

PARASPORT NEW BRUNSWICK INC.



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amended December 15, 2023

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1. Article I: Name

- 1.1. The name of this non-profit organization shall be “Parasport New Brunswick (Parasport NB) Inc. / Parasport Nouveau Brunswick (Parasport NB) Inc.” (formerly known as “New Brunswick Wheelchair Sports Association” authorized February 3, 2017

2. Article II: Mission, Vision & Values

2.1. Mission

Parasport NB is a leader in providing and facilitating safe and supportive programs, reducing barriers to participation, and integrating all New Brunswickers in the broader parasport community. They are also the governing body for wheelchair basketball, wheelchair rugby, and boccia, and a supporter of the delivery for all sports in the Paralympic movement.

2.2. Vision

Building community through parasport.

2.3. Values

Advancement: Strive for improvement in all aspects of the organization and its activities

Community: Engaged people, safe spaces and strong networks

Trust: Our community has confidence and faith in our abilities as an organization

Support: Meet people where they're at with empathy and nurturing them along their individual pathways

Inclusion: Support and integrating all people of all abilities

3. Article III: Objectives

- 3.1. To serve as a non-profit, provincial organization dedicated to increasing the number of persons with a physical disability who participate in sport and active living recreation activities.
- 3.2. To promote the benefits of para sports and recreational activities which include persons with physical disabilities.
- 3.3. To assist in the provision of competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities who wish to challenge their skills on a more formal basis.
- 3.4. To recognize and assist in the promotion of accomplishments made by athletes along with those of Parasport NB.
- 3.5. To liaise with other organizations and bodies whose objectives are compatible with those of Parasport NB.
- 3.6. To provide leadership in the establishment and development of wheelchair sport and recreation groups in local areas where appropriate in New Brunswick.

- 3.7. To develop and administer the rules and regulations governing para sports and recreational competition in New Brunswick consistent with Wheelchair Basketball Canada, Wheelchair Rugby Canada, Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association and other sports-governing bodies.
- 3.8. To be engaged in other related activities consistent with the stated mission statement and objectives of the association as interpreted by the Executive, Board of Directors and the various Sports Representatives.

4. Article IV: Membership

- 4.1. The membership of Parasport NB shall consist of individuals who have expressed their interest in supporting the objectives of Parasport NB by submitting the appropriate annual membership fees and information when required and being accepted as members by a majority vote of eligible voters at any properly scheduled board meeting, special general meeting or the annual meeting of the association.
- 4.2. Parasport NB shall have voting and non-voting memberships as indicated in the following descriptions:
 - 4.2.1. **Provincial Sport Organization (PSO)** - all Paralympic PSO's interested to develop their para sport may become a voting PSO member. All para athletes registered within the able bodied PSO are also eligible to vote.
 - 4.2.2. **Individual** - any person interested in contributing to the aims and objectives of Parasport NB and participating in Parasport NB activities may become a voting individual member of Parasport NB. This membership includes: coaches, athletes, equipment managers, managers, personal aids, etc.
 - 4.2.3. **Affiliate** - regional or community para sport and recreation clubs and programs that are members of their respective PSO (if applicable) and other such groups, whose aims and objectives complement those of Parasport NB, may become non-voting Affiliate members of Parasport NB.
 - 4.2.4. **Honorary** - any person or group who makes a significant contribution to Parasport NB's aims and objectives may become, by resolution of the Board, a non-voting honorary member of Parasport NB. Honorary memberships shall be automatically renewed by the Board each year, without cost.
- 4.3. Annual membership fees for PSO, Individual and Affiliate, Individual members shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Membership is contingent upon payment of fees annually.
- 4.4. Persons who are members in good standing of PSO and Affiliate shall become Individual members of Parasport NB upon submission of the Affiliate of its membership list and Parasport NB membership fees.
- 4.5. Termination of membership:

- 4.5.1. An existing voting membership can be lost by failing to pay membership fees after receiving written notice on two (2) occasions in any fiscal year; or
- 4.5.2. If the member has submitted his resignation to the President or Secretary; or
- 4.5.3. If the member has been expelled by two-thirds (2/3) vote at a special general meeting or annual general meeting when notice of that motion to expel has been provided to the membership and person in question.

