



MALTA
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF THE 2022 ELECTIVE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
MALTA PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, 7th January 2022

TIME: 18:00 - 20:00

PLACE: Online virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

1. REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

1.1. The 2022 Elective Annual General Meeting (the “AGM”) of the Malta Paralympic Committee (the “MPC”) started at **18:00** on **Friday 7th January 2022** as an online virtual meeting held via Microsoft Teams. The meeting formally commenced at **18:15** 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 first elected President of the MPC, who served his first term between 2018-2021, gave his opening remarks. Prof. Grima expressed profound gratitude to all entities and individuals who have, in any shape or form, contributed to the initial phase of MPC’s development. Reflecting back on the formation of the MPC in 2018, Prof. Grima underlined that he has witnessed an encouraging growth in interest in Para Sport in Malta and stressed that this would not be possible if we worked in silos. Instead, Prof. Grima emphasised that a collective effort is what made it possible for Para Sport to develop, noting the importance of the role of national sports associations, sports clubs and coaches to champion the cause of truly inclusive and holistic sport, which ought to include Para Sport as a given in its sporting programme, and not an afterthought.

- 2.2 Prof. Grima thanked his colleagues of the executive committee that served during the 2018-2021 term, noting that together they had built an organisation from the ground up and had undertaken their utmost efforts to contribute to the success of Para Sport. Prof. Grima noted his appreciation of the ability to be open-minded and to *learn-by-doing*, drawing upon his own experiences in developing indoor Para rowing as part and parcel of the offering of Siggiewi Rowing Club and the inclusion of Para rowing medal events at championships organised by the Malta Rowing Association. Prof. Grima encouraged other sports to follow suit and learn from the experiences of sports clubs and associations having experience with Para Sport. Finally, Prof. Grima expressed his gratitude towards the Para Athletes, who have shown commitment, courage and determination in their respective Para sports, and in their everyday lives.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

- 3.1 Dr. Julian Bajada, present Secretary General of the MPC, was appointed as the Chairperson (the “Chair”) of the AGM. The Chair was: (i) nominated by Malta Judo Federation (represented by President Mr. Envic Galea); and (ii) seconded by Athletics Malta (represented by Mr. Andy Grech).

4. ROLL CALL AND QUORUM

- 4.1 The Chairperson proceeded to a roll call of the members present at the AGM, and noted the following members were represented by the representatives indicated hereunder:

National Sports Association / Federation	Type of member (full or associated)	Represented by:
Athletics Malta	Associated	Mr. Andy Grech, President
Aquatic Sports Association of Malta (ASA)	Associated	Mr. Joe Caruana Curran, President Mrs. Rita Azzopardi, Secretary General
Malta Judo Federation	Full	Mr. Envic Galea, President
ParaVolley Malta	Full	Mr. Antonello Calleja, President
Malta Rowing Association	Full	Mr. Joaebby Vassallo, Member
Malta Taekwondo Association	Full	Ms. Anna Vassallo, President
Malta Triathlon Federation	Full	Dr. Michelle Vella Woods, Secretary General
Malta Tennis Federation	Full	Mr. John Sciberras, Secretary General

Malta Wheelchair Basketball	Full	Mr. Noel Aquilian, President Mr. Bradley Zerafa, Member
Malta Wheelchair Dancesport Association	Associated	Ms. Pippa Roberts, President
Malta Football Association	Full	Ms. Maria Mifsud, Officer Ms. Andrea Gimenez, Officer
Futsal Malta Association	Associated	Mr. Mark Borg, President
Frame Football Malta	Associated	Mrs. Rita Darmanin Carbonaro, President Mr. Mario Darmanin, Secretary General
Malta Sailing Federation	Associated	Mr. Michael Mifsud, President
Malta Deaf Sports Association	Associated	Mr. George Vella, President Mr. Karl Borg, Secretary General

4.2 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.

4.3 The Chair, on behalf of MPC, thanked those present, which included National Sport Associations' and Federations' representatives, and Para athletes and allowed time for members present to raise any objections to the commencement of business of the AGM. 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 **Friday 19th November 2021** (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 **Friday 19th November 2021**.

