

Vice Chairman Report NDA 2012

As Vice Chairman for Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA, I have worked the past few years, and continue to work on updating our Policy and Procedures Manual to make changes and additions as our organizations changes and grows. This year's projects have been the Document Destruction policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Privacy Statement and Confidentiality Policy. The board is still working with the final draft to put in place who all in the organization (board of directors, staff, committee chair, national team staff) will need to be held responsible for these.

Early in the year I assisted the Wheelchair Track and Field, USA Chairman Phil Galli in the updating of their rulebook in regards to the classification section to assure that it was accurate with the new international classification system for track and field.

2012 started out for me with a trip to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico with Debra Armento junior Chair for a site visit for the National Junior Disability Championship bid for 2013. The facilities and area were beautiful, and staff were great and very hospitable. Although the site was not selected for NJDC for 2013, the site was selected for the IWAS Junior World Championships for 2013.

In April, I was invited by the International Paralympic Committee Athletics Section to attend a training session near Bonn, Germany which I did attend and passed to become one of the eight Certified Educators for Athletics Classification for Physical Impairments. This was an exciting development, as I now am able to present workshops to train classifiers to become International Classification Trainees, the first step in becoming IPC Athletics Classifiers. With Dr. Emilie Newell from Canada also an Educator, this should allow more economical training opportunities for National Classifiers from the US. The first course that I assisted in presenting with 4 other Educators was also near Bonn, and it was attended by three of our National Classifiers, Dr. Pam Wilson, Kathe Hickey, PT and Pam Carey technical classifier. They all passed the classroom portion of the training, and would need the observation during competition to move on to the Trainee designation. Dr. Pam Wilson did meet the second part with Emilie and I at the US Paralympic Trials in June, so is now eligible to be assigned to International Competitions. This will provide us with more availability for classification by international classifiers, and more economically for meets here in the US and allow our classifiers a pathway to advance their skills internationally.

On a sad note regarding International Classifiers, I would also like to bring to attention the passing of Dr. Bob Harney, who was a great mentor for me early in my classification, especially regarding the amputees and Las Autres classes. He

was a wonderful teacher, and assisted WASUSA and NJDC in cross training our classifiers to integrate the class 40's into our system.

In order to provide more meets with classifiers, especially the Level 2 meets, I have been working with some of our National Classifiers Dr. Pam, Pam Carey, Kathe Hickey and Deanne Fay to develop an on-line education system to assist people in learning the classification systems for some of our sports, especially track and field. The plan will be for this to be utilized by medical personnel as well as technical such as coaches to learn the system well enough to serve as classifiers at Level 2 meets to provide the athletes a Provisional Classification. This would allow them to have a clearer idea of their class in order to meet qualifying for NJDC, where they would have to have a National Classification. The provisional classification would be temporary and these athletes would not be eligible to set records or compete at National level competition until a National Classification can be obtained. The people who complete the on line course would then be eligible to attend a training clinic if they are interested in advancing to a higher level classifier.

Events I attended this year include:

- March- Queensland State Games, Brisbane Australia, working as IPC Athletics Classifier for Intellectual Impairment
- May- Canada Nationals, Toronto working as IPC Athletics Classifier for Physical Impairment
- May- Desert Challenge, Mesa, AZ as IPC Athletics Classifier for Physical Impairments and Chief Classifier
- June- Endeavor Games, Edmond, OK as Track and Field Coordinator
- June- US Paralympic Trials- Indianapolis, IN as IPC Athletics Classifier for Physical Impairments and Chief Classifier
- July- National Junior Disability Championships, Mesa, AZ as technical official
- August/September- Paralympics, London, UK as IPC Athletics Classifier for Physical Impairment

It has been a busy and fulfilling year, and I look forward to a new and exciting year in 2013. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Vice Chairman of Wheelchair and Ambulatory Sports, USA.

Denise Hutchins