



IPC GOVERNING BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

- Name: John Petersson PLY
- IPC position: Member at Large
- Elected: 2013 and 2021
- Position (outside of IPC GB): President NPC Denmark and Businessman
- Nationality: Denmark
- Languages spoken: Danish, English
- Paralympic Games participated in: New York/Stoke Mandeville 1984, Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992, Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000
- Paralympic medals won: 6 gold, 2 silver, 7 bronze
- Social media channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)



When and why did you first become involved in the Paralympic Movement?

At the beginning of 1980, sport was an opportunity for me to be fit, strong and live a healthy active lifestyle.

What has been your career path?

After my career as a Para swimmer, I was elected to the Executive Board of NPC Denmark in 2000, becoming the Vice President in 2005 and the President in 2018. Besides this I was President of the European Paralympic Committee from 2009-2017 and IPC GB member in the period 2013-17.

My business career started in 1995 in KPMG where I became State Authorised Public Accountant in 2003, shifted to EY in 2007 and made my own firm in 2014, which I sold in 2017. I have new ownership of a new accounting firm in Denmark with 14 employees.

I have been married with Birgitte since 1995 and we have two children Mads 25 years and Katja 21 years.

What do you enjoy most about the role that you have on the IPC Governing Board?

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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To deliver back a lot of experiences and to assist and make it better in all circumstances for all the athletes in the Paralympic Family.

What is your personal highlight(s) from all the Paralympic Games you have attended?

1988: Seoul - I took part in four races in Para swimming, won four gold medals and set four world records. It was the first time the sports were held in the same venues as the Olympics.

2000: Sydney - At the age of 30 I set many personal records and it was fantastic to be in Sydney.

2012: London - a change in peoples' minds of how to think about sport for persons with a disability

Why for you are the Paralympic Games the most transformational event on earth?

Because all athletes show passion, courage and inspiration and show that everything is possible if you dare.

Beyond the Games, what are your passions?

Sport in general - I love sport, both when I am involved where I can use my body, pulse etc. but also when I watch it - I love competitions.

Over the next decade, what changes would you like to see that would improve the lives of the 1.2 billion persons globally who have a disability?

I would like to see even more equality for people with disabilities to perform sport - accessibility in all ways, the necessary support i.e. facilities, transportation, assistance etc.

Who for you embodies the Paralympic Movement?

The athletes.

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