5. Article V: Management of Organization's Affairs

- 5.1. The affairs of the organization shall be managed by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee, as provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

6. Article VIII: Board of Directors

- 6.1. The Board of Directors shall consist of, and be elected as per the following:
 - President – Elected in odd years*
 - Vice President - Elected in even years*
 - Treasurer - Elected in odd years*
 - Secretary - Elected in even years*
 - Athlete Representative - Elected in odd years*
 - Member-At-Large – Elected in even years*
 - Member-At-Large – Elected in odd years*
 - Past President – Outgoing President*
- 6.2. The Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of two (2) years. They may be re-elected for additional terms at subsequent Annual General Meetings but not for more than four (4) two (2) year consecutive terms.
- 6.3. Vacancies in the Board of Directors between annual meetings may be filled temporarily by the Board.
- 6.4. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of quarterly throughout the year.
- 6.5. The Directors shall serve without remuneration from the organization but may be reimbursed for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses pending available funds and approval of claims made to the Board of Directors.
- 6.6. A Director shall cease to hold should he/she resign in writing to the President or be removed by a resolution passed by more than two-thirds (2/3's) of the votes cast at a special general meeting of the members of the organization duly called for considering such a resolution.
- 6.7. The quorum of a Board meeting shall consist of fifty percent (50%) plus 1 of the duly constituted Board members provided that at least four (4) members of the Board are present in person and that at least seven (7) days notice of the meeting has been given.

- 6.8. Each individual Board member shall not act in isolation from the decisions and established policies approved by the Board. This would include respecting staff policies and protection of appropriate levels of confidentiality.
- 6.9. Members of the Board of Directors must be careful to avoid any apparent conflicts of interest.
- 6.10. Two members of the same immediate family cannot serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.
- 6.11. Board members who will not resign voluntarily and presented with an allegation of a conflict of interest shall have their voting privileges suspended pending the outcome of a special general meeting to be called to give the member an opportunity to present his/her case to the general voting membership. This meeting shall be called within thirty-five (35) days of the written complaint being received by the Secretary so that thirty (30) days notice can be given to all members.

7. Article VII: Duties of Board of Directors

7.1. President's Duties:

- 7.1.1. The President shall be responsible for the general management and supervision of the affairs and operations of the organization consistent with decisions and policies developed by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors.
- 7.1.2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members, Board and Executive Officers.
- 7.1.3. The President shall act as one of the organization's signing officers.
- 7.1.4. The President and/or Executive Director shall be responsible for calling the required meeting of the organization including the necessary arrangements for the Annual General Meeting and/or any special general meetings.

7.2. Vice-President's Duties:

- 7.2.1. The Vice-President shall assist the President as requested.
- 7.2.2. The Vice-President shall assume the role of President in his/her absence.
- 7.2.3. The Vice-President may act as one of the organization's signing officers.

7.3. Treasurer's Duties

- 7.3.1. The Treasurer and/or assigned personnel shall keep up to date financial records of the organization giving regular reports at all Executive, Board, General or Annual meetings of the organization.
- 7.3.2. The Treasurer and/or assigned personnel shall perform the banking and maintain all other financial obligations for the organization.
- 7.3.3. The Treasurer shall act as one of the organization's signing officers.

- 7.3.4. The Treasurer shall develop the organization's annual budget in conjunction with the Executive Director and any staff to coincide with deadlines required.
- 7.3.5. The Treasurer and/or assigned personnel shall bring to the immediate attention of the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors any indication of budget shortfalls or any financial irregularities contrary to accepted accounting principles or activities that are contrary to policies established by the Board.

7.4. **Secretary's Duties**

- 7.4.1. The Secretary shall attend all meetings and take appropriate minutes and save on the electronic server or arrange to have this done.
- 7.4.2. The Secretary shall ensure that all correspondence to the organization is responded to properly.
- 7.4.3. The Secretary may act as one of the organization's signing officers.
- 7.4.4. The Secretary shall and/or assigned personnel ensure that minutes, reports and notices of meetings are distributed to the appropriate sources at the appropriate times

7.5. **Members-at-Large Duties**

- 7.5.1. The Members-at-Large shall assist other Executive Officers when carrying out their duties when needed.
- 7.5.2. The Members-at-Large may be one of the signing officers of the organization.
- 7.5.3. The Members-at-Large shall assist the President and Vice-President in acting as a Nominating Committee for the Annual General Meeting.

