



2026 IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL ELECTION

CANDIDATES BOOKLET

DECEMBER 2025

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

1 INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1989, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has recognised the importance of athlete representation, first establishing the Athletes' Committee as a Standing Committee within its structure. The first election took place in 1990 during the World Games for the Disabled in Assen, the Netherlands. Following a strategic review in 2003, the committee evolved into an advisory council to the Governing Board and adopted its current name: the IPC Athletes' Council.

Today, the IPC Athletes' Council serves as the collective voice of Paralympic athletes within the IPC and across the Paralympic Movement. Its mission is to ensure that athletes' perspectives and voice are included in decision-making processes. The Council advises the IPC Governing Board on key matters, advocates for the interests of Paralympic athletes, and fosters meaningful engagement within the athlete community.

The Chairperson and First Vice-Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council hold ex-officio voting positions on the IPC Governing Board, ensuring that athlete representation remains at the heart of the Paralympic Movement.

2 IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL ELECTION

2.1 ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE ATHLETES' COUNCIL

The election of the elected members will occur at every Paralympic Games and the term of office for elected members will be four (4) years.

- Six (6) athletes are elected during each Paralympic Summer Games
- Three (3) athletes are elected during each Paralympic Winter Games

2.2 WHO CAN VOTE

All athletes with (Aa) in Milano Cortina 2026 are eligible to vote. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes any athletes who are also standing for election.

Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.

2.3 WHEN AND WHERE

Voting opens on Wednesday 4 March 2026 and closes on Friday 13 March 2026 in the following locations:

Cortina d'Ampezzo Paralympic Village

4 to 13 March in the PLY House

Milano Paralympic Village

4 to 13 March in the PLY House

Predazzo Paralympic Village

4 to 13 March in the PLY House

Please note that operating hours will vary on the day of the Opening Ceremony.

2.4 HOW TO VOTE

- **Check in at a voting station** and present your accreditation card. Your eligibility will be verified in the system, and you will be directed to a voting booth.
- **Follow the on-screen instructions** in the voting booth.
 - Select your preferred language.
 - Choose the athlete(s) you wish to vote for by clicking their names or abstain if you wish to refrain from voting.

- You may select a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) candidates.
- **Assistance:** Athletes who require support may appoint an assistant to help during voting.
- **Questions:** If you have any questions, please ask at the voting location or contact your Chef de Mission.

2.5 RESULTS AND ANNOUNCEMENT

The elected candidates will be announced after the vote count on 14 March 2026. The names of the three (3) elected candidates will be shared with the media and posted on the IPC website (www.paralympic.org).

The official announcement and presentation of the elected Athletes' Council members will happen during the Closing Ceremony on 15th March 2026.

3 CANDIDATES

The IPC received 5 candidates to run for three (3) winter representative positions on the IPC Athletes' Council during the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games.

- Declan Farmer (nominated by NPC USA) - Para Ice Hockey
- Adam Hall (nominated by FIS) - Para Alpine Skiing
- Tyler McGregor (nominated by NPC Canada) - Para Ice Hockey
- Markus Salcher (nominated by NPC Austria) - Para Alpine Skiing
- Mia Larsen Sveberg (nominated by NPC Norway) - Wheelchair Curling

NOTE: The nominees have been listed in alphabetical order within the booklet. All information included in this booklet has been provided by the candidates themselves. The IPC is not responsible for fact-checking or correcting any spelling or grammar.

3.1 DECLAN FARMER

Country/Territory	United States of America
Date of Birth	5 November 1997
Sport	Para Ice Hockey
Discipline (if applicable)	N/A



SPORTS CAREER:

	Year	Sport/Discipline/Event	Sport classes	Results
Paralympic Games	2022, 2018, 2014	Para Ice Hockey	N/A	Gold Medallist
World Championships	2025, 2023, 2021, 2019, 2015	Para Ice Hockey	N/A.	Gold Medallist

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

As a Paralympian, I've seen firsthand the power of sport to change how the world sees disability. Like all of you, I want to see the Paralympic Movement reach its full potential: transforming global attitudes toward disability and expanding opportunity through the growth and excellence of the Games.

