



## **HAN MIN SU**

**Country:** Republic of Korea

**Date of Birth:** 6/3/1970

**Sport:** Para Ice Hockey



### **Sports Career**

**Paralympic Games:** Bronze at PyeongChang 2018 | 7<sup>th</sup> place at Sochi 2014 | 6<sup>th</sup> place at Vancouver 2010

**World Championships:** Bronze at 2017 Gangneung | 7<sup>th</sup> at 2013 Goyang | Silver at 2012 Norway | 7<sup>th</sup> at 2009 Czech Republic

IPC Athletes' Council ensures that the voices of athletes at all levels and disciplines are represented in a collaborative, professional and effective manner. Throughout my athletic career, I have seen how the IPC Athletes' Council bridge between the IPC, working very hard for fellow para-athletes and make sure that our voices are heard. I believe that IPC Athletes' Council has made significant steps forward. At the moment, The IPC Athletes' Council have committed to four priorities between 2019 and 2022 - Building athlete leaders, supporting athletes' careers, guiding the progression of the Paralympic Movement and enhancing the unique sporting environment of Paralympic athletes. I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

More personally, sports taught me how to lead my life in more forward-looking way. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, but these could not stop my passion for sports. After 6 months of rehabilitation, I met Para Ice Hockey, which became my true passion. I can call myself a Para Ice Hockey pioneer as I was a member of the first Korean Para ice hockey club, the Yonsei Eagles, when it was formed in 2000. As I have stated previously, I through various sports activities and I learned how to live a life disregarding my impairment and learned to be a team player. Finally, I reached my dream with overcoming tough exercises and injuries - claiming bronze in my home soil, at PyeongChang 2018, as a team captain.

It taught me how to live a life without barriers. Although we are all coming from different backgrounds, including culture, language and nationality, we share a common thing that we, Para athletes, have passion for para sports

At national level, I have seen the Paralympic Movement grow from its humble origins to what it is now as took part in establishing Para Ice Hockey from the scratch. Through these experiences, I may have better understanding what some athletes may face. Once again, I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done. More specifically, if I elected IPC athletes' council, I would like to inspire younger generation, not just in national level, but for all my fellow athletes in next generation.

I may not be the best athlete, but I am a good listener and team player.

### **Why do you wish to run for the IPC Athletes' Council?**

Athletes' Council one of the most effective mechanism by which athletes can influence change and champion athlete rights in high performance sport at the national team level. Throughout my athletic career, I have seen how the IPC Athletes' Council bridge between the IPC, working very hard for fellow para-athletes and make sure that our voices are heard. I believe that IPC Athletes' Council has made significant steps forward. Because of the new strategy, it has a more proactive approach and stronger to athlete community. Now, I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

### **What special skills, background and expertise will you bring to the IPC Athletes' Council?**

Before I met I participated in various sports which including Wheelchair basketball, Powerlifting and Sitting volleyball. I have involved in both individual and group sports and usually very active in communication among team members despite language barriers. Most importantly, though these various sports, I learned to be a team player.

Also, I have seen the Paralympic Movement grow from its humble origins to what it is now as took part in establishing Para Ice Hockey from the scratch.

Through these experiences, I may have better understanding what some athletes may face.

**How has sport impacted your life?**

It taught me how to lead my life in more forward-looking way. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, but these could not stop my passion for sports. After 6 months of rehabilitation, I met Para Ice Hockey, which became my true passion. I can call myself a Para Ice Hockey pioneer as I was a member of the first Korean Para ice hockey club, the Yonsei Eagles, when it was formed in 2000. As I have stated previously, I through various sports activities and I learned how to live a life disregarding my impairment and learned to be a team player. Finally, I reached my dream with overcoming tough exercises and injuries - claiming bronze in my home soil, at PyeongChang 2018.

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**What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?**

IPC Athletes' Council ensures that the voices of athletes at all levels and disciplines are represented in a collaborative, professional and effective manner. At the moment, The IPC Athletes' Council have committed to four priorities between 2019 and 2022 - Building athlete leaders, supporting athletes' careers, guiding the progression of the Paralympic Movement and enhancing the unique sporting environment of Paralympic athletes. I want to be part of the team that bridges athletes' voice and IPC's decision-making level and reinforce what has been done and create a brighter future.

More specifically, if I elected IPC athletes' council, I would like to inspire younger generation, not just in national level, but for all my fellow athletes in next generation - and inspire someone yet to be introduced to the Movement.

**What is the biggest challenge you have experienced as an athlete? How did you overcome it?**

After being a Para athlete, representing my proud nation, I had to overcome many circumstances, but with my passion and clear stance to be involved in the Paralympic Movement, nothing was impossible. As I had rheumatoid arthritis in my legs at very young age, sport has been a part of my life. Thanks to sport, through playing the sports, I realized that disability is not a big matter. Then I live with pride and confidence. At age 30 I was diagnosed with osteomyelitis, and as a result my left leg was amputated below the knee, it was another transition of my life as I met Para Ice Hockey after six months of rehabilitation. Especially, preparing and competing PyeongChang 2018 were the most exciting yet

challenging period in my career. I put a lot of pride in my career as a Para Ice Hockey player. Having home soil advantage was the most unforgettable yet nervous moment as I hate to disappoint home fans, but thanks to my teammates, I overcame my nerves. So, my determination and friendship helped me go through difficulties.