.B.

JNG

- 7.5 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the Annual Report, and to propose any amendments or additions to the Annual Report. A copy of the full Annual Report was also made available during the meeting.
- 7.6 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the Annual Report and asked members to vote on the approval of the Annual Report.
- 7.7 The Annual Report was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Powerlifting Association (represented Matteo Aquilina)) and seconded by (ii) Malta Darts Association (represented by Bradley Zerafa). The Annual Report was unanimously approved by the voting members present *in toto* in the form as proposed.

8. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

- 8.1 The Chair invited the MPC Treasurer, Ms. Vladyslava Kravchenko, to present the key highlights of the annual Financial Statements of the MPC for the financial year ended 31 December 2023. It was noted that the Financial Statements 2023 will be reviewed by an external independent accountant, in accordance with the accountant's review requirements applicable to Category 2 voluntary organisations pursuant to and in accordance with subsidiary legislation S.L. 492.-2 Annual Returns and Annual Accounts Regulations, on the basis that during the financial year ended 31 December 2023, MPC became a 'Category 2' voluntary organisation, on the basis that the income of the MPC generated between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2023, exceeded €50,000 but did not exceed €250,000.
- 8.2 The members present were informed that the review will be undertaken by certified accountant Mr. Stephen Paris and, once the review process has been completed, MPC will submit the final reviewed Financial Statements 2023 to the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO) and the Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sport (AIMS), as required by applicable law.
- 8.3 It was explained that the financial statements of MPC were prepared on the GAPSME basis, being the same basis of preparation of annual financial statements for the prior financial year ended 31 December 2022. Further details will be provided in the notes that will accompany the full and final version of the Financial Statements 2023.
- 8.4 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the Financial Statements 2023, and to propose any amendments or additions to the Financial Statements 2023.
- 8.5 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the Financial Statements 2023 and asked members to vote on the approval of the Financial Statements 2023.

J.B.
JNG

- 8.6 The Financial Statements 2023 was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Judo Federation (represented by Louisa Galea) and seconded by (ii) Malta Tennis Federation (represented by Marc Gingell Littlejohn).
- 8.7 The Financial Statements 2023 were unanimously approved by the voting members present *in toto* in the form as proposed, with MPC being authorised and empowered to liaise the appointed independent accountant to finalise the accounting review process and to make any necessary adjustments to the Financial Statements as a result of such review process.

9. NON-ELECTIVE AGM

- 9.1 The Chair noted that as this AGM was a non-elective AGM, and in the absence of any co-options made, or proposed to be made, by the Executive Committee of the MPC, there were no changes to the composition of the Executive Committee that required approval or ratification at this AGM. Accordingly, the Chair noted that the Executive Committee of the MPC shall remain composed of by the members elected at the 2022 AGM of the MPC, as set out hereunder:

Position	Executive Committee Member
President	Prof. Joseph N. Grima
Vice-President	Mr. Simon Zammit
Secretary General	Dr. Julian Bajada
Treasurer	Ms. Vladyslava Kravchenko
Member 1 - Education and Classification Officer	Ms. Laura Demicoli
Member 2 - Grassroots Officer	Mr. Noel Aquilina
Member 3 - Para Athletes' Representative	Ms. Maja Theuma

- 9.2 The Chair also explained that in terms of the MPC statute, 1/5th of the Executive Committee must be of a different gender, noting that this requirement had been satisfied, with 3 out of 7 members of the Executive Committee being female members.

10. AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE

- 10.1 The Chair explained that the proposed changes to the statute (**Updated Statute**) were driven by the following factors:

- i. changes to the local legislative framework applicable to sports entities and voluntary organisations, including the introduction of the Sports Governance and Integrity Act and AIMS as the new sports regulatory;

J.B.
JNG

- ii. changes to the obligations of members of the International Paralympic Committee as a result of updates to the IPC Constitution; and
- iii. a strategic 5-year review conducted by MPC and the International Paralympic Committee as part of the in-country visit carried out by the IPC in February 2024.

10.2 The Chair invited MPC Secretary General, Dr Julian Bajada, to provide an overview of the key changes being proposed and details around the following changes were provided:

- Recognising official languages and logo of MPC.
- Updating the objectives of MPC to reflect the local realities and international developments (e.g., recognising the role of Para Sport in the promotion of fundamental human rights, policy-making).
- Adherence with IPC rules and regulations, as well as WADA anti-doping rules.
- Associate members extended to sports clubs, coaches and other organisations/entities relating to sport and/or disability.
- Disciplinary and grievance procedures
- Deadlines for submitting accounts/reports, as per updated VO subsidiary legislation
- Allowing meetings and notices by electronic means
- Eligibility criteria for executive committee members in line with good governance and ethical requirements (clean police conduct, not subject to sanctions or disciplinary measures in sport, etc.)
- All reasonable efforts to ensure that at least 1 executive member has an impairment (this in addition to the 1/5th different gender requirement).
- Conflicts of interest policy for members, officials, athletes, family members, etc.
- Minor clarifications (e.g., duties of President, Secretary General and Treasurer, filling of vacancies, etc.)

10.3 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the proposed changes to the statute and it was noted that no members present raised any objections.

10.4 The Updated Statute was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Tennis Federation (represented by Marc Gingell Littlejohn) and seconded by (ii) Malta Powerlifting Association (represented by Matteo Aquilina).

10.5 The Updated Statute was unanimously approved by the voting members present, with MPC being authorised and empowered to liaise with the relevant authorities (including the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sport (AIMS) and the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations

J.B.
JNG

(OCVO), as applicable, and with whom the Updated Statute must be submitted under applicable law or international protocol. In addition, the MPC was authorised and empowered to make such necessary adjustments to the Updated Statute to the extent required to comply with any requirements that may be lawfully imposed by the IPC, OCVO and/or AIMS, as the case may be. The Chair noted that the final Updated State will, once approved by the IPC, AIMS and OCVO, as applicable, will be made publicly available on the website of MPC.

11. MOTIONS (none)

- 11.1 The Chair noted that other motions had been received and, therefore, no motions for such purpose were table at the AGM.

12. PARIS 2024 AND CLOSING REMARKS

- 12.1 MPC Chef de Mission, Dr Julian Bajada, formally announced the first athlete to have entry at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games confirmed - Maja Theuma – who will be representing team Malta in Paralympic Swimming in the S6 class.
- 12.2 The Chair made his closing remarks and thanked those present for participating in the AGM and contributing to the development of Paralympic Sport.

13. CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE OF AGM

- 13.1 The Chair thanked all those present and declared the AGM to be closed at **20:00**.

Signed on 2024-06-23, by:



President
Prof. Joseph N. Grima



Secretary General
Dr Julian Bajada