



International Sport Federation for Athletes with an Intellectual Impairment



# ANNUAL REPORT | 2022

# VIRTUS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Virtus family and friends,

To borrow a term from football, 2022 was very much a “game of two halves”. Whilst we continued to build back after the difficulties of the previous two years and the impact of covid, it was still a very difficult year and far from normal.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the two Regional Games that were held in Europe and, for the first time, Asia-Oceania. As a prelude to the Global Games in 2023, the Games provide a fantastic opportunity to test themselves against the best, to achieve qualifying times and to gain valuable experience of competing in a big-event environment. More than 1400 athletes took part across the two events, which featured 9 sports including debuts for judo, sailing and badminton. My thanks go to Polish member Sprawni-Razem and Australian member Sport Inclusion Australia for hosting these events.

It was also fantastic to see athletes with an intellectual impairment make their debut in karate following a successful collaboration between Virtus and the World Karate Federation. The sport will feature on the Global Games programme in 2023 and I have no doubt it will continue to grow at pace. Indeed our partnerships with the International Sport Federations grew in 2022, offering more opportunities to people with an intellectual impairments in more sports, in more competitions and in more nations. We are grateful to each of our partner organisations and look forward to fostering this work in the future.

Another key highlight of the year was the culmination of the I13 research project which led, in November, to a decision to elevate this competition category to full medal in time for the 2023 Global Games. I am extremely proud that Virtus is developing this unique pathway for athletes with autism in world sport and want to thank the researchers and everyone involved for making this possible. There are many millions of people worldwide who have the opportunity to aspire to top level international competition but were not able to due to either the limiting nature of their impairment or the lack of awareness and adaptation in sport – and I have no doubt that Virtus’ I13 category will grow very quickly indeed.

As mentioned however, 2022 was not without its challenges. Many areas of the world began the year under the shadow of covid and lockdowns and major events including the World Skiing Championships, World Football Championships, World Indoor Athletics and the Americas Regional Games were casualties of this – a huge loss for our organisation but in particular for the athletes due to be involved. I would like to thank each of the organisers involved for their patience and hope that you are able to host an event soon.

As is traditional in our annual report, I must thank each of our volunteers, member organisations, staff and supporters. Virtus is a family – and each of its members are vitally important to provide the opportunities that we can offer. I also want to pay tribute to the many Virtus athletes round the world. Your resilience, flexibility, attitude and commitment are an example for all of us, and to be reelected as your President is a particular honour and privilege.

*Thank you to everyone for  
your support and making  
2022 a very successful year.*



**Marc Truffaut, President**



President – Marc Truffaut (FRA)





LET'S WRITE  
OUR OWN LEGENDS

# ABOUT VIRTUS

The organisation was founded in 1986 as INAS - the International Federation for Athletes with Intellectual Impairments. In 2019 the organisation adopted a new, modern and striking brand: Virtus. As a member of the Paralympic family, it is responsible for the management of the Global Games and world and regional Championships in Paralympic and non-Paralympic sports for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

Our vision is that athletes with an intellectual impairment across the world have the opportunity to achieve excellence in sport and high-level competition.

The Virtus membership comprises more than 85 nations, two International Federations and the Virtus Regions. We receive no government or sports lottery support and so each year must raise all the funds required to meet the ever-growing need for support and development.

Virtus changes attitudes, creates opportunities and develops pathways in sport to ensure that athletes with an intellectual impairment can progress to elite competition and perform at the highest possible level.

**Our strategic priorities (2021-2024) are:**

- ⦿ [To deliver Exceptional Services.](#)
- ⦿ [To maximise Influence and Reach.](#)
- ⦿ [To strengthen Organisational Health.](#)

Often the costs of maintaining the organisation are, by necessity, passed onto our member organisations, and too often, onto the athletes themselves.

Virtus benefits from a large team of international volunteers - sports experts, psychologists, anti-doping and medical professionals, sports managers and administrators - all of whom have a passion and commitment for ensuring athletes with an intellectual impairment can compete at the highest possible level and be the best that they can be.

The organisation is led by its Governing Board and supported by a number of sub-committees covering each sport, eligibility, medical and anti-doping specialisms.





# REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

## COMPETITION

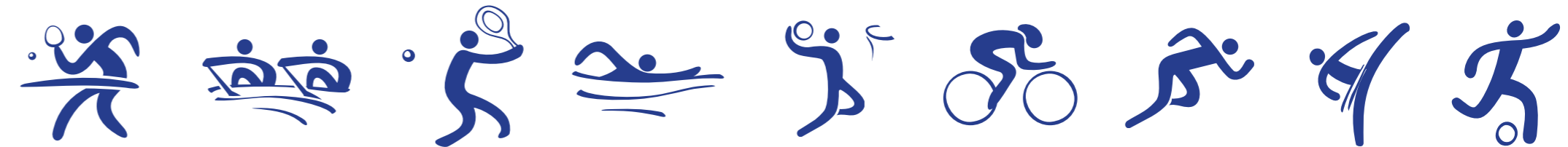
A long held aim within Virtus has been the ambition to strengthen our competition programme at a regional level and this was substantially realised in 2022 with the 2nd European Regional Games in Poland complemented by the inaugural Oceania-Asia Games in Australia. These multi-sport competitions provided a fantastic opportunity for younger and less experienced athletes to expedition international championships, but also offer a chance to trail and develop new sports and to grow the Virtus membership.

The European Games took place in July in Krakow-Poland and saw athletes from across the Region compete in an extensive programme of top-level sport, with many seeking qualification to the 2023 Global Games.

Meanwhile hosts Australia took top honours in Brisbane in November at the 1st Oceania/Asia Regional Games, where the sport programme included debuts for Judo and Sailing and we were delighted to see a number of new nations supporting the event and joining the Virtus family.

Although smaller in scale, the World Half Marathon Championships are a regular and important fixture in the Virtus calendar and we were honour to visit the picturesque region of Viseu in Portugal in September and finally in November, the World Cross Country Championships were held in the beautiful climate of San Diego, Southern California. Hosts USA dominated the medal table.

Sadly, the lingering impact of the covid pandemic meant the cancellation of a number of events - most notably the World Skiing Championships and World Football Championships, however we were pleased to offer a much larger competition than in the previous two years.





# STRATEGIC PLANNING

Early in 2021, the Governing Board met to begin strategic planning process that will define our aims, activities and priorities in the years ahead. Following the success of the Global Games and a far-reaching re-brand in 2019, expectations and ambitions were high and the Board were determined to maintain the momentum created as we go forward and build on the platform we have created.

Over two days, the Board looked at a range of ideas and innovative programmes that will take Virtus forward before an organisation-wide consultation was undertaken to test these thoughts and to hear from members, athletes and supporters.

**By September, the final version of the plan was conceived and 3 new Strategic Priorities had emerged:**

- 1 DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES** - As the world governing body of sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment, we will champion best practice, deliver projects to create lasting change and promote world-leading sport and competition.
- 2 MAXIMISE INFLUENCE AND REACH** - We will substantially grow the Virtus brand, extend membership and maximise strategic partnerships to ensure sport is inclusive of people with an intellectual impairment.
- 3 STRENGTHEN ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH** - We will strengthen the organisation to ensure it can globally drive effective and lasting positive change for athletes with an intellectual impairment.

**Taken together, these priorities will help us achieve our refined mission:**

*“To drive the development of elite sport worldwide for athletes with an intellectual impairment”*

**The new plan comes into effect from January 2021 and will define our work to beyond the next Global Games.**



# THE VIRTUS EMBLEM

'Virtus' - a Latin word which was first used in ancient Rome - perfectly captures the spirit of athletes with intellectual impairments who live our new values through their sporting performances and achievements.

## The Virtus emblem combines these elements representing:

Four elements that represent the characteristics of all athletes with intellectual impairments...



### Character

Athletes display incredible strength of character both on and off the field of play. They work hard, overcome set-backs and never give-up. They are important ambassadors for sport for people with intellectual impairments, showing others what can be achieved and breaking down barriers.



### Courage

It takes great courage to train and perform, to put yourself and your body on the line to reach the best in your sport. With their immense achievements, athletes change perceptions.



### Excellence

Athletes strive to reach the top of the podium, to improve themselves and their performances with every sprint, swim, throw, shot and move. Through this they change perceptions and push the boundaries of what was previously thought possible.



### Integrity

Athletes with integrity play honestly and fairly, always respecting the rules and results.



Four elements that represent our organisational role and purpose...



### Promote

We strive to ensure that as many people as possible know about high performance sports for athletes with intellectual impairments and the opportunities that exist to compete at an international level. We also aim to ensure that everyone knows about the amazing achievements of the athletes, so that they can enjoy better support and recognition.



### Govern

We oversee the development and growth of elite sport for people with intellectual impairments at the highest level. This includes setting rules and ensuring fair play in areas such as anti-doping.



### Advocate

We ensure that the rights of athletes with intellectual impairments are recognised and considered in the global sports landscape. We also work with sports governing bodies to ensure athletes with intellectual impairments have the opportunity to compete under their banner.



