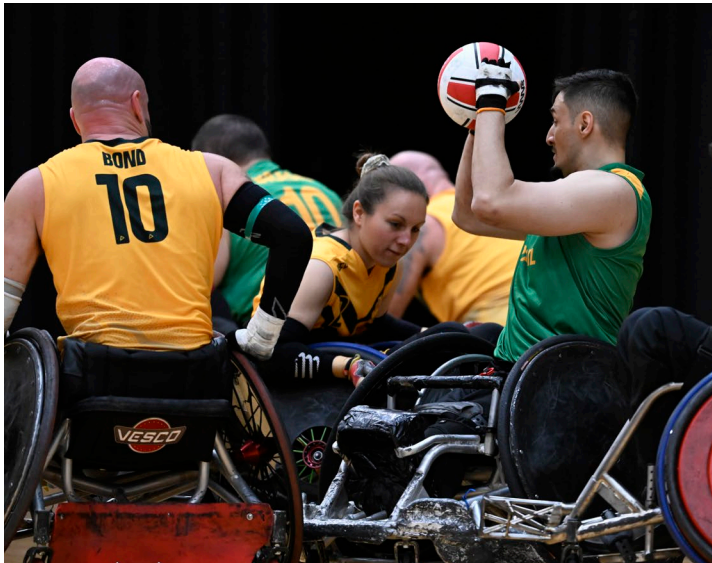


WORLD WHEELCHAIR RUGBY



2022

ANNUAL REPORT

HERE TO WIN

A year recovering from a Pandemic.



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President's message



Post pandemic

2022 may well be remembered for many aspects. It was very much a year of trying to revert back to normality following the pandemic that saw all of our lives change dramatically. As a sport and an organisation we continued to deal with the postponement of competition and the challenges this created. Highlighted best by our member nations not just hosting one European Championship but all three. An unprecedented situation. Achieved as always through the resilience of the people involved in our sport.

As I travelled to Paris on February 24th, news was breaking of the invasion of Ukraine and with the Russian team competing at our European Championship the situation required careful management throughout to ensure the security and safety of all athletes. Following the event, like many International Federations we addressed how we would deal with our Russian member organisation. The Board deliberated and a decision was provided in March to suspend the National Member Organisation in Russia.

A World Championship year

One of the highlights of the year was our World Championship event in Denmark. My first as President and was one of the first events that was delivered without postponement due to the pandemic. The host city of Vejle and the Local Organising Committee excelled and welcomed our twelve member teams to what I declared as the best Championship to date.

With thanks

In September, our Chief Executive Steve Griffiths departed WWR with a planned exit. Steve had been in the role since April 2020 and had led the organisation through the pandemic, taking the unwanted opportunity to shape the culture and many areas of governance that will see the organisation in good shape for many years to come. Steve's contribution to the sport will not be forgotten and he leaves not just with my huge thanks but all within the sport.

A special section within this 2022 review also looks at our inclusion in The World Games and my only reflection in this article was that I was unable to attend due to personal circumstances. This was an event that I had personally driven to support and promote the "Low Point Game". It was disappointing not to attend.

The year was concluded with our General Assembly which dealt with formal business and for the second time was held virtually. Not all business was concluded due to a lack of quorum but this was easily rectified with a postponement into January 2023.

I was re-elected into my second term of which this will be my final full four years. Whilst I can stand again this will only be for two years until 2028 in accordance with our statutes. Other elections that took place saw our long-standing Vice President Ken Sowden stepping down. Ken's commitment to the sport is second to none and he continues to be involved in rugby in his home country of New Zealand. Replacing Ken is a long-standing friend of the sport, Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca from Columbia. In addition, Gail Hamamoto was duly elected for her second term.

As a sport, wheelchair rugby continues to grow and develop however many of the same challenges exist in relation to capacity and funding not just for World Wheelchair Rugby but for many of our Member Nations. Something myself and the Board are acutely aware of and are prioritising how we look at our commercial activity. Something that I will commit to over my next term.

My thanks to all involved in the sport for your hard work and commitment.

Richard Allcroft
President of World Wheelchair Rugby

Executive Report



Summary

At the time of compiling the 2022 Annual Report, WWR did not have a chief executive in position and therefore no narrative is included. To mitigate against this, key performance indicators had been developed as part of the strategic plan review for both 2023 and 2024 and an operational plan developed.

Therefore, a list of items highlight some of the operational matters that were dealt with.