The Summer Paralympics have become the world's third-largest sporting event, yet the Winter Paralympic Games still trail behind the Winter Olympics Games in both athlete participation and magnitude of media attention. I'm passionate about helping close that gap - to elevate Winter sport and continue growing the Paralympic Movement worldwide. I believe my experience and advocacy background can help us take meaningful steps toward that goal.

Since joining the Team USA Athletes' Commission in 2020 (and USA Hockey's in 2021), I've focused on tangible, achievable goals that make a real difference for athletes - I'd do the same with the IPC. My main goal since joining the Team USA Athletes' Commission has been to elevate Paralympic sport in the U.S. to the same level of recognition and support as Olympic sport - financially and beyond. One of my proudest accomplishments was helping secure pro-bono counsel for our Para Ice Hockey team, which led to a 50% increase in available Athlete Stipend funding from my National Paralympic Committee and additional pay from my national federation. I've also worked to empower more Paralympians to lead - today, six of eight Athlete Directors on my national federation's board are

Paralympians, up from none just five years ago. I've also supported other teams, like Para Alpine and Snowboard, during their own contract negotiations by sharing lessons learned from our sled hockey experience.

I am confident I would make a strong representative to the IPC Athletes' Council for several reasons. First, I fully support the IPC's mission and believe in its leadership. With such ambitious goals and limited resources, our success depends on collaboration and shared purpose across the Movement. Representing the U.S. at the 2025 IPC Athletes' Forum in Bonn this past summer gave me firsthand insight into the IPC's impact— an organization operating with only a fraction of the budget of USA Hockey while leading a global social movement. That experience left me inspired by what's possible and eager to work alongside IPC leadership to keep driving progress.

Second, I've always been able to build strong, working relationships with athletes from other countries - connections that help us collaborate effectively on shared challenges. I believe I did this well at the 2025 IPC Athletes' Forum, and I still keep in touch with a group of fellow athlete participants today. Sharing knowledge about athletes' rights and responsibilities - especially to athletes from developing nations - is a critical early step toward a more accessible and inclusive world. In my opinion, IPC Athlete Forums and similar gatherings are the perfect opportunities for that exchange of ideas.

Finally, I love this Movement and everything about this role. I'll give everything I have to be the best representative I can be on the IPC Athletes' Council. I plan to compete through Utah 2034, so I'll continue to be a direct stakeholder and advocate alongside you every step of the way.

We may not reach every goal overnight, but I will work tirelessly to help us move closer - together. Thank you for your time and consideration.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO RUN FOR THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

I want to help advance Paralympic sport toward true equality with the Olympic Movement by collaborating globally and strengthening the athlete voice.

WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS, BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE WILL YOU BRING TO THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

I bring proven results in athlete advocacy, global collaboration, and practical problem-solving that have strengthened athlete support and representation.

WHAT DOES BEING AN ATHLETE LEADER MEAN TO YOU?

Being an Athlete Leader means listening, asking hard questions, and standing up for others—always putting athletes' needs before your own.

HOW HAS SPORT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Sport has shaped my life, giving me lifelong friends, purpose, and experiences that connect me to something far bigger than competition.

WHY IS THE ATHLETES' VOICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

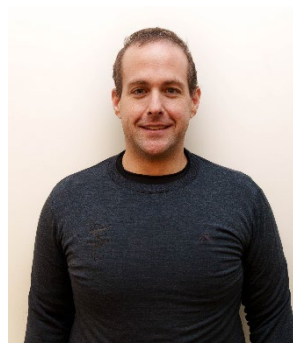
Athletes are the heart of the Movement; when our voices guide decisions, sport becomes fairer, stronger, and more representative of us all.

IN YOUR VIEW HOW CAN THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL BETTER SUPPORT THE ATHLETES, THE IPC AND THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT?

By focusing on shared goals, using resources wisely, and collaborating across the Movement to expand access and strengthen our collective impact.

