

The Finnish Paralympic Committee

Section 1 Name and registered office

The name of the association is Suomen Paralympiakomitea ry, in Swedish Finlands Paralympiska Komitté rf. In the international context, the name Finnish Paralympic Committee is used for the association.

The registered office of the association is in Helsinki.

Section 2 Purpose

The purpose of the association is to act as a nationwide sports and fitness organisation for the disabled. The association is a community belonging to the international Paralympic movement, and it undertakes to observe the regulations of the Paralympic Charter and the anti-doping regulations of the World Anti-Doping Agency Wada, and also comply with the decisions of the International Paralympic Committee.

At a national level, the association undertakes to take part in activities promoting peace and support and to encourage the promotion of sports ethics, combat doping and the manipulation of competitive events and show responsible concern regarding environmental issues.

Section 3 Modes of operation

With the view to fulfil its purpose, the association

- 1) enables access to pathways to fitness and sports for people with disabilities
- 2) improves the possibilities for people with disabilities to enjoy physical activities and promote the conditions for successful and esteemed top-level Para sports in Finland
- 3) makes decisions on and in co-operation with other top-level sports networks takes care of Finnish participation in Paralympic competitions
- 4) promotes the prerequisites for versatile Para sports and exercise
- 5) is involved in national and international equality and advocacy work.

Section 4 Financial operations

To support its operations, the association may apply for and receive a public operating grant, acquire funds through public collections and other similar means, accept donations and bequests and obtain and own real estate property and movable assets necessary for its purpose.

Section 5 Members

The following can join as full members:

- 1) Registered sports federations operating in Finland that belong to international sports federations and are responsible for the national team activities of Para sports: however, only one national sports federation for each sport
- 2) Associations operating in Finland that organise or support the exercise and sports of people with disabilities, whose full members are individual members.

By the decision of a meeting of the association, a person who has specifically promoted the purpose of the association may be invited to be an honorary chair of the association. The board of the association makes the proposal about the invitation. An honorary chair has the right to be present and speak at the meetings of the association.

Section 6 Membership fees

The autumn meeting of the association decides the membership fees, including the amount that the members of the association pay to the association.

Honorary chairs are not charged a membership fee.

Section 7 Termination of membership

A member of the association has the right to resign from the association at any time by notifying the board of the association or its chair in writing or by notifying the association about it at a meeting of the association to be entered in the minutes.

A member of the association can be expelled from the association upon the decision of the board

- 1) if the member has not fulfilled the obligations it undertook by joining the association, or has by its conduct inside or outside the association significantly damaged the association, or no longer fulfils the conditions for membership specified in law or the rules of the association
- 2) if the sport the member represents is removed from the list of international associations acknowledged by the International Paralympic Committee
- 3) if its membership of the association comes into conflict with the rules and regulations of the International Paralympic Committee

Section 8 Organs

The organs of the association are the meeting and board of the association.

Section 9 Meetings of the association

Meetings of the association include ordinary and extraordinary meetings.

Ordinary meetings of the association include the spring meeting held before the end of May and the autumn meeting held before the end of November.

An extraordinary meeting is held when the meeting of the association so decides, or when the board deems it necessary, or when at least one tenth (1/10) of the members entitled to vote request it from the board in writing for a specifically notified matter. The meeting must be held within sixty (60) days after the request to hold it was presented to the board.

At the meeting of the association, full members who have paid their membership fees are entitled to vote. A representative of a sport association operating in Finland has three votes, and a representative of an association organising exercise and sports for people with disabilities in Finland has one vote.

At the meeting of the association, the voting is open, unless the majority of the meeting requires a secret ballot. Elections must be arranged as secret ballots.

On matters of substance, the decision of the association will be the opinion which has received more than half of the votes cast (absolute majority), except where otherwise provided in these rules. In elections, those who receive the most votes (relative majority) will be elected; if there is only one person to be elected, more than half of the votes cast are required to be elected. In the event of a tie, the decision will be the opinion which the chair of the meeting supports; in elections, the decision will be decided by lot.

A member who wants to have a certain matter addressed by the meeting of the association must make a written proposal to the board no later than two months before the meeting of the association.

Section 10 Notice of meeting

A notice of meeting of the association must be sent by post to the members of the association whose postal address is known to the association, or by email to members who have provided the association with their email address for sending the notice of meeting, at least one (1) month before the meeting.

A notice of an extraordinary meeting must be sent at least two (2) weeks before the meeting, in the same manner as the invitation to an ordinary meeting is sent.

