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Sport For All:
Promoting Inclusion and Combating Discrimination
Against Persons with Disabilities

Webinar

**Training and development of Para sport coaches, referees
and managers**

Tuesday 14 October 2025
10.00 am – 12.20 pm (CEST)

Online on Zoom platform

Concept note and draft programme

Background

The Council of Europe has placed sport within its agenda of reinforcing human rights, democracy and social inclusion for a long time. Thanks to its Revised European Sports Charter (2021), “governments have committed themselves to providing their citizens with opportunities to practice sport under well-defined conditions”.

The Council of Europe Sport Division promotes the “Sport for All” philosophy: every person, regardless of their background, has the right to engage in sport. The Sport For All project builds on ongoing efforts to create a more inclusive sports culture by addressing the barriers to the participation of persons with disabilities in sport and by fostering a safe and welcoming sport environments for all.

The webinar is part of the Sport For All project’s Pillar 2 “Exchange of best practices”, which complements Pillar 1 on “Capacity building”, and focuses on strengthening the capacity of Para sport coaches, referees and managers to create inclusive environments. Training and development of these professionals is central to ensuring that sport is not only accessible to but also empowering for persons with disabilities.

Objectives

This webinar aims to:

- 1) increase awareness on key competences, attitudes and challenges in educating Para sport coaches, referees and managers;
- 2) learn from research and good practice: discover innovative training pathways and models from different contexts;
- 3) facilitate dialogue across levels: link grassroots realities with policy, European standards and international frameworks;
- 4) ensure that Para sport coaches and referees are leading the discussion.

Based on the webinar discussions, a short set of practical recommendations on the development of Para sport coaches, referees and managers will be identified and published on the Sport For All website.

Structure and practical arrangements

The online webinar is scheduled to last 2 hours and 20 minutes. Participants will be invited to pose questions through the chat function of the Zoom platform to be asked to the speakers during the panel discussion (session 2), and to share their own insights, challenges and recommendations.

Automated transcription will be enabled during the event. The webinar recording will be made available afterwards on the Sport For All website.

The working language of the webinar will be English.

10.00 am – 10.15 am

Opening

Stanislas Frossard, Executive Secretary of Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Head of Sport Division, Council of Europe

Philipp Muller-Wirth, Chief of Sport Section Sector for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

Apolline Poas, French triathlon technical official

Moderated by Sport For All project team, Sport Division, Council of Europe

10.15 am – 11.00 am

Mapping the present: Good practice examples

Coaching Para sport in Ireland: bridging the gaps, building the future

- Presented by *Alan Dineen*, Department of Physical Education & Sport Sciences, University of Limerick

National approaches to Para coach education

- Presented by *Päivi Tolppanen*, Vice-President, Finnish Paralympic Committee, Para judo coach

Building the grassroots: education for coaches and PE teachers working with athletes with intellectual impairments

- Presented by *Mirosław Krogulec*, Vice-President for Sports, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia

Enhancing the knowledge, skills and awareness of sport managers across Europe: the case of ParaManager project

- Presented by *Ivo Quendera*, Director of Projects, European Paralympic Committee

Moderated by *Céline Guth*, Senior Project Officer, Sport Division, Council of Europe

11:00 am – 12:10 pm

Shaping the future: Roundtable discussion

During the roundtable discussion, speakers will address the following topics:

- Evolving roles of Para sport coaches, referees and managers
- Current education practices and training systems for coaches, referees and managers in Europe
- Scaling up grassroots initiatives & innovative solutions
- Recommendations and next steps

Moderated by *Francine H. Raveney*, Deputy Executive Secretary of Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport, Council of Europe

12.10 pm – 12.20 pm

Closing

Céline Guth, Senior Project Officer, Sport Division, Council of Europe