

MINUTES

APSO Executive Board Meeting, 18 March 2026



Meeting title	APSO Executive Board Meeting
Date	18 March 2026
Time	10:00 – 12:00 CET
Venue	Videocall
Chair	Debbie Alexander, APSO President
Minutes	Sergey Lyzhin, APSO Honorary Secretary General

Attendance List		
Participants	Title	IF
☐ Dr Debbie Alexander (DA)	President	TRI
☐ Mr Richard Perot (RP)	Member	BWF
☐ Mr Jiří Snítíl (JS)	Member	WCF
☐ Mr Sergey Lyzhin (HSG)	Honorary Secretary General	APSO
Apologies received		
☐ Mr Steve Loader (SL)	Member	WWR

Agenda		Presenter	Annex
1	Tribute to Charmaine Hooper	DA	
2	Welcome from the President	DA	
3	Roll Call		
4	Conflict of Interest Declaration		
5	Approval of Agenda	HSG	
6	Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Minutes of previous meetings		x
7	Matters Arising – Action Document		
	7.1 APSO/IPC agreement	DA	
	7.2 APSO banking	HSG	
	7.3 Milano-Cortina 2026 IRIS Proposal	HSG	
	7.4 Membership survey	HSG	
	7.5 Strategic Plan Implementation	HSG	
	7.6 GLAG	HSG	
	7.7 IF Grants	HSG	
	7.8 Para Climbing	HSG	
	7.9 Women in Para Sport Commission	DA	
	7.10 Membership Engagement – contact/communication	DA	
8	Budget: Insurance, Sport Technical Meeting and IPC IF Open Days, Women Leadership, General Assembly	DA/HSG	x

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9	First Instance Body for Intentional Misrepresentation	HSG	
10	Classification Commission – Terms of Reference update		
11	GA Meeting Dates		
12	IF Forum and Sport Accord		
13	FIAS – Affiliate Membership Application (Blind SAMBO)	HSG	x
14	AOB		
15	Next meeting		

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1	Tribute to Charmaine Hooper DA paid tribute to Charmaine Hooper, who passed away unexpectedly on 6 February 2026. The Executive Board (EB) members observed a minute of silence in her memory.
2	Welcome from the President DA welcomed the EB members to their second meeting of 2026.
3	Roll call The roll call was conducted and the quorum was confirmed . Steve Loader was excused from attendance.
4	Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items were declared by the EB members.
5	Approval of Agenda DA presented the agenda circulated to EB members in advance of the meeting. The EB approved the agenda as presented.
6	Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Minutes of previous meetings The minutes of the EB meetings held on 15 January 2026 were unanimously approved .
7	Matters Arising – Action Document
	7.1 APSO/IPC agreement DA informed the EB members about the proposed amendments to the APSO/IPC Agreement, which aim to better reflect the current working relationship between the two organisations. It was noted that, under the Agreement, the organisation of the annual Sport Technical Meeting (STM) falls within APSO's responsibilities. The EB discussed potential delivery formats and the associated financial implications for APSO. It was agreed that, where possible, the STM should be held alongside IPC in-person events, such as the IF and IOSD Open Days. A hybrid format should also be considered where venue technology permits. The EB further agreed that the current level of financial support provided by the IPC to APSO is insufficient and should be increased in the future.

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	7.2 APSO banking HSG informed the EB members that all necessary paperwork related to the change of bank account signatories had been completed and submitted to the bank. It was expected that the requested changes would be implemented shortly. The EB members took note of the update.
	7.3 Milano-Cortina 2026 IRIS Proposal HSG informed the EB members that no consensus had been reached among the Winter Paralympic IFs regarding the joint and proportional co-financing of the proposed Paralympic Games media research by IRIS. He concluded that, under these circumstances, APSO had not been in a position to bear the cost of the research independently and therefore did not proceed with the project. The EB members took note of the update.
	7.4 Membership survey HSG informed the EB members that 14 completed surveys had been received from APSO's 21 members and affiliates, despite several reminders. The EB members took note of the update. HSG was tasked with analysing the survey responses, sharing the consolidated results with the EB and following up with members to ensure submission of the outstanding surveys. DA highlighted that global Para sport development is primarily delivered through IFs and their membership structures, rather than directly through NPCs. The EB members unanimously agreed that the current IPC funding distribution formula, which favours NPCs over IFs, is inequitable and should be reviewed in the future.
	7.5 Strategic Plan Implementation DA informed the EB members that a meeting between herself, SL and HSG had taken place on 29 January 2026 to discuss implementation of the APSO Strategic Plan. She informed the EB members that the following priorities had been identified: renewal of the APSO/IPC Agreement; a meeting between the APSO President and the IPC leadership; meetings between the APSO President and the Presidents of APSO member IFs; the launch of regular newsletters to update members on key developments and decisions; publication of a forward calendar of APSO activities; and establishment of a framework for additional commissions and advisory groups. HSG was tasked with informing the APSO membership of these developments.
	7.6 GLAG DA informed the EB members that the GLAG applications had been successfully reviewed and the group members selected. She further informed the EB that, in accordance with the recruitment process outlined in the application package, individual meetings with the selected candidates would be scheduled. HSG was tasked with arranging these introductory calls.
	7.7 IF Grants HSG reminded the EB members that no unanimous consensus had been reached during the email exchange regarding the IPC IF Grant distribution formula. He summarised the positions expressed by the EB members and noted that the differing views required a broader discussion with the APSO membership should the EB wish to propose changes to the current IPC formula, which distributes an equal amount per sport on the Paralympic

