THE CONSTITUTION

WORLD PARAVOLLEY

As Amended and Revised Effective January 2025.

The Constitution relating generally to the transaction of the business and affairs of World ParaVolley and its four Zonal Entities: ParaVolley Africa, ParaVolley Asia Oceania, ParaVolley Europe, ParaVolley Pan America.

Constitution

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Constitution

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

1.1 Definitions

In the policies, procedures and special resolutions of World ParaVolley, unless the context otherwise requires:

a) Board means the Board of Directors of World ParaVolley;

b) IPC means the International Paralympic Committee;

c) NPC means the National Paralympic Committee;

d) FIVB means the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball.

ARTICLE 2

ORGANISATIONAL NAME AND MANDATE

2.1 Name

The name of the organization is World ParaVolley.

2.2 Mandate

World ParaVolley is the only internationally organization, recognized by the IPC, to organize and govern volleyball for people with a physical impairment. World ParaVolley is a non-profit organization whose mission is to develop various forms of volleyball at all levels for persons with a physical impairment.

2.3 International Affiliation

World ParaVolley is affiliated to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and works closely with the FIVB, National Paralympic Committees, NPC approved National Volleyball Federations, NPC approved ParaVolley Federations, private companies and international sport federations to promote the sport of paravolley for persons with a physical impairment.

Further the Board of Directors may enter into agreements with any of the aforementioned organizations or with any other organization or entity that is seen to be supportive of the aims of World ParaVolley. This includes educational and developmental activities as well as competitions for persons with a physical impairment.

ARTICLE 3

ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The business and affairs of World ParaVolley shall be governed by the Board of Directors. The Board is charged with guiding the organization toward the accomplishment of its mandate with the following objectives and responsibilities:

3.1 Objectives

The objectives of World ParaVolley are as follows:

a) Encourage the growth and development of the disciplines of volleyball for persons with a physical impairment in all nations of the world through an organized program of education and instruction.
b) Increase membership in the organization through the structure of its designated zones.
c) Constitute a forum for the discussion, analysis and approval of proposals for the establishment of the rules of all disabled volleyball disciplines for men, women and youth.
d) Fully integrate the Zone Committee structures into the World ParaVolley Commissions for the growth of the specific area.
e) Support the Zones in the development of the sport and activities within their zone.
f) To appoint a World ParaVolley representative to all international bodies of which it has membership or in which its interests are involved.
g) Liaise with IPC, and other international organizations for persons with a physical impairment and with the FIVB.

3.2 Responsibilities

Generally, World ParaVolley is responsible for the conduct of the activities of the organization including but not necessarily limited to the following:

a) To convene all meetings necessary for the organization and administration of World ParaVolley.
b) To establish policies, procedures and regulations concerning the certification of coaches, referees, classifiers and technical officials, the structure of international competitions, changes to the Official Volleyball Rules and classification rules, and all other matters which impact directly on the sport.
c) To ensure that the policies and rules and regulations which govern the sport, approved by vote of the member nations, are implemented.

d) To sanction, manage and control the conduct of international volleyball competitions for people with a physical impairment including World and Zonal Championships, and control the conduct of other international competitions.
e) To ensure compliance with the World Anti-Doping Control as administered by the WADA.
f) To ensure compliance with the IPC Classification and Medical Codes.
g) To maintain a documented history of the sport by recording, and reporting on, all international competitions.

ARTICLE 4

TRANSACTION OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE ORGANIZATION

4.1 Head Office

The headquarters of World ParaVolley shall be established in a location determined by the Board of World ParaVolley.

4.2 Official Language for the Conduct of Business

The official language of World ParaVolley is British English, to be used in all correspondence, for the conduct of all meetings, functions and events. In any question of interpretation of the Constitution, rules, and regulations, the English version shall be the authoritative version and binding.

4.3 Execution of Documents

Any issues or topics to be considered by the Board, any World ParaVolley Commission, Committee, or other group, must be provided in writing in English above a signature, the printed name, the submitting Nation, and their position in the organization submitting same.

Deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations, certificates and other instruments may be signed on behalf of the Corporation by the President, Vice President or the appointed representative from the Board of Directors. In addition, from time to time, the Board may direct the manner and the person or persons by whom any particular instrument or class of instruments shall be signed.

4.4 Banking Arrangements

The banking business of the Corporation shall be transacted with such banks, trust companies or other firms or corporations designated by or under the authority of the Board. Such banking business or any part thereof shall be transacted under such agreements, instructions and designations of powers as the Board may prescribe or authorize.

4.5 Financial Year

The fiscal year of World ParaVolley shall terminate on such day in each year as the Board may from time to time by resolution determine and, until otherwise determined, shall end on December 31 of each year.

ARTICLE 5

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Qualification

World ParaVolley membership shall be open to the following provided that the member accepts the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of World ParaVolley.

a. The NPC;
b. The NPC approved National Volleyball Federation;
c. The NPC approved National Sport Federation for the Disabled

5.2 Determination of Membership

Only one organization from any nation may be a World ParaVolley member. If more than one organization claims to represent a nation, the World ParaVolley Board shall rule which organization shall represent that nation to World ParaVolley.

5.3 Annual Membership Fees

Each member nation shall pay an annual membership fee whose amount and conditions shall be determined by the Board.

The membership in World ParaVolley shall be approved by the Board upon receipt of the application and appropriate membership fee.

5.4 Approval by the General Assembly

Membership in World ParaVolley shall be granted by the Board and shall be ratified by the first General Assembly following the approval by the Board by a simple majority of valid votes cast. Until such General Assembly they will have the full privileges of the membership type upon payment of the membership fee.

5.5 Voting Privilege

Each member Nation is allowed a single vote at meetings of the Membership.

5.6 Members in Good Standing

Member Nations are considered in Good Standing if all fees have been received, all financial commitments have been met, and there are no sanctions pending against the member. Being in good standing allows a nation to be eligible to compete in, or host, any World ParaVolley sanctioned event, attend meetings, join discussions and cast its vote.

ARTICLE 6

INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

6.1 Governance

World ParaVolley shall be governed by the General Assembly and the Board, duly elected by the General Assembly. In case of dispute, the Judicial Commission shall serve as the final court of appeal.

These governing bodies are supported in their work by the Commissions and Committees established by the World ParaVolley and the Zones.

6.2 General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of World ParaVolley and shall meet at least every two years. The decisions of the General Assembly are final and are not subject to appeal.

a) The General Assembly shall be held in the Paralympic Games year and the year of the World Championships for the consideration of all matters.
b) General Assemblies may be held more often at major International events.
c) If either the Board or 30% or more of Member Nations in good standing call for an Extraordinary General Assembly in writing, the Board must ensure that the Extraordinary General Assembly takes place within three to six months of this written notice.

6.3 Conduct of General Assemblies

The General Assemblies shall be governed by the Policies and Procedures for General Assemblies.

6.4 Voting

Voting at General Assemblies is by simple majority (more than 50%) except for Constitutional amendments, which require a two-thirds (66.67%) majority to pass. Votes on issues shall be taken by show of voting card, votes on the elections shall be by secret, written ballot.

ARTICLE 7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 Powers

The Board shall be responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the operations of the organization. Nothing in the By-laws, including any assignment, reference or delegation of authority by the Board to any administrative person or any other person, shall absolve the Board from exercising the authority required to meet its responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the organization. The Board shall cause minutes of its meetings to be prepared and retained to evidence the decisions of the Board.

The Board may delegate any of its administrative powers to a member of the Board, a commission or committee or to others contracted to work on behalf of the organization.

The Board may exercise all such other powers and do all such other acts and things as organization is authorized to exercise and do.

7.2 Composition

The Board is composed of the elected officers, appointed members, the four Zone Presidents and the General Manager.

7.2 Committees and Commissions

The Board may create any commissions and committees deemed necessary for the proper conduct of its duties and to appoint Chairpersons and members to such commissions and committees.

7.3 Governance Policies

The Board shall adopt policies to govern its own conduct and the conduct of the affairs of the organization as well as the conduct of the Zones and their Zone Committees.

The Board shall create policies necessary to govern World ParaVolley Commissions, committees, and work groups.

