



World ParaVolley Paralympic Cycle Calendar

Sitting Volleyball

WHITE PAPER – for discussion

World ParaVolley currently has a calendar of events that include:

- WPV World Championships
- WPV World Cup
- WPV Paralympic Games Final Qualification Event
- World Super 6 (WS6)
- PVE Zone Championships
- PVPA Zone Championships
- PVA Zone Championships
- PVAO Zone Championships

In addition, there are a number of other events that are included in this discussion document, as they also require WPV resources for their delivery, and therefore add to the competition for Jury, Classifiers, and Referees including the *Asian Para Games, Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, and ASEAN Para Games.*

CURRENT CALENDAR FORMAT

PG minus 3 years	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal, WPV World Cup WS6M, WS6W, <i>ASEAN Para Games</i>	8 events
PG minus 2 years	WPV World Championships <i>Asian Para Games</i>	2 events
PG minus 1 year	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal, WPV World Cup WS6M, WS6W <i>Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, ASEAN Para Games</i>	10 events
PG year	WPV Final Qualifier, Paralympic Games	2 events

NOTE: Red denotes qualification period events (1 January PG minus 2 years to 30 April PG year)

This current competition schedule creates significant issues and challenges for the identification of hosts, planning by the competing nations, athletes and providing resources including WPV ITOs (especially classifiers), particularly in the PG-minus 1 year associated with the number of events.

PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

This paper presents a number of different options for consideration that explores various options with the objective of balancing the number of events held each year in recognition of the impact on

our athletes, ITOs and hosts , so that there are more events taking place, in a more balanced calendar.

Feedback is encouraged from WPV Commissions, athletes, coaches, and member nations, prior to any proposal for change being developed.

For clarity, the existing calendar remains the default option until the end of 2024.

PROPOSED IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION / REVIEW

The four options presented below seek to re-balance the number of events held in each year to assist nations and World ParaVolley manage the requirement to deliver, manage, and support significant events in each year.

The four proposals remove the Final Qualifier from the calendar, as traditionally, it is difficult to identify a host for these events, as nations wait until their Zonal events have been concluded to consider this as an opportunity to host or participate as part of qualifying for the Paralympic Games, which adds additional complexity to the late preparations for this event.

As a result, the PG qualification process would need to be re-defined, but that is outside of this discussion, which seeks to identify if we can identify a more streamlined and sustainable calendar of events.

OPTION 1

PG minus 3 years	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal <i>ASEAN Para Games</i>	5 events
PG minus 2 years	WPV World Championships WS6M, WS6W <i>Asian Para Games</i>	4 events
PG minus 1 year	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal WPV World Cup, <i>Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, ASEAN Para Games</i>	8 events
PG year	WPV World Cup, Paralympic Games WS6M, WS6W	4 events

This proposal:

- Shifts the WS6 events into the World Championships and PG years as additional events to assist in preparation for our most important events and reduce the stress on our teams and ITOs in other years.
- Moves the World Cup to the Paralympic year, away from the congestion of Zonal Championships, in the year prior to the Paralympic Games.
- Maintains a bi-annual cycle of Zonal Championships
- Reduces the impacts on the Zonal Para Games, in the World Championships year.
- The PG minus 1 year, is expected to become busier as the *Asian Para Games* will also move to this timing, following the next quadrennial.

OPTION 2

PG minus 3 years	WPV World Cup WS6M, WS6W, <i>ASEAN Para Games</i>	4 events
PG minus 2 years	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal <i>Asian Para Games</i>	5 events
PG minus 1 year	WPV World Championships WS6M, WS6W <i>Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, ASEAN Para Games</i>	6 events
PG year	Paralympic Games	1 event

This proposal:

- Shifts the WS6 events into the WCs and World Cup into PG years as additional events to assist in preparation for our most important events and reduce the stress on our teams and ITOs in other years.
- Moves the World Cup into the year following the Paralympic year, away from the congestion of Zonal Championships.
- Separates the Zonal Championships and Zonal Para Games
- Raises the profile of the World Cup and World Championships as major events every 2 years but reduces the Zonal Championships to once every four years.
- The PG minus 1 year, is expected to become busier as the *Asian Para Games* will also move to this timing, following the next quadrennial.

OPTION 3

PG minus 3 years	WPV World Cup WS6M, WS6W, <i>ASEAN Para Games</i>	4 events
PG minus 2 years	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal <i>Asian Para Games</i>	5 events
PG minus 1 year	WPV World Championships <i>Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, ASEAN Para Games</i>	4 events
PG year	Paralympic Games New Non PG Qualifier Event	2 events

This proposal:

- Is similar to Option 2 above – but adds a new event in the PG Games year, for teams that haven't qualified for the PGs – this could be limited to the next two teams from each Zone (so a Super 8), to support competition in the Paralympic year.
- Removes the WS6 events from the PG minus 2 year, to reduce the conflict with the Para Games events
- The PG-1 year, is expected to become busier as the *Asian Para Games* will also move to this timing, following the next quadrennial.

OPTION 4

PG minus 3 years	WPV World Cup and / or World Championships WS6M, WS6W, <i>ASEAN Para Games</i>	5 events
PG minus 2 years	PVE Zonal, PVAO Zonal, PVPA Zonal, PVA Zonal <i>Asian Para Games</i>	5 events
PG minus 1 year	WPV World Championships, WPV World Cup <i>Para PanAm Games, African Para Games, ASEAN Para Games</i>	5 events

PG year	Paralympic Games WS6M, WS6W New Non PG Qualifier Event	4 events
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This proposal:

- Is similar to Option 2 above – but adds a new event in the PG Games year, for teams that haven't qualified for the PGs – this could be limited to the next two teams from each Zone (so a Super 8)
- Removes the WS6 events from the PG minus 2 year, to reduce the conflict with the Para Games events
- Includes World Championships and World Cup in the same year, as a Super event qualification year
- Run the World Cup and / or World Championships every two years to increase the number of elite events, due to the limited number of teams that can participate in the Paralympic Games
- Shifts the WS6 events into the PG years as additional events to assist in preparation for our most important events and reduce the stress on our teams and ITOs in other years.
- The PG minus 1 year, is expected to become busier as the *Asian Para Games* will also move to this timing, following the next quadrennial.

I invite comments and feedback on these options regarding benefits or lost opportunities for nations, athletes, ITOs and hosts.

In addition, alternative calendars / ideas can be proposed, taking into account the principles, that we would like to reduce the complexity of delivering the calendar of events, and ensure that our athletes have a range of regular events to compete, develop and promote our sport.

This process will remain open until 19 October 2023, after which point, I will prepare a paper for review by the Board in December 2023.

Thank you in advance for your thoughts and ideas. I should repeat that this process is about exploring options and seeking ideas from all stakeholders (athletes, coaches, nations, classifiers, referees, jury, delegates, hosts, etc.) and that no decision has been taken to alter the current calendar.

Please feel free to contact myself at sportdirector@worldparavolley.org or Chrissy Benz, the Assistant Sport Director – Sitting Volleyball at sittingvolleyball@worldparavolley.org if you would like to discuss any ideas, or to send your thoughts and input.

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