3.2 ADAM HALL

Country/Territory	New Zealand
Date of Birth	9 October 1987
Sport	Para Alpine Skiing
Discipline (if applicable)	(Current) Slalom, Giant Slalom, (Previous) Downhill, Super-G, Super Combined



SPORTS CAREER:

	Year	Sport/Discipline/Event	Sport classes	Results
Paralympic Games	Beijing 2022	Men's Super Combined	Standing	Bronze
		Men's Slalom	Standing	Bronze
Paralympic Games	PyeongChang 2018	Men's Downhill	Standing	6 th Place
		Men's Super Combined	Standing	Bronze
		Men's Super G	Standing	10 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	Gold
Paralympic Games	Sochi 2014	Men's Super Combined	Standing	4 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	7 th Place
Paralympic Games	Vancouver 2010	Men's Super Combined	Standing	8 th Place
		Men's Super G	Standing	7 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	Gold
Paralympic Games	Torino 2006	Men's Downhill	Standing	41 st Place
		Men's Giant Slalom	Standing	43 rd Place
		Men's Super G	Standing	50 th Place
World Championships	Lillehammer 2022	Men's Slalom	Standing	Silver
World Championships	Tarvisio 2019	Men's Super Combined	Standing	9 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	Bronze
World Championships	Panorama 2015	Men's Super Combined	Standing	6 th Place

World Championships	La Molina 2013	Men's Super G	Standing	9 th Place
		Men's Super Combined	Standing	9 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	Bronze
World Championships	Sestriere 2011	Men's Super G	Standing	10 th Place
		Men's Super Combined	Standing	8 th Place
		Men's Slalom	Standing	10 th Place
World Championships	Kangwondland 2009	Men's Slalom	Standing	Silver
World Cup Circuit	2004-2025	31 World Cup podiums (Downhill, Super G, Super Combined, Slalom) 6 World Cup overall medals (Slalom) 1 Overall Globe (Slalom)	Standing	12 Gold 10 Silver 9 Bronze
Regional Games	2004-2025	Europa Cup Podiums 30+ North American Cup podiums 11 National Championship podiums 25 FIS Podiums 5 Southern Hemisphere Cup Podiums	Standing	2 Silver / 3 Bronze 20+ Gold/ 3 Silver/ 6 Bronze 10 Gold/ 1 Bronze 18 Gold/ 4 Silver/ 3 Bronze 5 Gold

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

I wish to show my interest to be part of the IPC Athletes' Council to simply represent the interests and voice of all Para athletes at the highest level in the Paralympic movement. It is important that athletes' voices are included in the necessary decision making within our Movement. As a seasoned Winter Para athlete with over 20 years of experience, having competed across 5 Winter Paralympic Games (Milano Cortina 2026 will be my 6th Games), I believe I can continue to contribute to the further development and improvement of the overall athletes' voice.

My desire to join the Council extends from my current extensive involvement in varied athlete voice groups, to continue to advocate for Para athletes and the Paralympic Movement and growth of the Paralympic Movement both domestically, regionally and internationally.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO RUN FOR THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

With 20+ years involvement in the Paralympic Movement, I wish to represent the interests and voice of all Para athletes (not just our abilities) at the highest level, to further advance the Paralympic Movement.

WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS, BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE WILL YOU BRING TO THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

Extensive involvement and history, representing athletes' voice, both domestically and internationally, specifically across all Winter Disciplines, with a strong athlete voice across our IF and NPC.

WHAT DOES BEING AN ATHLETE LEADER MEAN TO YOU?

Being able to represent all athletes, across the Movement, from grass roots to high performance. Being ears that can listen to you, and the voice that can fairly represent you at the highest level individually or collaboratively.

HOW HAS SPORT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Sport has given me, like others, the sense of independence and freedom that has transformed into a journey that will live on forever. Sport has taught me so life skills and experiences that no school, university or program can ever teach.