Section 11 Duties of ordinary meetings

The purpose of the spring meeting is to:

- 1) handle the annual report, financial statements and audit report for the previous accounting period
- 2) decide upon approving the financial statements and granting the accountable persons discharge
- 3) handle topics presented by members to be processed in the meeting
- 4) select a nomination committee at the spring meeting which takes place prior to the election of persons whose task is to find and present the candidates for the chair, deputy chair and other members of the board
- 5) decide upon other topics itemised in the notice of meeting.

The purpose of the autumn meeting is to:

- 1) decide the amount of the membership fee for full members for the next calendar year
- 2) decide the amount of fees paid to auditors and board members
- 3) confirm the strategy and budget for the next calendar year
- 4) at the ordinary meeting following the Summer Paralympics, elect the chair of the board and three board members for the next four-year period
- 5) at the ordinary meeting following the Winter Paralympics, elect the chair of the board and two board members for the next four-year period
- 6) at the same time as electing the chair of the board, elect the auditor and deputy auditor or audit firm for the next four-year period
- 7) handle topics presented by members to be processed in the meeting
- 8) decide upon other topics itemised in the notice of meeting.

Section 12 Board

The association is represented by and its operation is managed by a board, which includes a chair, a deputy chair and five (5) members. Of the board members, at least one must always be an active athlete or an athlete whose active career ended no more than

eight years ago. The athletes' committee will make a proposal to the nomination committee on the athlete representative to be elected.

The chair, deputy chair and board member can be elected to each role for no more than three (3) consecutive full terms. If the chair of the board, deputy chair or a member resigns before the term ends, a replacement will be elected at the next meeting of the association only for the duration for which the resigned person would still have been on the board.

The board convenes at the invitation of the chair or, in their absence, of the deputy chair, or if at least two (2) board members so request in writing for a separately notified matter. The board is quorate when at least three members are present in addition to the chair or deputy chair.

Section 13 duties of board

The purpose of the board is specifically to

- 1) represent the association and prepare the topics presented to the meeting of the association
- 2) be responsible for the enforcement of the decisions of the meetings
- 3) approve and dismiss members of the association and keep a list of the members
- 4) appoint such committees and work groups as it deems necessary and appoint their chairs and other members
- 5) elect and dismiss the senior officers of the association and define the terms and conditions of their employment
- 6) decide on joining domestic and international organisations
- 7) select representatives for domestic and international co-operation organs
- 9) decide the composition of teams participating in Paralympics and other championships
- 10) decide on selling, renting, swapping and mortgaging the assets of the association.

Section 14 General secretary

The association has a general secretary. The general secretary is responsible for the operational management of the association, the implementation of strategic planning and annual planning, finance and fundraising, human resources management, international affairs and liaison with the International Paralympic Committee, other international organisations, member associations and other stakeholders.

Section 15 Authority to sign

The chair, deputy chair, general secretary or a person appointed by the board, always two together, have the right to sign for the association.

Section 16 Operating and accounting period

The accounting period of the association is one calendar year.

Section 17 Amendment of rules

The meeting of the association decides about amending the rules of the association. The prerequisite for amending the rules is that at least 2/3 of the votes cast at the meeting support the amendment proposal.

The International Paralympics Committee must be notified of amendments of the rules of the association.

Section 18 Dissolution

The dissolution of an association requires that a decision be made at two consecutive meetings of the association, where at least 3/4 of the votes cast at each meeting are in favour of dissolution.

If the association is dissolved, its assets must be used for the purpose of the association in the manner decided by the last meeting of the association.

Section 19 Other regulations

Anti-doping activity

The association and its members commit to anti-doping activity and to comply with international and national anti-doping regulations related to sports valid at any given time.

Manipulation of competitive events

The association and its members undertake to take measures to prevent the manipulation of competition events and to comply with the relevant international agreements and anti-doping related code of conduct of the International Paralympic Committee valid at any given time.

Ethical activity

Ethical codes and recommendations can be ratified at a meeting of the association. Members of the association undertake to comply with ethical codes, including the ethical codes of the International Paralympics Committee valid at any given time. At the request of the association, a member is obligated to provide a report of its activities that may seriously damage the ethical foundation of sports.

Sports arbitration board

The task of the Sports arbitration board appointed by the Finnish Olympics Committee is to act as an independent organ of appeal for sports.

The association and its members undertake to comply with the rules and regulations provided by the Sports arbitration board and the decisions of the Sports arbitration board.

Settlement of disputes

Decisions made by the board or meeting of the association on domestic sports matters may be appealed to the Sports arbitration board, if it has jurisdiction, and correspondingly, decisions on international sports matters may be appealed to the international Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in accordance with its code of sports-related arbitration.

The appeals procedure follows the rules established by the Sports arbitration board and CAS.