### Organise

We work with our member countries to organise major international events for athletes with intellectual impairments such as world and regional Championships in 14 sports, supported by global governing bodies. This ensures athletes can compete regularly at the highest levels against the best in the world.



# MEMBERSHIP

Virtus is a rapidly growing family and once again we were delighted to welcome a number of new organisations into membership.

Latvia and Bulgaria were the national organisations joining whilst we welcomed World Karate, EDGA (golf) and Shinshidokan-Kai in the International Federation category.

Overall there are 89 members in membership of Virtus including 5 national federations. More than at any time in the past.

Meanwhile the number of athletes grew considerably in 2022. A record **800+ athletes registered during the year**, fuelled by the growing I12 and I13 categories (for athletes with multiple impairment and autism respectively).

**iDEAL 2.0**  
EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORT

We were delighted to learn that Virtus had been successful as part of a consortium of organisation for funding for IDEAL 2.0 - a 3 year project to grow sport for athletes with intellectual impairment and autism across Europe.

IDEAL 2.0 builds upon the success of a project that ran between 2016- 2019 and Virtus is a lead partner in the project.



# FINANCE

## Statement of Financial Activity

	Notes	2022 (£GB) Unrestricted	2022 (£GB) Restricted	2021 (£GB)
<b>Income</b>				
Fees	1	87280	0	65803
Events & Projects	2	31674	64635	22695
Income Generation		5	0	6027
Other		0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>118959</b>	<b>64635</b>	<b>94525</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Governing Board & Committee Costs	3	8807	0	1055
Development Activities		32551	546	22948
Promotion		19605	0	38125
Income Generation		0	0	8599
Memberships		1050	0	481
Office Costs & Administration		2097	0	2556
Staffing Costs	4	66696	0	63150
Staff Travel		666	0	2863
Insurance		5323	0	3506
Bank, Financial & Management Charges		-4361	0	3110
Depreciation		0	0	0
Other		478	0	806
<b>Total</b>		<b>133551</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>147785</b>
Difference		-14592	64089	53260
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>124259</b>	<b>64089</b>	<b>138831</b>

As a not-for-profit organisation, Virtus is entirely reliant on the income it receives from fees, events, fundraising and voluntary donations to promote sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment. The 2022 budget included a significant investment from reserves in our activities, though inevitable the worldwide pandemic also impacted finances. A full analysis of our financial performance can be found in the annual accounts published at [virtus.sport](https://virtus.sport).

## Balance Sheet

	Notes	2022 £GB	2021 (£GB)
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible assets		0	478
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank		164147	140247
Debtors		26061	0
Prepayments		0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>190208</b>	<b>140725</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors & Accruals		1858	1874
Loans		0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>1858</b>	<b>1874</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>188349</b>	<b>138851</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted Funds		124260	138351
Restricted Funds		64089	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>188349</b>	<b>138851</b>

You can help athletes to achieve their dreams and show generations of young athletes, their families, and the world that an intellectual impairment is no barrier to sporting excellence by making a monthly or one-off donation at [virtus.sport](https://virtus.sport)



# GOVERNING BOARD, COMMITTEES & STAFF STRUCTURE (AS AT 31.12.2022)

**Governing Board**  
 President - Marc Truffaut (FRA)  
 Vice President - Robyn Smith (AUS)  
 Secretary General - Barry Holman (USA)  
 Members at Large - Fausto Pereira (POR), Amal Mobadda (EGY), Patrick Chan (HKG), Hiro Taniguchi (JPN), Birol Aydin (TUR)  
 Co-opted Member - Prof. Jan Burns (GBR), Ian Conyers (USA)

**Management Team**  
 Executive Director - Nick Parr  
 Marketing Advisor - Nithi Suppiah (consultant)  
 Communication & Marketing Officer - Mousumi Mazumdar (consultant)  
 Virtus Academy - Debbie Van Biesen (consultant)

**Anti-Doping Committee**  
 Chairperson - Trudi Jackson (USA), Matsontso Mathebula (RSA), Juliana Soares (BRA), Marcelo Patricio (BRA)

**Finance Committee**  
 Chairperson - Karon Nicol (GBR), Paul Charvrit (THA)

**Games Committee**  
 Chairperson - Barry Holman (Governing Board)  
 Patrick Chan (Governing Board), Robyn Smith (Governing Board), Alex Figueroa (COL), Noeleen Dix (AUS), Richard Robert (USA)