WHY IS THE ATHLETES' VOICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

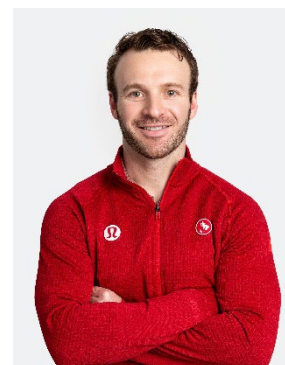
As progress continue to occur rapidly, the unique insights an athlete can provide, and the inclusion of the athletes' voice in core decision making, can ensure an aligned, sustainable and successful Paralympic Movement for all.

**IN YOUR VIEW HOW CAN THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL
BETTER SUPPORT THE ATHLETES, THE IPC AND THE
PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT?**

I hope to build on better networking and representation, not just from Winter and my region of athletes perspective, but just as importantly all athletes, summer and winter, all regions big and small and all sports across our ecosystem.

3.3 TYLER MCGREGOR

Country/Territory	Canada
Date of Birth	11 March 1994
Sport	Para Ice Hockey
Discipline (if applicable)	N/A



SPORTS CAREER:

	Year	Sport/Discipline/Event	Sport classes	Results
Paralympic Games	2014, 2018, 2022	Para Ice Hockey	N/A	Bronze, Silver, Silver
World Championships	2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025	Para Ice Hockey	N/A.	Gold, Silver, Gold, Silver, Silver, Gold, Silver

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Dear fellow athletes,

My name is Tyler McGregor, and I am honoured to put my name forward as a candidate for the IPC Athletes' Council. I do so because I deeply believe in the power of athlete voice, not only to shape the Paralympic Movement, but to ensure that it continues to evolve in a way that reflects our shared values of inclusion, courage, and excellence.

For me, this journey began long before I ever wore the maple leaf. After being diagnosed with cancer and losing my leg as a teenager, sport gave me purpose again. It offered me a sense of belonging at a time when I needed it most, and it taught me that disability does not define limitation; it reveals possibility. Para ice hockey became my vehicle for rediscovering confidence and connection, and it ultimately led me to the honour of representing Canada on the world stage. Through sport, I've experienced triumph, heartbreak, and deep gratitude, all of which have shaped who I am, not only as an athlete but also as a person and leader.

I am running for the IPC Athletes' Council because I want every athlete, from every background and nation, to feel that same sense of empowerment that sport gave me. Our Movement is built on the voices of athletes, on our stories, our challenges,

and our dreams, and those voices must continue to drive the decisions that shape the Paralympic future.

As captain of Canada's Para Ice Hockey Team, I have had the privilege of leading both on the ice and in the community. Leadership, to me, is about listening first and serving always. It means representing others' perspectives with respect, empathy, and courage, even when conversations are difficult. I've learned that the strongest teams are built on trust, transparency, and collaboration. Those same principles should guide how we, as athletes, work together within the IPC.

Beyond the ice, I've dedicated my time to athlete advocacy, speaking, and community engagement. I've worked closely with organizations to improve accessibility, strengthen athlete communication, and raise awareness of the value of parasport. My background in commerce has also given me a strong understanding of how organizational structures function and how athlete perspectives can be effectively integrated into governance, policy, and strategy. I believe this combination of athlete experience and organizational insight allows me to bridge the gap between those who play the sport and those who make the decisions about it.

If elected, I would focus on three priorities:

Strengthening athlete communication and engagement. We need consistent, transparent, and accessible ways for athletes to share feedback, concerns, and ideas, across all regions and sports. A stronger connection between the Council and the athlete community ensures that our representation is both authentic and informed.

Ensuring athlete well-being is at the heart of every decision. From classification and competition environments to transition support and mental health, the athlete experience must always come first. I want to ensure that our systems support the whole journey, before, during, and after competition.

Building unity and inclusivity within the Paralympic Movement. The strength of our community lies in its diversity. I will advocate for broader inclusion of underrepresented voices, including athletes from smaller nations, emerging sports, and developing programs, so that every athlete feels seen and heard.

Ultimately, my vision for the IPC Athletes' Council is one in which athletes are not only consulted but also partners in shaping the future of our Movement. The Paralympic Games represent more than medals; they represent the power of human potential. As athletes, we know what it means to adapt, to persevere, and to redefine possibility. That same spirit must guide our leadership.