- Successful application of IPC Grant (non-competitive).
- Conference call with European nations. Independently facilitated as part of consultation regards competition structure.
- Discussions with Paris 2024 Sport Director reference venue layout and competition schedule.
- Managing WWRs position regards status of Russia's wheelchair rugby nation in regards to invasion of Ukraine.
- Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 "mid-term review with outcomes and reports posted on website – <https://worldwheelchair.rugby/about-wwr/>
- Representation at IPC Extraordinary General Meeting in Berlin.
- WWR Medical Symposium successfully delivered in partnership with Peter Harrison Centre, Loughborough University, UK.

Operational activity that relates to the technical elements of the sport takes place within the various working groups. This is highlighted in the following sections.

2022 Revenue & Expenditure (budget)

Summary relating to WWR's operational budget.

The following is provided as a visual representation of the "operational budget" that WWR approve on a yearly basis. At this stage of the organisation's growth, it is one way of providing information to our Membership and stakeholders. It provides transparency in how financial resources are being allocated.

WWR – a volunteer organisation

WWR is aware of the demands and commitments of its volunteer commitment. The financial value of time spent by officials, working groups, and all volunteers are significant albeit difficult to measure. The "in kind" value of volunteer time would be a significant addition to both revenues and expenditures on the financial statements.

It's important to note that in addition to these visual representations, WWR will also present "reviewed financial statements" as provided by its current "year-end accountants". 2022 and 2023 statements will be presented to the General Assembly in 2024.

The financial statements will also include and reflect revenue and expenditure that WWR receive from competition entry fees that are allocated to travel for technical officials to attend WWR Championship and licenced events. Any surplus from the event entry fee is reimbursed to the Member Nation/Local Organising Committee on completion of the event. Therefore, the revenue and expenditure will be comparable. As these payments can often fall within different financial years, the revenue and expenditure will balance over several years. These figures are included in the financial statements.

All figures presented are in US Dollars (USD\$)

Revenue

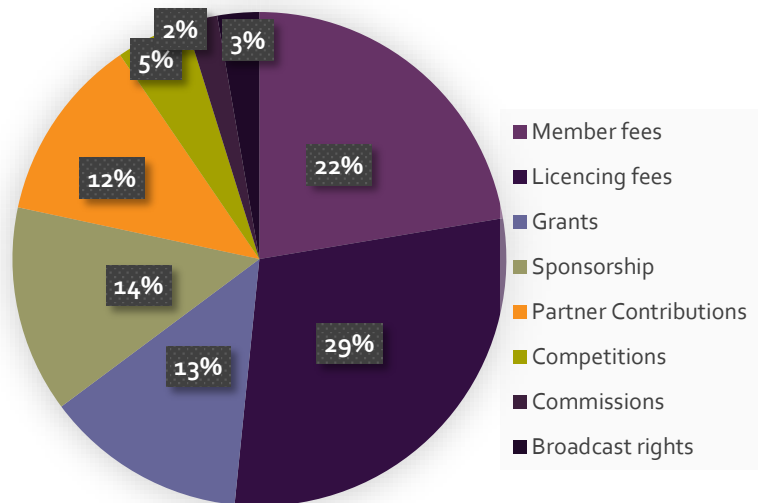
Revenues

Operational Revenue	182,672
<u>Competitions (entry fees)</u>	<u>190,000</u>
TOTAL	372,672

WWR receives a majority of its revenue directly through its National Member Organisations in the form of member and licensing fees. Grants, sponsorship and partner contributions combined contribute to the second major revenue stream.

Operational Revenue (by type)

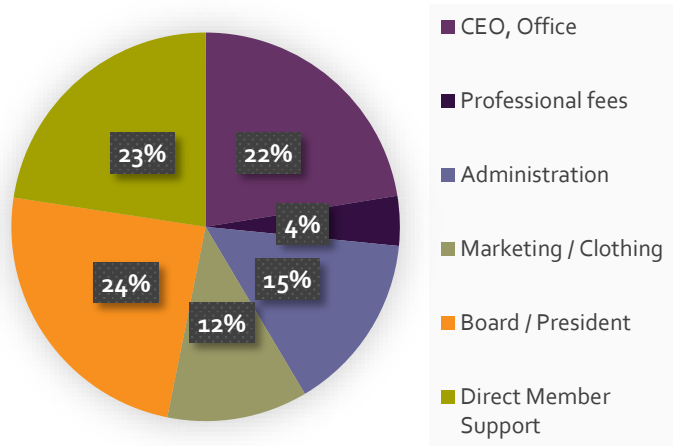
Member fees	40,836
Licencing fees	53,427
Grants	24,126
Sponsorship	24,750
Partner Contributions	22,106
Competitions	8,631
Commissions	3,796
<u>Broadcast rights</u>	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL	182,672



Expenditure.

