



**THE
FLOURISHING
OF THE
ATHLETE IS
THE TRIUMPH
OF THE
WORLD!**

BRAD SNYDER

Candidature for IPC Governing Board
Member At-Large

MY COMMITMENT

If elected to the IPC Governing Board, I will dedicate myself to unlocking human potential and accelerating the Paralympic Movement worldwide. I am committed to these ideals regardless, but by casting your vote for me, you will amplify my ability to serve—and to help our Movement grow stronger, more just, and more inspiring than ever before.

Together, let us ensure that the Games do not merely reflect excellence—but ignite it—in every nation, on every podium, and in every human heart!


Brad Snyder



SUMMARY OF RELEVANT EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION

I believe I bring a unique combination of lived experience, institutional leadership, and ethical conviction to the IPC Governing Board. I hold master's degrees in international relations from Tufts and in public policy from Princeton University, where I'm nearing the completion of a PhD in applied ethics. My education has equipped me with the perspective and expertise to navigate governance challenges.

In addition, my athletic and professional experience over the past twenty (20) years has taught me how to lead in high-stakes environments:

TEAM USA (2012 - Present)

- Competed in Para swimming and paratriathlon at three Paralympic Games (2012, 2016, 2020).
- Six-time gold medalist and world record holder in 100m freestyle (S11).
- Flag bearer for the London 2012 Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony.
- Recognized as the top male athlete at Rio 2016 by Team USA.
- Represented core Olympic and Paralympic values through partnerships, marketing, media appearances, reaching millions.

Motivational Speaker (2012 - Present)

- Delivers 30+ keynote speeches annually to a diverse set of audiences including corporations, military leaders and professional sport organizations.
- Inspires over 100,000 people with messages on community, resilience, positivity.

U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee (2019 - Present)

- Board Member and Athlete Director, leading strategic initiatives.
- Chairs the Ethics Committee, ensuring integrity and compliance.
- Leads the Paralympic Advisory Council, advocating for disabled athletes.
- Worked on issues like transgender participation, inclusion, and disability accommodations.
- Key achievements: rebranding U.S. Paralympics, culture reforms, pandemic resilience.

U.S. Naval Academy (2025 - Present)

- Deputy Director of the Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership.
- Supervisor for 20 personnel, managing a budget of around \$2M.
- Develops and executes ethical leadership programs, teaches and mentors undergraduates in a variety of core and elective courses, and conducts research that advances the mission of the Center.

U.S. Navy (2006 - 2013)

- Deployed overseas as Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Platoon Commander; led dangerous missions that disposed of explosives, helped improve military forces, and received multiple awards including Bronze Stars and Purple Heart.

Other Experience

- Current Vice chair of the Navy Special Operations Foundation. Supporting Navy special operators and families with fundraising and program. Raised \$100K annually for six years, impacting over 900 people.
- Advises on developing innovative leadership programs at Polymath University.
- Served on the advisory board for the Pat Tillman Foundation in 2023. Helped develop governance and strategy.

While serving in the military, my life changed in an instant when an explosion took my eyesight. In the aftermath, I stood at a crossroads familiar to many wounded veterans: to retreat into the shadows of loss or fight toward renewal. I chose to fight—not only to recover, but to reimagine who I could become. I found not just rehabilitation, but purpose, identity, and joy through sport.

It was the Paralympic Movement that offered me that path.

In the water, I found clarity. In the pursuit of excellence, I found meaning. And at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, I stood not only on the podium but at the threshold of a new mission: to serve—not only my country, but a global community united by resilience and human potential. My story echoes the founding spirit of the Stoke Mandeville Games, where World War II veterans transformed trauma into triumph. That legacy of dignity, determination, and transformation is one I am proud to carry forward.

Over the past decade, I have competed across the globe, won medals and broken records, but more importantly, I have listened, learned, and led. As a member of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Board of Directors, the USOPC Paralympic Advisory Council and USOPC Ethics & Compliance Committee, I have worked to ensure that athletes are empowered and that institutions remain accountable. In the military, I learned how to lead with clarity, courage, and conviction. In academia—through studies at the U.S. Naval Academy, Tuft's University and Princeton—I have deepened my understanding of ethics, governance and human potential. Today, I teach those same principles to future officers at the U.S. Naval Academy.