7.4 Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board shall meet at least three times per calendar year. Meetings may be conducted by electronic means provided that all members of the Board consent to such meetings or such have been approved by resolution of the Board.

7.5 Makeup of the Board of Directors

Excluding the Presidents of the Zone Confederations, the appointed non-voting members and the athlete representatives, no more than two elected officers of the Board shall live in the same nation or have the same nationality.

ARTICLE 8

OFFICERS OF THE ORGANISATION

8.1 Election and Appointment of the Officers and Members of the Board

The Officers of World ParaVolley, who serve as Members of the Board, and who are elected by the membership at a General Assembly, are as follows:

a) President
b) Vice President
c) Sport Director
d) Development Director
e) Marketing Director
f) Medical Director

Two athlete representatives, one male and one female, (duly elected by the athletes following a process approved by the Athletes' Commission and the Board) shall serve as full voting members of the Board.

The World ParaVolley General Manager is appointed by the Board and serves as a member of the Board with non-voting rights.

The World ParaVolley Treasurer is appointed by the Board and serves as a member of the Board with non-voting rights.

The Zone Presidents are elected by the Zone Members and are members of the Board.

The Members of the Board reserve the right to appoint additional voting or non-voting members.

8.2 Eligibility

A Director of World ParaVolley may be from any Nation and not solely from any Member Nation.

8.3 Nomination of Officers

Officers will be nominated for positions by their respective NPC, NPC approved National Federation, or the NPC approved National Sports Federation for the Disabled in writing or by the World ParaVolley Board. Member Nations may only nominate a candidate from their own nation.

8.4 Duties of the President

The President shall carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

a) Be responsible for the convening and conduct of all meetings of the General Assembly and the Board.
b) Prepare an agenda for each meeting of the above bodies.
c) Countersign any document appointing, on the recommendation of other World ParaVolley officers, members to the commissions and committees established by World ParaVolley.
d) Oversee the work of the Board and ensure compliance with the policies established by the Board for the conduct of business of World ParaVolley.

8.5 Vice President

The Vice President is responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

a) to assume the responsibilities of the President as may be required;
b) assume responsibility for overseeing the strategic planning process for the organization;
c) to assist the President with external relations;
d) to assume other duties as determined from time to time.

8.6 Duties of Other Officers

The duties of all other Directors of World ParaVolley shall be those as set out in their terms of reference, policies or as the Board may otherwise prescribe.

8.7 Variation of Duties

From time to time the Board may vary, add to, or limit the powers and duties of any officer.

ARTICLE 9

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

9.1 Terms of Office

The members of the Board of Directors (with the exceptions of the Zonal Presidents, the athlete representatives and the Treasurer and General Manager *ex officio*) and the members of the Judicial Commission, shall be elected for a term of four years by secret ballot by the General Assembly.

During the General Assembly in the year of the Paralympic Games, the President, Development Director and Medical Director shall be elected.

During the General Assembly two years after the Paralympic Games, the Vice President, Sport Director and Marketing Director shall be elected.

In the year following the Paralympic Games, the Zonal Presidents shall be elected by their respective Zone Members for four-year terms.

The following elected Members of the Board shall serve four-year terms commencing at the same time as the Vice President (at the General Assembly held two years after the year of the Paralympic Games):

Sport Director
Marketing Director

The following elected Members of the Board shall serve four-year terms commencing at the same time as the President (at the General Assembly held in the year of the Paralympic Games):

Medical Director
Development Director

The two athlete representatives will serve a four-year term commencing at the General Assembly held two years after the year of the Paralympic Games.

If the Board appoints additional voting or non-voting members, their commencement date and appointment term shall be decided by the Board.

9.2 Memberships

The General Manager and the Treasurer, and all members of the Board of Directors elected or appointed by the General Assembly shall not hold any other office in World ParaVolley, including membership of a Zone Committee, or a World ParaVolley or Zone Commission. This does not apply to the elected athlete representatives.

A Zone President shall not hold any other office on the Board of Directors or in World ParaVolley. A Zone President elected to another office on the Board of Directors shall, on election to that office, resign as Zone President.