Operational Expenditure

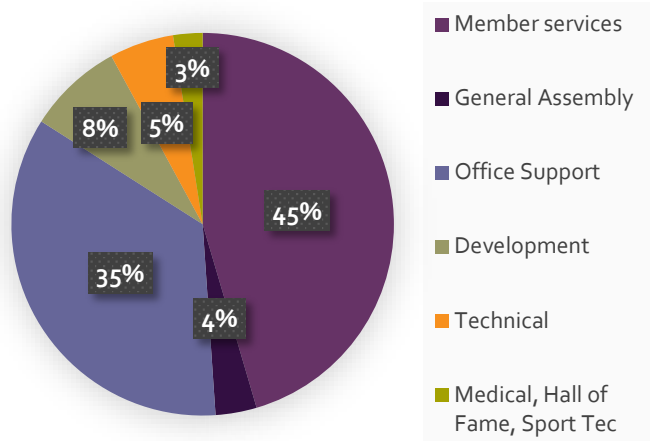
CEO, Office	43,071
Professional fees	7,930
Administration	28,582
Marketing / Clothing	22,459
Board / President	46,536
Direct Member Support **	43,355
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TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE	191,933



** Percentage of operational expenses allocated to direct member support

Direct Membership Support

Member services	19,703
General Assembly	1,507
Office Support	15,220
Development	3,492
Technical	2,356
Medical, Hall of Fame, Misc	1,077
<hr/>	
TOTAL DIRECT MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT	43,355



Totals and Net Profit.

Net Profit ¹

Total Operational Revenues	182,672
Total Competition Revenues ²	190,000
TOTAL REVENUE	372,672
Total Operational Expenditure	191,933
Total Competition Expenditure ²	145,210
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	337,143
Net profit	35,529
Net profit margin	10%

¹ Net profit is the profit (or loss) remaining after deducting all of an organisation's expenses from its revenue for the year. With respect to not-for profit entities such as WWR, it is a measure of cost control, of revenue generation, and of the sustainability and viability of the organization.

² Competition revenue and expenditure may differ as payments may be received or made in different financial years.

Development Working Group

A new role

WWR introduced a new position with Kathy Newman taking on the role of Director of Development and Competitions midway through the year in 2022. The purpose of the position is to support the heads in the various departments including competitions, development and coaching education as well as liaise with the other department heads. The Director of Development and Competitions focused on building stronger relations with the Regional General Managers and expanded the RGM's by breaking the Asia / Oceania Region in to two specific regions. The RGM's play a critical role in supporting the growth and development of wheelchair rugby globally and are often the first point of contact for new and emerging members.

Regional General Managers are:

- Juan Foa – Americas
- Clyde Holland – Africa
- Lauren Templeton – Europe
- Chris Nay – Oceania
- Rodney Holt – Asia

The RGM's have been working on coordinating clinics, increasing funding, meeting with new members, gathering information and data, increasing competitive opportunities and much more. Kathy Newman (she/her) Director Competitions & Development.

Important discussions started around increasing female participation in the WWR system. Female players gathered in Richmond, British Columbia at the Canada Cup to chat about their experiences in wheelchair rugby. WWR will continue to focus on this topic as we are committed to ensure growth in this area.



Competitions Working Group



A new lead

2022 was another busy one for the Competitions Working Group (CWG). I was appointed Lead of the Group as Kathy Newman was appointed to a new position of Director of Development and Competitions. Many thanks to Kathy for all her efforts when performing the role of Head of the CWG, this has been a significant investment by her and we should all be grateful for the work she does behind the scenes for WWR.

After the formal cancellation of the Asia-Oceania Championship, we supported the successful 2022 European Championship Division A and 2022 Americas Championship. It was a difficult period as Covid-19 impacted the ability to plan too far ahead. Both events showcased the sport well. Due to the impact of the pandemic the CWG agreed to combine the European Championship Division B and Division C and the event was held in Norway in late 2022.

A World Championship year...

Denmark hosted the World Championship in the city of Vejle and did an amazing job ensuring all areas of the sport were equally important from athlete experience, venue appearance, sports presentation and spectator involvement. I thoroughly enjoyed watching as many games as possible, especially those involving host Denmark. The atmosphere reminded me of my former days competing in front of sellout crowds and how this makes for an amazing spectacle. Congratulations to Australia, Coach Brad and the entire team for their well-deserved Gold medal performance. Many thanks must go to Torben Nygard and the LOC for their great work, and to Dawn Watson, Technical Delegate and Jon Corson, Assistant Technical Delegate for their efforts overseeing the event.

A new event.

We held the inaugural Low Point Championship as part of The World Games which was another success and much of this is due to the work of Bob Lopez, Technical Delegate for the event.

Planning and reviewing.

