



MEMBER OF THE
**INTERNATIONAL
PARALYMPIC
COMMITTEE**

**MAKING
THE WORLD
MORE INCLUSIVE
THROUGH SPORT**

**CHANGING ATTITUDES
CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS
MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE**



From INAS 1986 - To VIRTUS 2021

The International Coordinating Committee of World Sports Organisations for Disabled (ICC) was established in 1982. The International Sports Federations for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) joined as a member of the ICC in 1986. However, the **member nations demanded more national and regional representation** in the organisation.

On 22 September 1989, the International Paralympic Committee was founded as an international non-profit organisation in Dusseldorf, Germany, to act as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement. **Virtus is a Founding Member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** and is **recognised by the IPC as an International Organisation for Disability Sport (IOSD) with responsibility for the management of eligibility and classification for athletes with an intellectual impairment.**



“Pushing on from the Global Games I want to achieve the greater things like swimming at college and the Paralympics.”

**Jacob Basini,
USA Team - Swimmer**

On the 19th October 2019, at the Closing Ceremony of the 5th Global Games, INAS announced a substantial rebranding and will henceforth be known as **Virtus: World Intellectual Impairment Sport**

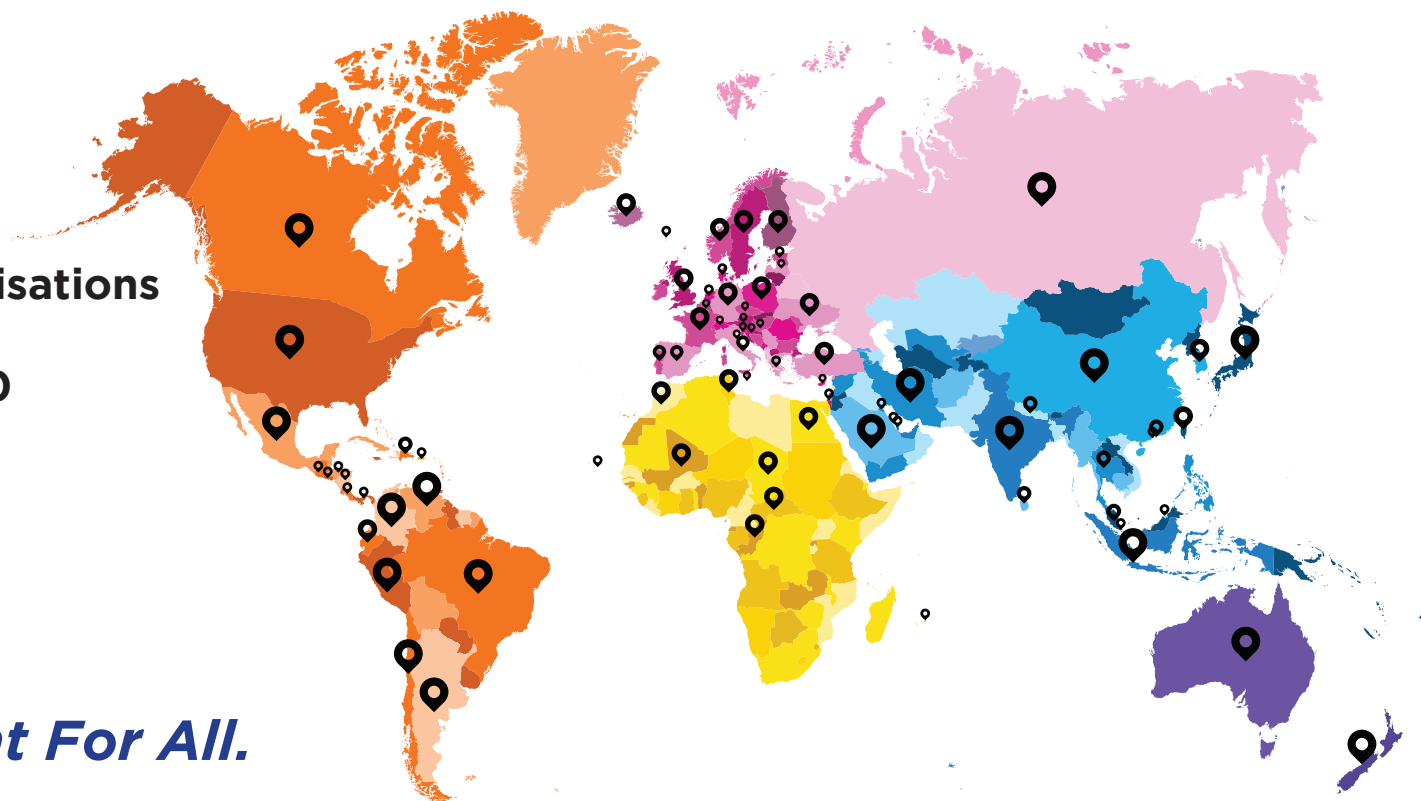
Over a period of 35 years Virtus has grown from 14 Member organisations to 90 Member organisations. The Virtus sport programme includes some 15 annual events across both summer and winter sports. More than 4,500 athletes are registered to compete at an international level, whilst more than 500,000 people with an intellectual disability worldwide have the opportunity to enjoy sport through the work of our member organisations.