9.3 Voting Rights

Member nations of World ParaVolley shall be entitled to vote providing that they are in good standing. Each member nation shall have one vote.

9.4 Nominations

Each member nation is eligible to nominate candidates only from its own nation for the above-named offices on the Board according to a process and timetable determined by the Board and communicated to all members.

The Board may nominate candidates from any nation for the above-named offices on the Board.

Any candidate nominated for election to the Board must be present at the General Assembly or must have presented to the General Assembly a *curriculum vitae* in order to be considered.

9.5 Voting

A simple majority of valid votes (more than 50%) is required to secure election to an office. If more than two candidates are running for an office and no candidate gains a simple majority of valid votes (more than 50%) on the first ballot, there will be second ballot between the two candidates gaining the highest numbers of valid votes in the first ballot. In the case of a tie vote, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

ARTICLE 10

VACATION OF OFFICE

10.1 Vacation of Office by the President

In the event that the President fails to attend three Board meetings in a calendar year or resigns, he/she shall be replaced by the Vice-President, who will hold office until the next General Assembly.

10.2 Replacement of Board of Directors Member

Any elected Board member who fails to attend three meetings of the Board in the calendar year shall be removed and shall be replaced by a person appointed by the Board. The new member shall hold office until the next General Assembly.

10.3 Appointment of Alternate or Replacement

If a Zone President fails to attend three Board meetings in a calendar year or resigns, they shall be replaced by an appointed member of the Zone Committee to act as Zone President until a new Zone President can be elected at the next General Assembly of the Zone.

Any Board member (other than the Presidents of Zone Committees) who resigns from office shall be replaced by a person appointed by the Board. The new member shall hold office until the next General Assembly.

ARTICLE 11

REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

11.1 Conditions for Removal

The office of a Director shall be vacated upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

a) The Board Member takes a position or acts against the approved position of the Board;

b) The Board member does not act in accordance of the World ParaVolley policies regarding discrimination of any sort;

c) The Board passes a vote of non-confidence in the Director's ability to perform their duties in the best interests of World ParaVolley;

d) If any order is made declaring him or her to be a mentally incompetent person or incapable of managing his or her affairs;

e) If by notice in writing to the Board, he or she resigns his or her office and such resignation, if not effective immediately, becomes effective in accordance with its terms;

f) If he or she is convicted of a criminal offense or otherwise loses his or her qualifications or eligibility as a Director.

11.2 Non-Confidence

Any Board Member may submit a motion of non-confidence to remove any other member from office, but that motion must be in writing stating specific examples of such failure to perform and the Director in question must be notified of the Motion prior to any action being taken to remove that Director from office.

Such motion will be considered seconded automatically and discussion must occur. A non-confidence motion must be voted on at the meeting to which it is submitted. Votes on this motion will be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 12

ZONE STRUCTURE

12.1 Zones

World ParaVolley shall be divided into Zones as decided by the General Assembly.

Each Zone Officer will be a member of the corresponding World ParaVolley Commission.

12.2 Membership in the Zones

Member nations shall belong to one of the four Zones, based on their geographical location. The Board shall decide to which Zone a nation belongs, after taking advice from the relevant Zone Committee(s).

12.3 Zone Regulations

The World ParaVolley Zone Regulations and World ParaVolley Sport Regulations (as adopted by the Board) shall control all Zone affairs.

ARTICLE 13

COMMISSIONS

13.1 Establishment of Commissions

The Board may establish Commissions with responsibility for specific areas of the work of World ParaVolley.

The work of the Commissions shall be governed by the relevant Commission regulations and terms of reference, which shall be adopted by the Board.

Each Commission shall report to the Board through a designated member of the Board or a member of the Commission appointed as the Chairperson of that Commission.

13.2 Appointment of the Chair of the Commission

The Chair of a Commission shall be appointed by the Board.

13.3 Operation of Commissions

The Board shall establish such Commissions as it deems necessary to carry out the work of the organization and which will have responsibility for specific areas of the work of World ParaVolley.

The Chairperson of the Commission may appoint additional members with the Board's approval. The World ParaVolley Board must approve all appointments to the Commissions and ratify each Commission's membership.