A significant area of work was related to the discussion, consideration and planning for the 2025-2028 Paralympic Cycle to coincide with the 2027 Rugby World Cup. It was very apparent

that aligning our World Championship with the Rugby World Cup is currently not as beneficial for members and the decision was made to maintain our current competition structure for the 2025-2028 Paralympic Cycle. This also coincided with the formal application for inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Paralympic Games. A substantial piece of work with a positive outcome. In January 2023 Wheelchair Rugby was officially confirmed as included in the 2028 Los Angeles Games programme.

We were however unsuccessful in obtaining inclusion in the 2026 Melbourne Commonwealth Games programme. This application was driven by WWR Regional General Manager, Chris Nay and we thank you and all who were involved in the application process.

There is also the ongoing oversight and appointment of Technical Delegates to Licensed events. We continue to facilitate the updating of the World Rankings, respond to a vast array and number of individual or member queries. As in years past, the CWG is continually reviewing all regulations. These were planned to be updated by end of 2022 however this will now be a focus for end of 2024, due to the extensive resource allocated to reviewing our general competition structure.

One of the final pieces of work for 2022 involved the recruitment of new CWG members. Dawn Watson resigned from her role on the CWG and there was another vacancy due to the change in role for Kathy Newman. Many thanks to all who applied as there was a lot of interest which resulted in the appointment of Jackie Patatas, Masumi Kinoshita and Adriana Rincon to the CWG. Many thanks as well to other CWG members including Stan Battock, John Timms and athlete Representative Andrew Edmonson.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the CWG for all their work in 2022. Without your support WWR would not be as successful an organisation as it is.

Yours in sport.

Tim Johnson
Head of the CWG

The World Games, July 2022



Birmingham, Alabama, USA

It was the first time that a sport for athletes with disabilities featured within The World Games.

The discipline that featured was "Low Point Wheelchair Rugby". Similar to the Paralympic discipline and featuring athletes who are classified with a 0.5 - 1.0 - 1.5 sports class.

Nations attended, (in order of final standings)

1. Great Britain
2. Japan
3. Germany
4. Canada
5. Switzerland
6. United States of America



Low Point Rugby

Low Point Wheelchair Rugby is a team sport for athletes of any gender with an impairment. The maximum classification points of any individual athlete must not exceed 1.5 and the total number of classification points on court at any one time must not exceed 3.5.



Classification Working Group

Classification Milestones 2022:

- Established new Technical Classifier role. First trainee internationally certified at World Championship in 2022.
- Completed update of Classification information on WWR website.
- Focus of classification research continues on Athletes with Co-ordination Impairment and Female Athletes.
- Continued participation in the IPC Classification Code Review.
- Commenced planning and secured funding for transitioning the WWR Classification Database to WWR's online Membership and Licensing System.
- Developed online classification information package for coaches and team staff. This has been published on the WWR website.
- Developed online workshops for classifier education and training

Classification Research publications:

Viola C. Altmann, Brenda E. Groen, Sascha Groeneweg, Gonnie van der Weijde & Noël L.W. Keijsers (2021) Validation of new measures of arm coordination impairment in Wheelchair Rugby, *Journal of Sports Sciences*, 39:sup1, 91-98, DOI: 10.1080/02640414.2021.1882731

Classification Activity 2022:

Classification Events	7
Athletes Classified	146
NE athletes	5
CNC athletes	0
Protests	16
Appeals	0
Active Classifiers	60

Classification Working Group:

- WWR Head of Classification (Greg Ungerer AUS)
- Zonal Head of Classification – Americas (Patricia Beckwith ARG)
- Zonal Head of Classification – Asia/Oceania (Jacques Erasmus SAF)
- Zonal Head of Classification – Europe (Izabela Sauerbier POL)
- WWR Athlete Database Manager (Binnie O'Dwyer NZL)
- WWR Head of Classification Research (Viola Altmann NED)
- WWR Education/Certification Portfolio (Julie Bakke CAN)
- Member at Large (Anne Hart USA)
- Athlete Representative (Jens Sauerbier GER)

Technical Working Group



Staffing

Successfully staffed ITO's for the Following events:

1. AZ Champs in Medellin, Columbia (11 ITO's)
2. European Champs Paris, France (11 ITO's)
3. European Qualifier Norway (16 ITO's)
4. TWG Low Point Birmingham, Alabama (9 ITO's)
5. Canada Cup, Vancouver, Canada (12 ITO's)
6. WWR Championship, Denmark (22 ITO's)

TWG implemented the following:

1. Rules Change policy implemented
2. All licensed ITO's registered in the MALS system

TWG projects in process:

1. development of an updated 360 process
2. updates to hand signals
3. updates to casebook
4. updates to evaluation manual and candidate application process
5. updates to rules
6. update and adoption of ITO travel policy
7. updates to table official's manual
8. updates to organizational chart for TWG to include job descriptions