In the decade of action to 2030, Virtus seeks to amplify its work, by reaching the remaining IPC countries that are not Virtus members and therefore, do not provide pathways and opportunities for elite athletes. By growing member organisations, Virtus aims to provide greater opportunities for athletes across the world of sports. **Virtus believes access to sports is a human right.**

Across the world there are between 178-256 million* people who live with an intellectual disability.



90 Virtus Member Organisations in five global regions supporting over 500,000 people with intellectual impairment.



Sport Is A Human Right For All.

Leave no one behind is the central transformative promise of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, and discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

*Statistic Source: WHO Report on Disability 2011

TIME TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT

Join the Vision for “An inclusive world for people with an intellectual impairment”

Virtus: World Intellectual Impairment Sport for 35 years has been advocating for athletes with an intellectual impairment. By creating opportunities for athletes to showcase their character, courage, excellence and integrity - **the focus is on ABILITY and PERFORMANCE.**

It's time, to balance the scales and to see millions of people be given options and opportunities to access sport. By continuing to advocate for **more inclusion in more sports and more inclusion in international sporting events, ensuring no one is left behind.**

It's time to amplify collaborators, partners and communities because inclusion in sport **yields social, health and economic benefits for all.**

Help Virtus to:

- ✓ Grow Membership in every nation that has a National Paralympic Committee, ensuring athletes have access to high-performance pathways.
- ✓ Make a positive contribution to the UN SDGs and the Paralympic movement.
- ✓ Elevate National Member Organisation to further impact sport for all within their countries.
- ✓ Change attitudes and challenge perceptions so government and corporate stakeholders can see the possibilities and benefits of inclusive sport.
- ✓ Advocate and create more opportunities for inclusive sport for athletes with intellectual impairment.

Sport provides connection to community and provides meaning and purpose.

Active engagement in Sport has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the individual and supports our commitment to advancing many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Virtus is committed to work with its athletes, member nations, International Federations for sport, the International Paralympic Committee, Virtus partners and all Virtus stakeholders to actively contribute to these goals in the decade of action.





"No matter what country you're from, on the sporting field, everyone speaks the same language."

Mac Russell
Australian Team - Rower

7x Gold Medalist, Outdoor Rowing, Global Games 2019

National Member Organisations are the driving force behind Virtus, leading the development of inclusive sport in their country. The Virtus Membership Group comprises organisations specifically established to lead sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment at a national level, includes National Paralympic Committees and umbrella organisations that support athletes with and without a disability.

Virtus delivers events and services including the management of:

- The Virtus Global Games - a 4-yearly multi-sport event and important build-up to the Paralympic Games.
- An extensive annual programme of World and Regional Championships in 15 sports.
- The management of eligibility process for athletes with an intellectual impairment. This is an essential component of athlete classification on behalf of the Paralympic movement.
- The Virtus Academy - a global hub for research, training and education, to drive the development of elite sport for athletes with intellectual impairment, made accessible to all Virtus Member Organisations.

Virtus is inspired by a belief that an intellectual impairment should not be a barrier to enjoying and being the best in sport.

Summer and Winter Sports Programme

Virtus' Mission: Drive the development of elite sport worldwide for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

Virtus works with the International Paralympic Committee and International Federations of Sport to ADVOCATE for the inclusion of athletes with intellectual impairment. All Virtus events are conducted according to the rules of the relevant International Federation.

Virtus manages the Eligibility process globally for athletes to compete at International levels of Sport. The eligibility criteria is based upon the World Health Organisation and American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities research and guidance.



Courage
Character
Excellence
Integrity



Podium Pathways for athlete members



“We’ve come to win the Gold Medal”

**Masako Tsunoda, Team Japan Basketball
Gold Medalist, Global Games 2019**



World Championships

An annual programme across all Sports.

Regional Games

Multi sport competition, hosted by nations in Virtus regions, delivered in the year before the Global Games.

Global Games

GG2023 Vichy France. Quadrennial multi sport Games held in the year preceding the Paralympics.

Paralympics

Opportunity to win one of 66 Medals in 11 category events, currently Athletics, Swimming and Table Tennis.



“I want to support all the women in the world,
to fight to realise their dreams and always go forward.”

Gloria Ablemagnon
French Team - Discus

Virtus World Record & Gold Medalist, Global Games 2019

SUPPORT US

Virtus athletes have to overcome discrimination and prejudice to train and perform as high-performance elite athletes. We support athletes to access the opportunities often afforded to elite athletes without disability.

“This is our place in the human race and we won’t stop dreaming of a world where we are seen, where our talents are visible, and through inclusive sports, we soar.” - Athlete’s Dream

How can you or your organisation support us?

There are many ways to support the work of Virtus and the athletes for which it advocates.

Become a National Member Organisation | Become a Global, Regional or National Partner | Become a Virtus Event Sponsor
Make a Donation | Leave a Bequest in your Will

Support an Athlete | Support a National Team | Support Virtus in a voluntary or pro-bono basis

Your support contributes to elevating and amplifying the Virtus vision to make the world more inclusive through sport.

For more information on supporting Virtus, email Greg.Dunk@virtus.sport



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