6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

- 6.1 The Chair presented a copy of the previous AGM minutes, held on 29th March 2021, 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. The Chair declared the minutes of the previous annual general meeting of the MPC to have been ratified *in toto*.

7. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2021

- 7.1 The Chair proceeded to present the Annual Report of the MPC for the year ended 31 December 2021. 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.
- 7.2 The Chair presented, among other related matters, the following key highlights of the Annual Report 2021:
 - 7.2.1 national and international Para sports competitions participated in 2021, including the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, World Para Swimming European Open Championships 2021, World Para Swimming World Series Berlin 2021, British Para Swimming Meet Sheffield 2021, World Para Athletics European Open Championships 2021, Deaflympics Athletics World Championships 2021, World Para Sailing World Championships 202 and the British Rowing Indoor Championships 2021, among others;
 - 7.2.2 initiatives relating to Para sport development, including joint initiatives with coaches, clubs, national sports associations, and other stakeholders;
 - 7.2.3 the strengthening of established Para sport disciplines in Malta (including Para Athletics, Para Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball) and the introduction of new Para sport disciplines in Malta (including Indoor Para Rowing, Para Judo, Para Taekwondo, Frame Football and Para Sailing, among others);
 - 7.2.4 educational, awareness and community engagement activities, including the delivery of the first phase of the Im'POSSIBLE Programme in schools,

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lecturing at the University of Malta Institute for Physical Education and Sport, seminars at the National School of Sport, introductory meetings with parents and Para athletes, informative meetings with physiotherapists and occupational therapists, among other initiatives; and

7.2.5 the rebranding of the MPC.

- 7.3 The Chair also expressed satisfaction at the record 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).
- 7.4 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.
- 7.5 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the Annual Report and asked members to vote on the approval of the Annual Report.
- 7.6 The Annual Report was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Taekwondo Association (represented by Ms. Anna Vassallo, President); and seconded by (ii) Athletics Malta (represented by President, Andy Grech). 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 2021

- 8.1 The Chair invited executive committee member Ms. Vladyslava Kravchenko (Para Athlete Council Representative and Assistant Treasurer, MPC) to present the Financial Statements of the MPC for the financial year ended 31 December 2021.
- 8.2 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the Financial Statements, and to propose any amendments or additions to the Financial Statements.
- 8.3 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the Financial Statements and asked members to vote on the approval of the Financial Statements.
- 8.4 The Financial Statements was formally proposed by: (i) Malta Judo Federation (represented by Mr. Envic Galea, President) and; seconded by (ii) Malta Wheelchair Basketball Association (represented by Mr. Noel Aquilina, President). The Financial Statements were unanimously approved by the voting members present *in toto* in the form as proposed.

9. PRESENTATION OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 9.1 The Chair circulated a soft copy of the list of duly nominated candidates for the Executive Committee of the MPC (the “**Nominated Candidates**”).
- 9.2 The voting members present at the AGM unanimously elected all the Nominated Candidates as the first elected Executive Committee of the MPC (the “**Executive Committee**”), in the following roles:

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
Para Athletes’ Representative	Ms. Maja Theuma

- 9.3 Given that the Statute provides that the Chairperson of the Athletes’ Council is an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee, Ms. Maja Theuma *de facto* became a member of the Executive Committee, whose appointment was ratified at the AGM by the unanimous vote of the members present.
- 9.4 The Chair 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. PRESENTATION OF PARA ATHLETES COUNCIL

- 10.1 The Chair explained that the statute recognises the establishment of a Para Athletes’ Council, the Chairperson of which is to be an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee, as the Para Athletes’ Representative thereat.
- 10.2 The Chair noted that the MPC had received two nominations from Para athletes interested in forming part of the Para Athletes Council: (i) Ms. Maja Theuma, Para Swimming; and (ii) Mr. Bradley Zerafa, Wheelchair Basketball, who were nominated as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Para Athletes’ Council respectively. The nominated members of the Para Athletics Council were unanimously confirmed at the AGM.