7.6. **Athlete Representative**

- 7.6.1. The Athlete Representative shall be responsible for being the voice of all para athletes.
- 7.6.2. The Athlete Representative shall be responsible for assisting the Board of Directors and personnel as requested with respect to para sports within the Paralympic Movement.

8. **Article VI: Executive Committee**

- 8.1. At the Annual General Meeting, the organization shall elect a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and Secretary to serve until the next Annual General Meeting as the Executive Committee of the organization.
- 8.2. Terms of office of the Executive Committee shall align with Article 6.2.
- 8.3. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to exercise any of the powers of the Board as authorized by resolution of the Board, and all acts and proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors.

8.4. The Executive Committee shall meet on an as needed basis.

9. Article IX: Committees

9.1. The Board of Directors shall establish the following standing committees with terms of reference to be developed by the Board.

Personnel Committee

Finance Committee

Nominations Committee

9.2. The President and/or Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of all committees which shall include at least one (1) other Board member and/or other members so that each committee will have at least three (3) members.

9.3. Standing committees will be named at the first Board meeting to follow the Annual General Meeting.

9.4. The Board of Directors may also name other special committees with terms of reference that will automatically expire if not reviewed at the next Annual General Meeting

9.5. The committees will serve in an advisory capacity only with decisions to be made by the Board of Directors.

10. Article X: Special Meetings

10.1. At each Annual General Meeting, to be held at a time and place to be determined by the Board, there will be an election of members of the Board as provided in the By-Laws, the presentation of reports by the officers, committee chairpersons, and the senior staff person and release of an audited financial statement. Any other such business as included in the agenda can also be discussed as mentioned in the notice of meeting and agenda sent to each voting member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of that meeting.

10.2. The Board shall convene a special general meeting of the membership if required as per the By-Laws or if requested by ten (10) or more members of the organization. The request shall set out the purpose of the meeting and be sent to the Secretary for follow up.

10.3. Quorums at the Annual General Meeting or special general meeting shall require the presence in person or by written proxy of at least twenty percent (20%) of the eligible voting members. Unless specified elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws, votes will be decided on a simple majority of the eligible votes cast in person or by proxy.

10.4. The Annual General Meeting for Parasport NB shall be held in the Fall.

11. Article XI: Finances

- 11.1. The fiscal year of the organization shall begin on April 1st and end on March 31st each year.
- 11.2. The withdrawal of funds from any bank account under the authority of the Board of Directors shall require a minimum of two (2) authorized signatures. Authorized signatures include the officers of the organization unless otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.
- 11.3. All books and accounts of the organization shall have an independent review annually and audited every four (4) years by an accountant appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting. The financial statement is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

12. Article XII: Records

- 12.1. All records of Annual or special meetings, Board and Committee meetings, all regular books of accounts and other records of the organization shall be kept in a place to be determined by the Board.

13. Article XII: Interpretation

- 13.1. In the interpretation of this Constitution and By-Laws, the masculine shall include the feminine and to the extent by context, the singular shall include the plural and vice-versa. Save as herein provided, the provisions of the Interpretation Act of New Brunswick shall apply to this Constitution and By-Laws.
- 13.2. Unless otherwise specified, the procedures of meetings of this organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

14. Article XIV: Amendments

- 14.1. The Board of Directors may from time to time repeal, amend, add to or re-enact this Constitution and By-Laws, or any of them, but such changes, unless in the meantime confirmed by a special general meeting of members, shall have force only until the next Annual General Meeting of members and, if not confirmed thereat, shall from that time on cease to have any force.
- 14.2. A notice of motion to repeal, amend, add to or re-enact this Constitution and By-Laws provided to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the date on which the motion is to be made.

15. Article XV: Status

- 15.1. The organization shall carry on without purpose of financial gain for its members and any profits or other accretions to this organization shall be used in promoting its objectives.