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	Games programme. RP informed the EB members that in BWF only developing member nations are eligible for development funding, while well-resourced and developed countries cannot apply for such grants. The EB members took note of the information. The EB members agreed to recommend that the IPC maintain the current distribution formula for the 2026 IF Grant. They further agreed to invite APSO members to express their views on whether the formula should be reviewed for future editions, beginning with the 2027 grant cycle.
	7.8 Para Climbing HSG informed the EB members that he had reached out to World Climbing regarding its potential membership in APSO. The global governing body for Para Climbing became eligible for membership following the inclusion of the sport in the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games. Despite several working exchanges, no formal membership application had been received from World Climbing. The EB members took note of the update.
	7.9 Women in Para Sport Commission DA informed the EB members that she had spoken with several women from APSO member organisations during the Milano-Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games regarding the potential establishment of the Commission. She noted that the process was still ongoing and that further efforts were required to advance its establishment. The EB members took note of the update. HSG reminded the EB members that the curriculum of the EqualCareers leadership programme had been circulated to them via email earlier in the year. He confirmed that the company was willing to adapt the content of the training to the specific needs of APSO and its members. DA further confirmed that there was significant interest from the IPC in participating in the APSO leadership initiative, should capacity permit. It was agreed to arrange a separate meeting between DA, HSG and representatives of EqualCareers in due course.
	7.10 Membership Engagement – contact/communication DA confirmed that two in-person APSO membership meetings would take place in 2026: during the IPC IFs and IOSDs Open Days in Bonn and at the IPC Membership Gathering later in the year. She further informed the EB members that, in line with the APSO Strategy, regular circular letters providing updates on APSO initiatives and activities would be distributed to the membership.
8	Budget: Insurance, Sport Technical Meeting and IPC IF Open Days, Women Leadership, General Assembly HSG was tasked with preparing a slide outlining the APSO Budget 2026 in order to demonstrate APSO's intention to allocate funds to various projects throughout the year, should this be required during the upcoming IPC-APSO virtual meeting scheduled for 24 March 2026.
9	First Instance Body for Intentional Misrepresentation HSG informed the EB members that eight classification experts had been nominated by APSO members for inclusion in a pool of potential experts available to serve on IF First Instance Bodies for Intentional Misrepresentation (FIBs). He further informed the EB that a call with Rebecca Foulsham had been scheduled in order to gain a better understanding of the practical aspects of operating a FIB, as well as the associated time commitment.

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	The EB members took note of the update.
10	Classification Commission – Terms of Reference update DA suggested that the Terms of Reference of the APSO Classification Commission be reviewed and updated in line with those recently developed for GLAG, primarily to ensure consistency across APSO advisory bodies. The EB members supported this proposal.
11	GA Meeting Dates HSG informed the EB members that, whenever possible, APSO seeks to align its General Assembly (GA) with the IPC’s annual membership meetings. As the dates of the IPC Membership Gathering had not yet been communicated, it was not possible to determine the dates of the APSO General Assembly 2026 at this stage. DA noted that the tentative dates of the IPC Governing Board meeting were 2–8 November 2026 and that, based on previous experience, the IPC Membership Gathering was likely to take place during the same week. The EB members agreed to postpone the decision on the dates of the APSO General Assembly until the official dates of the IPC Membership Gathering are confirmed.
12	IF Forum and Sport Accord The EB members agreed that APSO was not in a position to finance the participation of its representatives at the SportAccord Convention 2026. RP offered to represent APSO at the IF Forum, scheduled to take place from 5 to 7 October 2026, given its close proximity to his place of residence. The EB members thanked him for his availability.
13	FIAS – Affiliate Membership Application (Blind SAMBO) HSG informed the EB members that an application for APSO Affiliate Membership had been received from the International SAMBO Federation (FIAS). He confirmed that FIAS held Recognised International Federation (RIF) status with the IPC and was fully eligible for APSO affiliate membership based on the documentation submitted during the application process. DA informed the EB members that, in the South African context, there is overlap between judo, SAMBO and other martial arts disciplines, which has on occasion resulted in legal disputes. She therefore questioned whether any potential conflict could arise between blind SAMBO (FIAS) and blind judo (IBSA). The EB agreed to seek further clarification from the IPC and IBSA on whether the admission of FIAS to APSO Affiliate Membership would present any concerns for either organisation.
14	Other Business No other business was suggested for discussion.
15	Next meeting HSG was tasked with coordinating the selection of a date for the next EB meeting via the WhatsApp group.
	The President thanked all participants for their time and commitment. The meeting was formally closed.