



MALTA
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE



MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (NON-ELECTIVE)
of the
MALTA PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday 18th April 2023

TIME: 18:30 - 20:00

PLACE: Institute of Physical Education & Sport
Main Lecture Hall, University of Malta, Msida, Malta
Zoom link also provided to allow virtual participation.

1. REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

1.1. The 2023 Annual General Meeting (the “AGM”) of the Malta Paralympic Committee (the “MPC”) started at **18:30** on **Tuesday 18th April**. The meeting was organised as a hybrid physical and virtual meeting, to enable a wide participation amongst members. The meeting formally commenced at **18:45** 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 expressed his gratitude to all the members of the newly elected Executive Committee that was elected in January 2022 to serve for the 2022-2024 term, highlighting the team’s efforts to hit the ground running from day one. Prof. Grima noted MPC’s renewed focus on repositioning its strategy to focus on grassroots and youth Para sport development, with a series of initiatives aimed at opening Para sport to newcomers and across a wider variety of eligible impairments (notably, visually impaired athletes through the ISPORT Project). Prof. Grima noted how this venturing into uncharted waters was the defining feature of 2022 for MPC, with initiatives such as its national classifiers project, the implementation of the

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educational I'mPOSSIBLE programme, and the growth of Para Sport into new disciplines, such as Para rowing, Para shooting, Para darts and even Para Sailing, just to name but a few of the milestones achieved in 2022. This opening up is key to ensuring that the most vulnerable in society can tap into and realise the benefits of Para sport, on a personal and community level.

- 2.2 In addition, Prof. Grima underlined MPC's focus on strengthening its network amongst sporting, educational and disability stakeholders, and service providers, delineating the importance of equipping our medical professionals, educational professionals, and other service providers with the necessary know-how on Para sport.
- 2.3 Prof. Grima invited members to reflect on the remaining and, in certain instances, long-standing barriers to inclusive practices within sports clubs and the wider sporting environment and encouraged them to collaborate with MPC to find solutions. Prof. Joseph Grima indicated that there are model examples of inclusive sports clubs whose practices should be emulated.
- 2.4 Prof. Grima also extended the Executive Committee's gratitude towards every single Para Athlete, coach, parent, official 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 **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 Futsal Malta Association (represented by Dr. Stefan Cutajar, Secretary General); and (ii) seconded by Malta Sailing Federation (represented by Mr. Michael Mifsud, President).

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:
Malta Archery Association	Full	
Malta Badminton Federation	Full	
Malta Canoeing Association	Full	
Malta Cycling Federation	Full	

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Malta Judo Federation	Full	
ParaVolley Malta	Full	Present - Mr. Antonello Calleja (Secretary General)
Malta Rowing Association	Full	Present - Prof. Joseph N. Grima (Member)
Malta Taekwondo Association	Full	Ms. Anna Vassallo (President)
Malta Triathlon Federation	Full	
Malta Tennis Federation	Full	
Malta Wheelchair Basketball Association	Full	Present - Mr. Noel Aquilina (President)
Malta Shooting Sport Federation	Full	Present - Mr. Stephen Aquilina (Secretary General)
Malta Football Association	Full	
Malta Powerlifting Association	Full	
Athletics Malta	Associated	
Aquatic Sports Association of Malta (ASA)	Associated	Present - Mr. David Bonello (Vice-President)
Futsal Malta Association	Associated	Present - Dr. Stefan Cutajar (Secretary General)
Frame Football Malta	Associated	Present - Ms. Rita Darmanin Demajo (President)
Malta Sailing Federation	Associated	Present - Mr. Michael Mifsud (President)
Malta Darts Association	Associated	Present - Mr. Joseph Martin (Member)
Malta Deaf Sports	Associated	Present - Mr. Steven Mulvaney (Secretary General)
Malta Karate Federation	Associated	Ms. Audrey Zammit (Secretary General)
Malta Wheelchair Dance Sport Association	Associated	Present - Mr. Stephen Fenech (Member)
Malta Weightlifting Association	Associated	
Malta Rugby Football Union	Associated	

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- 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, Para Athletes, and others present, 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 **Saturday 18th March 2023** (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 **Saturday 18th March 2023**.

6. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

- 6.1 The Chair presented a copy of the previous AGM minutes, held on **Friday 7th January 2022**, 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 2022 minutes was formally proposed by: (i) Aquatic Sports Association of Malta (represented by Mr David Bonello, Vice President); and seconded by (ii) Malta Sailing Federation (represented by Mr Michael Mifsud, President). The Chair declared the minutes of the previous annual general meeting of the MPC to have been ratified *in toto*.