To my fellow athletes, whether you are just beginning your Paralympic journey or are a veteran of multiple Games, I want you to know that your voice matters. I am committed to listening, learning, and representing your perspectives with integrity, transparency, and passion.

Thank you for the opportunity to earn your trust and your vote. Together, we can continue to strengthen the foundation of the Paralympic Movement. One built on athlete voice, collective purpose, and the unwavering belief that through sport, we can change the world.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO RUN FOR THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

I want to serve on the IPC Athletes' Council to ensure that athletes' voices are heard, respected, and reflected in every decision that shapes the Paralympic Movement. Sport has given me purpose, identity, and opportunity, and I believe every athlete deserves the same sense of empowerment. As a Paralympian and team captain, I've seen firsthand the impact of strong athlete advocacy in improving experiences on and off the ice. I'm motivated to use my platform and expertise to help advance athlete representation, inclusion, and well-being at every level of the IPC.

WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS, BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE WILL YOU BRING TO THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

As an elite para ice hockey athlete and captain of Team Canada, I bring over a decade of experience representing athletes on and off the ice. My leadership roles, from team captaincy to serving on national and organizational boards, have developed my ability to advocate, collaborate, and drive meaningful change for athletes. I understand the challenges athletes face firsthand, from performance pressures to navigating life beyond sport, and I am committed to ensuring their voices shape decisions that affect them.

Beyond sport, my experience in community initiatives, athlete engagement, and strategic planning has strengthened my communication, governance, and problem-solving skills. I bring a balanced perspective, combining empathy with accountability, and a proven track record of building relationships across diverse stakeholders.

I aim to contribute to the IPC Athletes' Council by fostering transparency, enhancing athlete representation, and advancing inclusion and opportunity across all Paralympic disciplines.

WHAT DOES BEING AN ATHLETE LEADER MEAN TO YOU?

Being an Athlete Leader means standing for something bigger than yourself. It's about listening first, then using your platform to elevate others. To me, titles or medals don't define leadership; it's defined by service, integrity, and courage to speak up when it matters most. As an Athlete Leader, I strive to build connection,

trust, and shared belief among athletes and to represent their perspectives with honesty and conviction.

HOW HAS SPORT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Sport changed the entire trajectory of my life. After my cancer diagnosis and amputation, sport became a source of purpose, belonging, and identity. It taught me resilience, teamwork, and the power of community. Through sport, I've experienced the highest levels of competition and connection, as well as the deeper values the Paralympic Movement represents: inclusion, courage, and equality. Sport gave me my voice, and it continues to inspire how I try to give back to others.

WHY IS THE ATHLETES' VOICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The athletes' voice is the foundation of the Paralympic Movement. Without it, decisions risk being disconnected from the realities of those they affect most. To me, athlete voice means shared responsibility, ensuring that those with lived experience shape policies, programs, and opportunities. It's not only about being heard; it's about being valued and involved in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future for all athletes.

IN YOUR VIEW HOW CAN THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL BETTER SUPPORT THE ATHLETES, THE IPC AND THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT?

The Athletes' Council can strengthen its impact by deepening communication and connection across all levels of the Movement. This means creating more accessible channels for athlete feedback, advocating for transparent decision-making, and helping athletes understand how their input drives change. It also means working collaboratively with the IPC to embed athlete perspectives into governance, policy, and development - not just consultation, but co-creation. By uniting the athlete community and amplifying diverse voices, the Council can help ensure that the Paralympic Movement continues to grow with integrity, purpose, and inclusivity.