**Eligibility Committee**  
 Chairperson - Prof Jan Burns MBE (GBR)  
 Members: Catherine Fayollet (FRA), Kirsten Van Heerden (RSA), Mohammad Vaez (IRA), Oili Sauna Aho (FIN)

**Eligibility Panel**  
 Linda Chen (CHN), Daniele Parker (GBR), David Eley (GBR), Dr. Michelle Gilpin (CAN), Helen Glossop (GBR), Peter Baker (GBR), Jennifer Maris (GBR), Jo Mueller (GBR), Jo Webber (GBR), Kate Ferrara (GBR), Kyongmee Chung (MAC), Laura Vidal (ARG), Mark Hancock (GBR), Patricia Giampa (BRA), Patsie Leaning (GBR), Shinichi Miyazaki (JPN), Doris Chan (CHN), Tim Williams (GBR), Claudia Albuquerque (BRA), Emma Booker (GBR), Tom Crossland (GBR), Nial Devlin (GBR), Daniel Kriz (USA), Suzie Lemmey (GBR), Ana Garduno (MEX), Jade Redfearn (GBR), Anthony Follino (CAN)

**Medical Committee**  
 Chairperson - Catherine Fayollet (FRA), Ralph Belig (FRA), Piera Marchettoni (ITA)

**Elections Committee**  
 Chairperson - Tracey McCillen (GBR)  
 Aimee Ng (HKG), Yossi Romano (ISR)

**Athletics Committee**  
 Sport Director & Europe - José Costa Pereira (POR)  
 Camila Aldeco (ARG), Akihiro Inoue (JPN), Kenny Kubayi (RSA)

**Basketball Committee**  
 Sport Director - Tony Guihot, Richard Magnette (FRA), Naoki Ogawa (JPN), Simon Robinson (AUS), Emma De La Cruz (MEX)

**Cricket Committee**  
 Sport Director - Ian Martin (GBR), Aaron Dragwidge (AUS), Eugene Jacobs (RSA), Alphonse Benjamin (IND)

**Cycling Committee**  
 Sport Director - Rinus Verboom (NED), Philippe Com (FRA), Louise Jones (AUS), Avtar Singh (IND)

**Equestrian Committee**  
 Chairperson - Uta Rindfleisch (CHN) Mary Longden (AUS), Andrey Sukhov (RUS), Amanda Heath (GBR), Ulrich Nickel (GER)

**Football/Futsal Committee**  
 Sport Director - John Ball (GBR)  
 Gustavo Caik (ARG), Goran Engström (SWE), Joseph Matlakala (RSA), Herve Dewaele (FRA), Naoki Tsushima (JPN)

**Judo Committee**  
 Chairperson - Kerry Tansey (GBR)  
 Kerry Tansey (GBR) - Sport Director  
 Tomoo Hamana (JPN), Wolfgang Janko (GER), Johan Orrbo (SWE)  
 Xavier Barker (AUS), Aviv Raguan (ISR), Rudi Verhagen (NLD)

**Rowing Committee**  
 Chairperson - Nuno Santa Rita (POR)  
 Simon Goody (GBR), Chris Farrell (GBR), Nuno Santa Rita (POR)

**Skiing Committee**  
 Riccardo De Infanti (ITA) - Sport Director Alpine Skiing  
 Hideki Arai (JPN) - Sport Director Nordic Skiing  
 Paula Scherl (AUT), Christian Gianese (FRE)

**Swimming Steering Group**  
 Dave Harman (GBR)  
 Supported by representatives from \*\*

**Table Tennis Committee**  
 Chairperson - Victor Lee (BRA)  
 Committee pending

**Tennis Committee**  
 Lesley Whitehead (GBR) - Sport Director  
 Andrea Sneed (USA), Kris Vanden Boer (BEL), Dr Danielle Gescheit (AUS), Mohamed Abdelsattar (EGY)

**Many thanks to those people who stepped down during the period:**  
[Linnea Bjordahl \(SWE\)](#), [Emma Foden](#), [Greg Dunk](#), [Dr Bahman Zand \(IRA\)](#), [Andrea Jacusiel \(BRA\)](#), [Moni Wekesa \(KEN\)](#), [Justin Lessard \(CAN\)](#), [Rob Peak \(AUS\)](#), [Kathleen Hextell \(AUS\)](#), [Linda Goffings \(BEL\)](#), [Brenda Tierney \(AUS\)](#)



MEMBER OF THE  
**INTERNATIONAL  
PARALYMPIC  
COMMITTEE**

[www.virtus.sport](http://www.virtus.sport)



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