



World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled

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Sport Director

To: WOVD Member Nations

Subject: WOVD Intercontinental Cup 2012
Our reference: 2011-008

Roermond, October 2nd 2011

Dear members,

Following negotiation by the WOVD Sport Director, on behalf of the Board of Administration, IPC have agreed that national Sitting Volleyball teams may compete for the 10th Men's qualification slot for London 2012 at the Intercontinental Cup, rather than have the place decided by a Bipartite Commission involving WOVD and IPC. Thus, at the Intercontinental Cup 2012, the highest placed Men's team, not previously qualified, will qualify for the London Paralympics.

As a result of the excellent support of the new President of the Egyptian Paralympic Committee, Professor Ashraf Eid Marie, the Intercontinental Cup will be hosted by Egypt and will take place in Cairo. Both the *new President of EPC and the new President of WOVD are extremely keen that this event will be the best Egypt has hosted and want to provide a much higher level of hospitality for all athletes and officials than has been provided on some occasions in the past. Nations are urged to give every support to the new Egyptian Paralympic Committee, and thus to this important event on the WOVD calendar.*

The venue will be the Cairo Stadium. For those who may have concerns about travelling to Cairo following recent publicity regarding problems in North Africa, both the venue and the hotels are near the airport and not near the centre of the city. The venue and the hotels are only a short distance apart. The arrival days for teams will be 29th February (Men) and 28th February (Women) and Departure 10th March for both men and women. The Competition is planned to be held on four courts in order to reduce the number of days required for the event. At the moment the plans are based on 16 (sixteen) Men's teams, and 12 (twelve) Women's teams. Barry Couzner (AUS) has been appointed as the Technical Delegate for the event.

All teams who qualify for the London Paralympics automatically qualify for this event.

The Intercontinental Cup was introduced prior to the Beijing Paralympics to play a key role in the preparation of the teams for the Paralympic Games, and to provide an opportunity for some 'testing'. After initial entry forms are received, the additional team places will be allocated following consultation with the Zones. A key criterion will be a team's ranking in any Zonal Continental Competitions. If there are sufficient entries, a Standing Intercontinental Cup will also be held, at the same venue in a different playing area.

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Relevance of Intercontinental Cup for LONDON 2012 & late replacements

Nations are reminded that WOVD Regulations require that only nationals of the country may be enrolled in the national team of the National Federation of the same country. *If a player wishes to change their country, they have to prove residency in the country of their new nationality for not less than two (2) years (up to the opening day of the competition).* This WOVD regulation is not new. It has been in place for over ten years and applies to all competitions involving national teams. For the Paralympic Games IPC require the athletes to have a passport of the nation they represent, except where they agree there are exceptional circumstances.

Nations are reminded of the IPC criteria regarding individual *Athlete Eligibility for London 2012* which state:

To be eligible for selection by an NPC, athletes must:

- Have competed in at least one international WOVD Sitting Volleyball Competition between 1st January 2010 and 12th March 2012: and
- Be internationally classified with either a 'Review' or 'Confirmed' sport classification status.

Thus, an athlete who has not competed in an international WOVD event, or an officially sanctioned international WOVD event such as a Zonal Championships or IPC Games, by 12th March 2012 cannot be eligible for London 2012. *The Intercontinental Cup is the last chance for nations to qualify individual athletes for London.* The move of the final qualifying date from February to March 12th was made by IPC at the request of WOVD, in order to provide the nations with another chance to qualify their athletes at the Intercontinental Cup, and for Men's teams to compete for the final slot for London.

Any late replacement player, as permitted by IPC Regulations in exceptional circumstances, must also meet the above criteria. It is extremely important, as explained by IPC to the Chef de Mission, that *any replacement athlete must be in the accreditation database by 20 April* (in addition to meeting all other eligibility criteria). So, Nations need to have submitted their initial team rosters to LOCOG by 20th April. At that time it is advised that they submit a small number of potential replacement athletes as well, so that they are accredited.

As previously explained, for the London 2012 Paralympics, the maximum number of players to be submitted in the final roster is 11 (eleven) not 12 (twelve), as agreed with IPC by the former WOVD President. Teams in the past have averaged 10 (ten players). All nations are asked to only include players they require, which will give WOVD the possibility to re-allocate unused player slots, up to the IPC allocated maximum total of 198*.

*see IPC Qualification Criteria



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Sport entries, which are submitted electronically to LOCOG, open on 1 July and close on 6 August. During this period the NPC's have to submit their final group of athletes. If, for instance, a roster of players is submitted on 2nd July and then a player gets injured on 3rd July, the NPC will have to wait until after 6th August to submit the replacement form to LOCOG.

It is essential that all nations are aware that for the Paralympics the IPC Policy is that only athletes who hold a passport for their nation may represent them. Thus, a player may be part of a team who qualifies for the Paralympics, under a sport's nationality policy, but may not be themselves eligible to play in the Paralympics. Further details of the IPC Policy will be published in due course.

For enquiries, please contact the WOVD Sport Director, Denis Le Breuilly by email: sportdirector@wovd.info

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