3.4 MARKUS SALCHER

Country/Territory	Austria
Date of Birth	01 June 1991
Sport	Para Alpine Skiing
Discipline (if applicable)	Downhill; Super-G; Giant Slalom



SPORTS CAREER:

	Year	Sport/Discipline/Event	Sport classes	Results
Paralympic Games	2014	Downhill; Super-G; GS	L/W 9-1	1-1-3
	2018	Downhill; Super-G		3-3
	2022	Downhill; Super-G		2-2
World Championships	2013	Downhill; Super-G	L/W 9-1	1-1
	2017	Downhill; Super-G		1-1
	2022	Downhill; Super-G		1-1
	2023	Downhill; Super-G		1-1
World Cups				In Total, 37 World Cup victories

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Dear fellow athletes,

I'm Markus, and I've been a Para-Alpine skier since 2008. Skiing has ruled my life for almost twenty years now – it's taken me to the very top of competition and led me through some of the toughest obstacles imaginable. I've been fortunate to win seven Paralympic medals and many World Championship and World Cup titles, but what I'm most proud of is what those experiences taught me: how to lead, how to listen, and how to fight for something bigger than myself.

When I first started racing, Para-Alpine skiing looked very different. The equipment, the visibility, the professionalism – everything was still developing. Over time, I've seen our sport develop into something remarkable, something world-class. To witness it happening from close proximity has been exhilarating,

but it's also taught me that change is difficult. It happens because athletes rise up, ask for more, and work together to make things better.

That's why I want to serve on the IPC Athletes' Council. I have been an active participant in Para-Sport at an international level for almost two decades now, and for the last few years, I've also had the opportunity to serve as **the chair of the Austrian Paralympic Committee Athletes' Council and the chair of the European Paralympic Athletes' Council**. I have learned a lot from this experience about collaboration, understanding, and communication. It is not always easy to bring different opinions or intentions into balance, but I've learned that through listening with respect and focusing on shared goals, we are able to make real progress.

My background in communication science has equipped me with the skills to make ideas and emotions tangible through conversations. Communication is what holds everything together – between athletes and federations, between teams and organizers, between us Para-Sport enthusiasts who care so deeply. I believe all athletes should have their voices heard, be understood, and be represented genuinely.

Para-Sport is at the threshold of a thrilling but challenging time. We are becoming more professional and competitive year after year, and that's something to be celebrated. But as we develop, we also need to make sure that we protect what makes our community so unique – fairness, accessibility, and solidarity. We need to stand up for one another, make sure that new generations of athletes have the same chance as we did, and break down barriers towards even greater inclusion worldwide.

If I am voted to be on the IPC Athletes' Council, I will serve with my experience, my commitment, and my passion for this movement. I will always attempt to listen first, speak openly, and act with integrity. Above all, I will do everything in my power to ensure that our collective voice – the voice of the athletes – remains at the helm of the Paralympic Movement's future.

Thank you for your belief, your inspiration, and your continued confidence in what we can achieve together. It would be an honor to serve you and to keep Para-Sport moving forward, hand in hand.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO RUN FOR THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

Because I believe that the IPC Athletes' Council has the Power to develop our Sport and put the Concerns of the Athletes forward.

WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS, BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE WILL YOU BRING TO THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

As chair of the Austrian and European Paralympic Committee Athletes' Council and a long-time Paralympian, I bring deep experience in athlete representation, strong communication skills, and a clear understanding of the issues that matter most to athletes.

WHAT DOES BEING AN ATHLETE LEADER MEAN TO YOU?

As an Athlete Leader being a good Role model in every Situation is integral and inspiring and helping young Athletes to achieve their goals makes a good leader.

HOW HAS SPORT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Sport has had a huge impact on my life, as learning to ski from a young age gave me confidence, independence, and strength, and it continues to have a positive influence on how I live with my disability every day.

WHY IS THE ATHLETES' VOICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

The athletes' voice is important to me because only by truly listening to athletes can we understand what is happening across different sports and create meaningful, lasting change.

IN YOUR VIEW HOW CAN THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL BETTER SUPPORT THE ATHLETES, THE IPC AND THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT?

The Athletes' Council can better support athletes by sharing information from the IPC transparently and staying in close exchange with the five Regional Athletes' Councils, while supporting the IPC with fresh, on-the-ground insights from the field of play to help develop our sports and strengthen the Paralympic Movement as a whole.