- 10.3 The Chair invited Ms. Maja Theuma to express her introductory remarks as the newly nominated Chairperson of the Para Athletes Council and the Para Athletes Representative on the Executive Committee of the MPC.
- 10.4 Ms. Maja Theuma expressed her gratitude for the nominations and explained that, drawing upon her own first-hand experience as an active competitive Para athlete, she aims to bring together Para athletes to ensure their voice is well represented in the decision-making forums of MPC and to strive towards a strong community engagement among the local Paralympic Movement. Ms. Theuma provided those present with an overview of the key priority areas that she will be seeking to deliver upon within the Para Athletes Council, with a strong focus on awareness and community engagement.

11. PRESENTATION OF KEY OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES 2022-2024

- 11.1 The Chair proceeded to present the strategic objectives and initiatives the MPC intends to prioritise and implement over the course of 2022-2024 in the run up to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, including, among others, priorities relating to:
- 11.1.1 supporting youth Para athletes and competitive Para athletes
 - 11.1.2 co-developing Para sport with national sports associations and local clubs
 - 11.1.3 education, awareness and community engagement
 - 11.1.4 engagement of strategic partners and sponsors
 - 11.1.5 strengthening the role of the Para Athletes Council
 - 11.1.6 participation in national and international Para Sport competitions, including a number of competitions forecast for 2022.
- 11.2 The Chair invited Ms. Vladyslava Kravchenko to present an overview of the MPC's proposal relating to the integration of Para Sport at the forthcoming Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE 2023) to be held in Malta, explaining that the MPC will be continuing discussions with the relevant stakeholders, with a view to moving forward with a concrete plan of action.
- 11.3 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the proposed projects and programmes, and to propose any amendments or additions to the proposed strategic objectives and initiatives.

12. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS (not required)

- 12.1 The Chair noted that in terms of the legislation and regulations applicable to voluntarily organisations (namely the Voluntary Organisations Act, Chapter 492 of the laws of Malta, and subsidiary legislation issued thereunder), the MPC was not subject

to the requirement to appoint an auditor in respect of its financial statements for the year ended 2021. Accordingly, no motion for the appointment of an auditor was put forward at this AGM.

- 12.2 The Chair noted that the conditions for the appointment of an auditor, or otherwise, will be assessed by the MPC from time to time and should the requirement to appointment an auditor in respect of the financial statements of the MPC be applicable, the MPC shall inform its members accordingly, and the process for the procurement and appointment of an auditor shall be initiated and undertaken accordingly, in accordance with applicable law and MPC statute.

13. AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE (none)

- 13.1 The Chair noted that no motions for the amendments to the MPC's statute had been received and, therefore, no motions for such purpose were table at the AGM.

14. MOTIONS (none)

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

15. OTHER MATTERS AND OPEN DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS

- 15.1 The Chair requested those present whether they would like to raise any further matter for discussion and allowed for an open discussion among those present.

- 15.2 A number of national sports associations present put forward views and proposals relating to the continued development of Para Sport in Malta and an open discussion was had on the matters raised. In particular, a discussion was had concerning the integration of Para sport events on the events programmes of local and national competitions organised by the national sports associations, noting that the prior experience of the Aquatic Sports Association (ASA), Malta Rowing Association and Malta Judo Federation are examples from which we can draw lessons learnt and emulate the positive aspects of such experiences.

- 15.3 Consensus was reached among those present that further efforts ought to be made to increase the number of competitive Para athletes who compete in local events and competitions organised by national sports associations - in particular, in those cases where the costs of international Para sport competitions are significant and may act as a barrier to entry or access for Para athletes.

- 15.4 Those present also shared their personal experience with Para sport, with a common theme emerging that Para sport and Para athletes bring multiple benefits for all involved, noting not only the personal benefits enjoyed by Para athletes in terms of their physical, social and psychological well-being, but the benefits enjoyed by the wider sporting community in Malta.
- 15.5 President Prof. Joseph Grima also gave the example of ‘mixed relays’ events, which combines able-bodied athletes and Para athletes in the same relay, emphasising the positive impact of such events. President Grima encouraged national sports associations to be bold by including such events on their sports programmes.
- 15.6 President Prof. Joseph Grima and Vice-President Simon Zammit reiterated their availability and willingness to meet up with the national sports associations, and other stakeholders, to co-develop Para sport and address the building blocks required to make this possible.

16. CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE OF AGM

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

Signed on 2022-02-12, by:



President
Prof. Joseph N. Grima



Secretary General
Dr Julian Bajada