



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & IPO

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**INTRODUCTORY CONSIDERATIONS**



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### **ABBREVIATIONS:**

- ▶ PWD-Persons with Disabilities
- ▶ IPO-International Trial Rules (utility dogs)
- ▶ UN-United Nations
- ▶ EU-European Union
- ▶ WHO-World Health Organization



## INTRODUCTION (AND SOME DATA FROM RECENT HISTORY)

- ▶ About 15% of world population has some type of disability (WHO) and out that number about 2% is involved in various sport activities in developed countries. That percentage is considerably smaller in undeveloped countries.
- ▶ Attitude towards “minority” groups presents a way of measuring the level of development of one society (therefore sport as well).
- ▶ Situations and dilemmas (empathy vs. regulations) of judges upon encountering a person with disabilities with their dog at an event (certain number of judges involved in a discussion, declared having PWD as competitors at trials - they felt uncomfortable) raised this this question.

## INTRODUCTION (AND SOME DATA FROM RECENT HISTORY)

- ▶ Deaf people consider themselves healthy, however they cannot compete (communication difficulties, a in the sixties seventies hand or "silent" commands were forbidden...).
- ▶ March 5th 2016, FCI Utility Dog Commission decided that an introductory presentation should be prepared on the subject of PWD and IPO (starting 1997. (XX) till today this is the first debate in the Commission).
- ▶ September 7th 2002, 1st ParAgility World Cup!





## DEFINITION OF PWD (PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES):

- ▶ A unified definition does not exist !
- ▶ Standard rules of UN for equal opportunities afforded to PWD, (1993), introduce the term person with disabilities in order to show that a disability is one of the traits and it does not apply to the whole person.
- ▶ The convention of UN on Persons with Disabilities (2003) defines PWD as persons that have permanent physical, mental, intellectual or sensory damage, that in an interaction with various obstacles, may present difficulties to full and effective participation in social interactions based on equality with others.



## DEFINITION OF PWD (PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES):

- ▶ World Health Organization (WHO) adopted a definition of term disability and impairment in 2000:
  - ▶ Disability is a loss or impairment of activity that disables one from interacting within society at the same level as others due to social and environmental barriers.
  - ▶ Impairment is every loss or abnormality in psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function.



## ORIGINS OF RIGHTS OF PWD (PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES):

- ▶ International (UN):
  - ▶ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006
  - ▶ Millenium Declaration, 2000
  - ▶ Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 1993
  - ▶ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- ▶ European (EU):
  - ▶ Resolution on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2008
  - ▶ Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, 1950





## **PWD IN SPORT** (FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS, BASIC PRINCIPLES, SPECIFICS)

- ▶ How to enable equality of competition to persons with various forms of disabilities?
- ▶ How to choose a method (and who) for determining remaining functional and motor abilities?
- ▶ How to categorize orthopedic devices, prosthetics, wheelchairs?
- ▶ How to improve and synchronize the system that governs the status of PWD population being observed through a social model? !



## PWD IN SPORT (FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS, BASIC PRINCIPLES, SPECIFICS)

- ▶ Principle of functional classification:
  - ▶ Since the mid forties (in medical terms), and especially since the sixties, the development of PWD in sport caused the development of functional classification that is going on even today.
  - ▶ Functional classification is an open process still under development (PWD may change a certain "class" in a specific sport during the sport career).
  - ▶ It has to enable every PWD an equal opportunity to compete !
  - ▶ Different sport may have different classes !
  - ▶ Efficient classification is a fundamental principle for accomplishing equal and fair competition.



## **PWD IN SPORT** (FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS, BASIC PRINCIPLES, SPECIFICS)

- ▶ Specifics of PWD in sport is that trained/educated experts from a certain sport conduct the classification of PWD (they have an official title - Classifiers).
- ▶ Today they exist in two models:
  - ▶ Sport specifics (different categories of disabilities may in this way compete together).
  - ▶ General - "SEE ME" - according to type and degree of impairment (persons with same impairments compete together in a "class").



## **BASIC CATEGORIES (AND NUMBER OF SUBCATEGORIES) OF DISABILITIES (WHO):**

1. Blind and sight impaired persons (3 categories)
2. Deaf and hearing impaired persons (1 category)
3. Persons with mental retardation (3 categories)
4. Persons with bodily disabilities
  - ▶ Persons with spinal cord injuries (5 subcategories)
  - ▶ Persons with spinal cord illnesses (2 subcategories)
  - ▶ Persons with cerebral paralysis (0 subcategories)
  - ▶ Persons with amputees (6 subcategories)
  - ▶ Persons with neuromuscular illnesses (3 subcategories)



## SPORT EVENTS PWD PARTICIPATE IN:

- ▶ International events PWD participate in:
  - ▶ Paralympics (summer, winter) 1989
  - ▶ Deaflympics (summer, winter)
  - ▶ Special olympics (persons with mental retardation) 1968
  