3.5 MIA LARSEN SVEBERG

Country/Territory	Norway
Date of Birth	16 August 1998
Sport	Wheelchair Curling
Discipline (if applicable)	N/A



SPORTS CAREER:

	Year	Sport/Discipline/Event	Sport classes	Results
Paralympic Games	2022	Wheelchair Curling	Team Event	7 th Place
World Championships	2021, 2023, 2024, 2025	Wheelchair Curling team event all attending years, in addition to mixed double event in 2025.	Team Event and Mixed Doubles	2021: 7 th Place 2023 7 th Place 2024: 1 st Place 2025: 6 th Place. Mixed Doubles: 5 th Place 2025

NOMINATED CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Perhaps not everyone knows me yet, so I'd like to offer you some insight into who I am and why I am running for election to the IPC Athletes' Council. My name is Mia Larsen Sveberg, I am 27 years old, Norwegian, and currently competing in wheelchair curling at my second Paralympic Games. My journey into para sport began in 2020, after several years spent adapting to life as a wheelchair user and building confidence in my new and different body. Sport restored my joy in physical activity and provided social connections I didn't realize I missed.

Before entering the world of sports, I was actively involved in disability advocacy, student politics, and fighting for the rights of behalf of myself and others. This background has equipped me with a wide range of organizational experience and a willingness to speak up when I believe something is unacceptable. I am able to

approach challenging situations with seriousness and ensure my voice is heard in decision-making environments. While my experience in para sport is relatively recent, I have a strong background in elite sport, and I am known for my innovative thinking, curiosity, and openness to listening to fellow athletes. My relatively young age grants me fresh perspectives - I am not confined to traditional ways of thinking but am eager to explore new approaches for positive change.

Sports politics has always walked hand in hand with my athletic journey. Even as I pursued elite sport, I remained committed to the struggle for equality, which has given me additional experiences in understanding how systems operate. My involvement has allowed me to participate in important political decisions within Norwegian and international sports. For the past two years, I have served as a board member of the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports, where para- and able-bodied sports are treated equally, and every voice is valued. I also serve on the Norwegian Athletes' Committee, where we discuss what works and what doesn't for elite sports in general.

Although I am young, I understand how political organizations function and have learned to stand up for our cause - the often invisible struggle for equality. I believe strongly in achieving equal recognition for para-athletes, ensuring our accomplishments receive as much attention as those of able-bodied athletes. I envision a future where the Paralympics and Olympics take place simultaneously, with the media focusing equally on our achievements.

If you choose to vote for me as a member of the IPC Athletes' Council, I promise to be a listening, innovative, and clear voice within the committee. I am committed to taking your concerns seriously and bringing them forward to the IPC, working to improve the sporting environment for all of us. I will advocate for the importance of every sport - large or small - because I know firsthand what it's like to be a small voice, but with the power to make a difference.

WHY DO YOU WISH TO RUN FOR THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

On behalf of athletes, I want to ensure the athletes' voices are truly empowered and heard in major IPC decisions, so we have genuine influence where it matters most.

WHAT SPECIAL SKILLS, BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE WILL YOU BRING TO THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL?

My political and athletes' committee experience, plus five years in elite para sport, enable me to strongly represent athletes' voices in the IPC. I have learned how to handle demanding situations.

WHAT DOES BEING AN ATHLETE LEADER MEAN TO YOU?

To me, being an Athlete Leader means listening to others, understanding the process of politics, standing up for athletes, and always seeking new solutions together.

HOW HAS SPORT IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

Sport is my community - where I challenge myself, do activities I love, where I feel at home, where I have learned to be comfortable in my own disability, and where we show the world that para-athletes can achieve just as much as other athletes.

WHY IS THE ATHLETES' VOICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?

For me, athletes' voices must be heard. Only then can sport improve and develop, as we know the real issues and what truly happens when the media isn't watching. We also know how sport can include - or exclude.

IN YOUR VIEW HOW CAN THE IPC ATHLETES' COUNCIL BETTER SUPPORT THE ATHLETES, THE IPC AND THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT?

The Athletes' Council should act as a vital link and a builder of bridges, connecting athletes to key decision-makers and ensuring their concerns and ideas are properly represented.



INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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