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7. PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT 2022

7.1 The Chair proceeded to present the Annual Report of the MPC for the year ended 31 December 2022. 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 Chair presented, among other related matters, the following key highlights of the Annual Report 2022:

- **national and international Para sports competitions participated in 2022, including, among others:**
 - ASA Time Trials 2022
 - ASA Easter National Championships 2022
 - ASA Summer National Championships 2022
 - World Para Swimming World Series Lignano 2022
 - Athletics Malta Time Trials 2022
 - World Para Athletics European Gran Prix Paris 2022
 - IWBF Europe EuroCup Qualifiers Lille 2022
 - World Para Darts Winmau World Trophy Belgium 2022
 - World Rowing Development Training Camp Gavirate 2022
 - VI Para Boxing Development Training Camp 2022
 - Para Trap Open Beretta Gren Cup Todi 2022
 - National Indoor Rowing Championships 2022
- **initiatives relating to Para sport development**, including joint initiatives with coaches, clubs, national sports associations, and other stakeholders.
- **the strengthening of established Para sport disciplines in Malta** (including Para athletics, Para swimming, Wheelchair basketball, Frame football and Para rowing).
- **the introduction of new Para sport disciplines in Malta** (including Para sailing, Para trap shooting and Para darts, among others);
- **the implementation of the preparatory and first phase of the VI Para Sport Project** (sport for blind and visually impaired athletes) carried out in collaboration with The Malta Trust Foundation, Futsal Malta Association, and various other sports entities, clubs and coaches, including international organisations such as the International Blind Sport Association (IBSA) and the England FA.
- **the first-ever fundraising activity undertaken by MPC, with circa €47,000 raised via the 28km indoor Para Rowing challenge completed by Julian Bajada**, noting how the funds will be deployed to acquire Paralympic Rowing boats and develop a Paralympic Rowing sports technical

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development and grassroots development programme, as a collaboration between MPC and Siggiewi Rowing Club.

- **the delivery of the preliminary phase of the local classification project**, which saw more around 15 individuals completing an introductory course on classification, co-organised by with Prof. Bartosz Molik and Iain Gowans PLY.
- **engaging an intern over July-September 2022**, to assist with the implementation of various projects, outreach activities and administrative functions of the MPC.
- **collaborations relating to outreach and awareness in the community**, including a Paralympic Sport Day and related activities organised by Marsascalea Youths and Agenzija Zghazagh, together with other contributor such as ParaVolley Malta and Malta Wheelchair Basketball Association, as well as participation in various TV, Radio and print media on MPC and its activities.
- **educational, awareness and community engagement activities, including the delivery of the second phase of the Im'POSSIBLE Educational Programme** in schools, 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.

- 7.3 The Chair 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 by the Chair.
- 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.

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7.7 The Annual Report was formally proposed by: (i) Futsal Malta Association (represented Dr Stefan Cutajar, Secretary General) and seconded by (ii) Malta Karate Federation (represented by Ms Audrey Zammit, Secretary General). 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 2022

- 8.1 The Chair invited Ms. Vladyslava Kravchenko (Treasurer, MPC) to present the key highlights of the annual Financial Statements of the MPC for the financial year ended 31 December 2022. It was noted that the Financial Statements 2022 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 2022, MPC became a 'Category 2' voluntary organisation (a the income of the MPC generated between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2022, exceeded €50,000 but did not exceed €250,000).
- 8.2 The members present were informed that the review will be undertaken by Mr. Stephen Paris and, once the review process has been completed, MPC will submit the final reviewed Financial Statements 2022 to the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations, as required by applicable law.
- 8.3 It was explained that this was the first time that the financial statements of MPC were prepared on the GAPSME basis and, therefore, certain differences will arise in the classification and treatment of accounting entries when compared with previous years' annual financial statements. Further details will be provided in the notes that will accompany the full and final version of the Financial Statements 2022.
- 8.4 The Chair allowed time for the members to raise any questions or objections to the Financial Statements 2022, and to propose any amendments or additions to the Financial Statements 2022.
- 8.5 The Chair noted that no objections were made to the Financial Statements 2022 and asked members to vote on the approval of the Financial Statements 2022.
- 8.6 The Financial Statements 2022 was formally proposed by: (i) Futsal Malta Association (represented by Dr Stefan Cutajar, Secretary General) and seconded by (ii) Malta Karate Federation (represented by Audrey Zammit, Secretary General).

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8.7 The Financial Statements 2022 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. **PRESENTATION OF KEY OBJECTIVES AND INITIATIVES**

10.1 The Chair proceeded to present the strategic objectives and initiatives the MPC intends to prioritise and implement over the course of 2022-2024, and in the run up to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, including, among others, priorities relating to:

- supporting youth Para athletes and competitive Para athletes
- co-developing Para sport with national sports associations and local clubs
- education, awareness and community engagement
- engagement of strategic partners and sponsors
- participation in national and international Para Sport competitions, including a number of competitions forecast for 2023
- strategy and marketing positioning for MPC

10.2 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.

11. AMENDMENTS TO STATUTE (none)

11.1 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.

12. MOTIONS (none)

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

13. OTHER MATTERS AND OPEN DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS

13.1 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.

13.2 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, including:

- funding of Para athletes for international competitions and events
- invitation to national sports association to provide MPC with its annual budget/forecast for participation in international competitions and events
- collaboration between MPC and national sports associations
- challenges relating to transport and accessibility to sports venues/clubs
- initiatives to attract new athletes to Para sport

14. CLOSING REMARKS AND CLOSE OF AGM

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

Signed on 2023-06-24, by:



President
Prof. Joseph N. Grima



Secretary General
Dr Julian Bajada