- ▶ International PWD sport associations:
  - ▶ Int. Paralympic Committee-1989
  - ▶ Int. Sport. Fed. for Persons w/Intellectual Disability-1986
  - ▶ Int. Blind Sports Federation-1980
  - ▶ Cerebral Palsy Inter. Sports & Recreation Assoc. 1978
  - ▶ Int. Sports Organization for Disabled-1964
  - ▶ Int. Working Group on Sport for the Disabled-1960
  - ▶ Int. Committee of Sport for the Deaf-1924



## SPORT DISCIPLINES PWD PARTICIPATE IN WITH ANIMALS:

- ▶ Olympic (Paralympic / Para-equestrian):
  - ▶ Para-Equestrian Dressage is conducted under the same rules as conventional Dressage, but with riders divided into different competition grades based on their functional abilities.
  - ▶ Para-Equestrian Driving places competitors in various grades based on their skill.
- ▶ ParAgility
- ▶ Handicap Breitensport
- ▶ Special Rally - O
- ▶ Turnirerhundsport
- ▶ ... (etc.)



## PWD AND IPO

- ▶ IPO as a sport (and breed program) does not differentiate PWD performance at IPO events, therefore the inclusion principle in its widest sense is already established (basic limit presents the training of the dog by the handler as per program requirements).
- ▶ In order to participate in the sport (even at top level), as well as in breeding, handler/athlete is not required to pass a health test (only the dog is).
- ▶ Trial Rules (page 7) allow the handler-PWD to handle the dog on the right side (e.g.: INT CH Nikita Xaver-SLO). This represents a good basis for our present intention.



## PWD AND IPO

- ▶ We think that the basic rule is not broad enough, that there is an opportunity for a larger percentage of PWD inclusion in our sport. Therefore, we are determined to enlarge the possibilities for PWD participation at IPO events.
- ▶ IPO is a responsible program with primary concern for the safety of participants, spectators and dogs, where the dog behavior is controlled (and sanctioned) throughout the whole event (all slightly dangerous dog behavior lead to disqualification).
- ▶ Who can have a dog (considering a dog is a “dangerous thing”), and whether only trained and physically and psychologically healthy persons (in some previously set form can drive a car) can participate in IPO ???





### PWD AND IPO

- ▶ It is very important that PWD and PWD organizations have absolute understanding of the specifics of IPO sport in full capacity and its task in selection of dogs (therefore could be ranked as event winners however the dogs could not receive IPO certificates unless they fulfilled regular IPO requirements, and not the requirements adapted for PWD; this would exclude PWD who are able to “equally” prepare a dog e.g. dumb with a whistle/clicker, deaf with help of an assistant , etc...).

## RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ We are in an obligation to do something (Article 30...).
- ▶ We are expected to start as soon as possible.
- ▶ Check for the possible already existing solutions in all FCI member countries.





# LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Utility trained dog (as well as owning/walking) most all modern civil legislature recognize as a “dangerous thing” for whom the sole responsibility holds the owner (such as for a horse, car, gun). Primary principle who and how may, followed by how much the medical examinations allow, and finally how classifiers determine (level and type of disability; combine/enlarge groups).
- ▶ For owning a gun, driver license, an assessment by medical professionals is needed to determine a person’s psychological and physical ability to own - “use” (competes with) a dangerous “thing”.
- ▶ Mentioned limitations, however rigid, protect the very owners from a “dangerous thing”, as well as the environment, other persons who cohabit.
- ▶ In PWD population, poverty levels are three times larger than average and are at over 60%. Also, a large number of persons are uneducated or with just primary and/or special education, while the number of unemployed is larger than 80%. One of key factors of their poverty is lack of social support and social exclusion.



# POSSIBILITIES

- ▶ Modification of trial rules for ParalPO sport (breed program as well?) at all programs (IPO, IPO FH, FPr, Ring, Braiten...; self trained or just handling a trained dog).
- ▶ Modification of trial field and equipment (tracking: length, surface, minimum of performance.; stadium: length/width, number of steps; equipment - reduced weight of dumbbell).
- ▶ Modification of judging rules for ParalPO sport (e.g. judge "based on experience" describes, without giving points, the level of ability of a dog to perform the exercises, while promoting any achieved result, etc.).
  - ▶ e.g.: "it is desirable for PWD, after having passed IPO BH/VT trial, to participate at higher programs to present the level of their training of their dog.
- ▶ Inclusion, adaptation and development of "ParalPO" (and other sport disciplines with dogs), in order to accomplish the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, would contribute considerably to the meaning as well as goals of our sport disciplines with dogs.



### SOURCES:

- ▶ UN Millennium Declaration
- ▶ Nice Declaration 2000
- ▶ [www.who.int...](http://www.who.int...) World Health Organization-WHO, Geneva, 2000
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- ▶ Petrinovic L. and Ciliga D., „Sport of Persons with Disabilities“, Medix, 1999
- ▶ [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org) ... 01/11/2017 International Paralympic Committee - IPC
- ▶ [www.para-agility.ch](http://www.para-agility.ch) ... 02/21/2017 ParAgility
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**WELCOME TO IPO**