These experiences have given me the insight and conviction to contribute to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) at a critical moment. I am committed to working collaboratively and productively with the IPC Governing Board to advance the Paralympic Movement across five key areas:



1.**Protect the Prestige of the Podium: Trust in Classification**

The credibility of Para sport depends on a classification system that is trusted, consistent, and transparent. I applaud the implementation of the 2025 IPC Classification Code and its accompanying International Standards. But rules alone are not enough—we must socialize the system, educate stakeholders and ensure that cases of intentional misrepresentation are addressed with integrity. Classification cannot be a mystery; it must be a foundation of fairness and pride. Trust in this system requires open, honest and continual dialogue between the IPC, NPCs, and sport federations. As a member of the Governing Board, I will listen first, then work tirelessly to improve the classification system, and earn trust.

2.**Drive Participation: Expand Global Access Through Strategic Partnerships**

Para sports' global reach is one of our greatest strengths and responsibilities. IPC development programs have touched lives in over 130 countries, but vast disparities remain. I believe we can dramatically expand participation by strategically leveraging major commercial markets—particularly in the U.S in the lead up to the Los Angeles 2028 and Salt Lake 2034 Paralympic Games—and by deepening the partnership between the IPC and the IOC. A renegotiated agreement that reflects the full value of the Paralympic brand could unlock new levels of visibility, investment, and alignment. By maximizing commercial value and reinvesting in emerging NPCs, we can strengthen the entire global fabric of the Movement.

3.**Strengthen Governance: Integration and Integrity**

Good governance is not a luxury—it is the foundation of sustainable success. As a leader in U.S. sport reform, I helped integrate Para sport governance within National Federations, creating unified and accountable structures. I will bring this experience to the IPC to support reforms that promote transparency, institutional integrity, and athlete empowerment. Governance must evolve to meet our values: ethical leadership, equity, and accountability at every level.

4.**Advance Equity and Inclusion: Pipelines, Not Just Pathways**

Equity is not a box to be checked—it is an essential value at the moral core of our Movement. While we rightly celebrate progress such as increased gender parity in sport, structural barriers still limit full inclusion, especially for women with disabilities, athletes with intellectual disabilities, and individuals from underrepresented nations. I will champion the building of athlete pipelines that are inclusive by design, expanding access to coaching, leadership, and visibility across all segments of the disability community. Inclusion is not a destination. It is the measure of our progress.

5.**Re-conceptualize Success: Holistic Athlete Excellence and Well-Being**

The pursuit of gold must never come at the cost of human dignity. I am thrilled to see that across the Olympic and Paralympic Movement we are now redefining success to include holistic well-being—supporting athletes throughout their lifecycle with mental health resources, educational opportunities, and post-competition pathways. I will champion this vision with the IPC: a model of athlete excellence that honors the whole person and aligns with our mission to make the world a better place through sport. The flourishing of the athlete is the triumph of the world!

The Paralympic Movement has changed my life, and given me a renewed identity, a global community and the chance to serve a movement that is truly making the world a better place. My gratitude and appreciation for the Paralympic Movement compels me to pay it forward.

As a servant leader, I will always listen first, then work tirelessly towards alignment and trust from all stakeholders. This begins by fostering deep and productive relationships with the IPC President and other Governing Board members, then by maintaining openness and transparency with all athletes and sport leaders. I will strive to be accessible and accountable to all.

Looking Ahead: Opportunities & Responsibilities

The coming years will be pivotal for our Movement. The U.S. stands poised to host multiple landmark international events:



SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH 2034
Olympic & Paralympic
Winter Games Host



Presenting a historic opportunity for visibility, growth, and global impact. I am uniquely positioned to unite stakeholders and ensure these Games are not only successful but truly transformational.

Beyond Competition: A Movement for Humanity

Para sport is more than just elite competition — it's a global movement rooted in dignity, inclusion, and excellence. Our bold vision:

IMPACT
1.2 BILLION
people with disabilities

INSPIRE
8 BILLION
people around the world

If we lead with integrity, act with resolve, and build partnerships grounded in purpose, these goals are within reach.



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