

International Update

As the Beijing Olympics conclude and we look forward to the Paralympics 6-17 September, AUSRAPID thought it was a good time to let you know about International events occurring in 2009 for athletes with an intellectual disability.

We are optimistic that athletes with an intellectual disability will be readmitted to the Paralympics in time for London 2012. The unjust eight year ban which has existed since the cheating of the Spanish Basketball team in the Sydney 2000 Paralympics has left a marked effect on many innocent athletes. However, until the final decision is made regarding the uplifting of the ban following the Beijing Paralympics, athletes with an intellectual disability must remain as Paralympic spectators.

To counteract this ban INAS-FID developed the Global Games. The inaugural multi-sport event was conducted in Sweden in 2004 and the 2nd INAS-FID Global Games will be conducted in Liberec, Czech Republic 5-14 July 2009.

The Global Games will incorporate:

- 7th INAS-FID World Athletics Championships
- 4th INAS-FID World Cycling Championships
- 2nd INAS-FID World Futsal Championships
- 6th INAS-FID World Swimming Championships
- 6th INAS-FID World Table Tennis Championships
- 4th INAS-FID World Tennis Championships
- 6th INAS-FID World Basketball Championships
- Judo Demonstration event

Other sports with international opportunities for athletes in 2009 include: Alpine Skiing, Rowing, Football (Soccer) and Cricket.

You can find out more about these events by visiting <http://inas-fid.org/calendar.html> or contact the AUSRAPID Office on 03 57 62 7494.

For sports with athletes competing at the Olympics congratulations on a terrific campaign to date and to those with athletes competing in the Paralympics, we wish you well with your preparations and your athletes every success in Beijing.

AUSRAPID also very much looks forward to working with you to ensure that athletes with an intellectual disability receive their share of support at all levels.

Robyn Smith
Chief Executive Officer