13.4 Zone Representation

Zones may nominate Zone Officers or other individuals to serve on certain World ParaVolley Commissions. The Chairperson of the Commission will request nominees from the Zones to be appointed to the appropriate Commission.

13.5 Judicial Commission

a) The Judicial Commission shall be the court of appeal on any matter of dispute within World ParaVolley and is subject only to the General Assembly. It shall be independent of the Board of Directors.

b) The work of the Judicial Commission shall be governed by the Judicial Commission Regulations, which shall be adopted by the General Assembly by a simple majority (more than 50%) of valid votes cast.

c) The Judicial Commission shall have a maximum of four and a minimum of three members. One member shall act as Chairperson and another as a Secretary of the Commission. At least two members shall be from different countries and from different zones if possible.

ARTICLE 14

DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS' OBLIGATIONS

14.1 Duty of Good Faith

Every Director and officer of World ParaVolley shall exercise the powers and discharge the duties of his or her position honestly, in good faith and in the best interest of the organization. In connection therewith, the Directors and officers shall exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

14.2 Codes of Conduct

The Board may adopt and, if adopted, the Board of Directors shall comply with its Terms of Reference, a Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Expectations of Directors or other codes setting out additional standards of conduct required by Directors.

ARTICLE 15

PROTECTION OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND OTHERS

15.1 Indemnity

Every Director and officer of World ParaVolley and every person who has or is about to undertake any liability on behalf of World ParaVolley, or any corporate body controlled by it and his or her heirs, executors and administrators, may be indemnified and saved harmless by World ParaVolley from and against:

a) any liability and all costs, charges and expenses that he or she sustains or incurs in respect of any action, suit or proceeding which is proposed or commenced against him or her, in respect of the execution of the duties of his or her office; and

b) all other costs, charges and expenses which he or she sustains or incurs in respect to the affairs of World ParaVolley, which are not occasioned by the individual's own willful neglect or default.

15.2 Insurance

World ParaVolley shall ensure that there is adequate liability insurance in place for all World ParaVolley sanctioned events and if available on commercially reasonable terms, obtain Director's and Officer's liability insurance in such amounts and upon such terms as the Board may determine.

ARTICLE 16

EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

16.1 Execution of Instruments

The Board shall by resolution from time to time designate Signing Officers and they are hereby authorized, subject to any limitation contained in a specific resolution or other limitation on such Signing Officers' authority, for and in the name of World ParaVolley to: execute deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations (including mortgages, loans or other security instrument) certificates or any other instruments requiring the corporate seal to be signed by any two (2) authorized Signing Officers.

The Board may give World ParaVolley's power of attorney to any registered dealer in securities for the purposes of transferring of and dealing with any stocks, bonds and other securities of World ParaVolley.

In addition, the Board may direct, by resolution, the manner in which, and the person or persons by whom, any particular instrument or class of instruments may or shall be signed. Any Signing Officer may affix the corporate seal thereto, but its absence shall not affect the validity of the instrument.

ARTICLE 17

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

17.1 Amendment to By-laws

a) The Board may by resolution, amend, repeal or make any changes to the Constitution that regulate the activities and affairs of World ParaVolley subject to ratification by the Members.

b) The Directors shall submit any bylaws or any amendments or repeals thereof to the next General Assembly which may, by ordinary resolution, confirm, reject or amend the bylaws, amendment or repeal.

c) A bylaw or an amendment or a repeal of a bylaw is effective from the day of the resolution of the Board until confirmed as amended or rejected by the Members.

ARTICLE 18

REPEAL

18.1 Replacement of Prior Constitution

Upon enactment of this Constitution all other Constitutions and By-laws of World ParaVolley, are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE 19

DISSOLUTION

19. Dissolution Clause

In the event that World ParaVolley is dissolved, the Board of Directors shall determine the distribution of the assets to paravolley or volleyball organisations.

Constitution

RATIFIED BY THE MEMBERS AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY held 6 December 2020 and modified and approved by the Board on 31 March 2021.

Name: Barry Couzner OAM

Position: President Signature:

Name: Wayne Hellquist

Position: Vice-President Signature: