



WWR

World Wheelchair Rugby

2024 Annual Report



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Here to Win

President's message

Dear Member Nations, colleagues, partners and all within the wheelchair rugby family,

As I reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and optimism for the future of our sport. The year has been marked by significant achievements and the unwavering dedication of the wheelchair rugby family. My message and this report highlight the amazing work we do with very limited financial resources. It's important that our successes are highlighted.

It is of course prudent to highlight the challenges that WWR, the sport globally and the individuals involved face. Our inclusion within the Paralympic Games is important, it promotes our sport in a way that is currently not realistic to replicate within a four-year Summer Games cycle.

The cost for inclusion is not insignificant. The demand that a major event expects is serviced through partnerships and organisations such as the OCOGs and the International Paralympic Committee. WWR provide the sport specific expertise through a multitude of positions that are voluntary. A simple analysis showed that 2300 hours of human resource was required just for the preceding 12 months leading up to and during Paris 2024. Many more hours were committed to for the three years prior. WWR as an International Federation received no funding to enable this.

A Paralympic Games has two fundamental products, the athletes and the sports. There are significant revenues being generated with the Games and it is surely time for all organisations involved to look at how this can improve. The long-term sustainability of WWR (and I imagine we are not the only Federation to feel this) is at risk if investment is not diverted where it can support athletes and the volunteers.

I know that with investment from companies, prospective partners and foundations we can achieve much more together, and that there can be mutual benefit from productive partnerships.

We have seen remarkable progress in increasing female participation, thanks to the tireless efforts of Kathy Newman and the Female Task Group. Their commitment to creating equitable opportunities within wheelchair rugby is inspiring and essential for the growth of our sport.

WWR with myself are committed to supporting these initiatives and ensuring that every athlete, has the chance to participate.



We have focused on education and development and through the future collaboration with the World Academy of Sport, we have established an ambitious 10-year Education Plan. Within this is a focus on

developing coach educators. One of our roles must be to develop coaching skills within our nations. In addition, looking at how we can develop future technical officials.

In the first half of the year, we looked at succession planning for two of our Heads of Working Groups. Darren Roberts had been leading the Technical Working Group since 2018. My thanks to him as he moved onto an exciting new opportunity with his personal professional career.

Greg Ungerer had overseen classification for over 12 years, taking the sport and its classification process through many reviews and maintaining compliancy with the IPC Code. My thanks to them for their commitment throughout, and I wish them both good luck.

Stan Battock and Jacques Erasmus, took on the roles of technical and classification respectively and I know the working groups are in good hands.

I continue to work operationally to manage the areas of business that are not dealt with by our working groups. The appointment of John Timms as a part time Operations Manager has helped both me and the organisation in these important matters.

None of what we do as a sport and a business would be possible without the passion and dedication of our volunteers and partners. Their hard work and commitment are the driving force behind our achievements, and I am deeply grateful for their contributions.

I know we can continue to work together, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can ensure that our sport not only thrives but is an inspiration for the future.

Richard Allcroft O.B.E

WWR President

- ❑ Task Team formed with Terms of Reference.
- ❑ Monthly meetings start with guest speakers
- ❑ Social media plan is formed.
- ❑ Data collected & collated to create a “benchmark” to measure success.
- ❑ Women’s Cup confirmed and hosted in Paris in November. Presentation’s take place.
- ❑ Develop basis of a strategic framework in consultation with Task Team and other key people.
- ❑ Research provided to support a change to the International Rules.
- ❑ Symposium is hosted in Canada with launch of Playbooks in early 2025 as the outstanding outcome.
- ❑ Ambassador Program launched with national ambassadors to advocate for women in wheelchair rugby.

Increasing female participation



Education and development

- ❑ World Academy of Sport partnership established.
- ❑ Education Plan developed and approved.
- ❑ Education sessions in Bali delivered including officiating, classification and coaching. Supported by an IPC grant.
- ❑ Head of Coaching developed a delivery model, so nations have a clear understanding of what is required to run a coaching clinic.
- ❑ Coaching Curriculum Advisory Group recruited and appointed.



WWR Education Plan
“Empowering development through accessible education.”

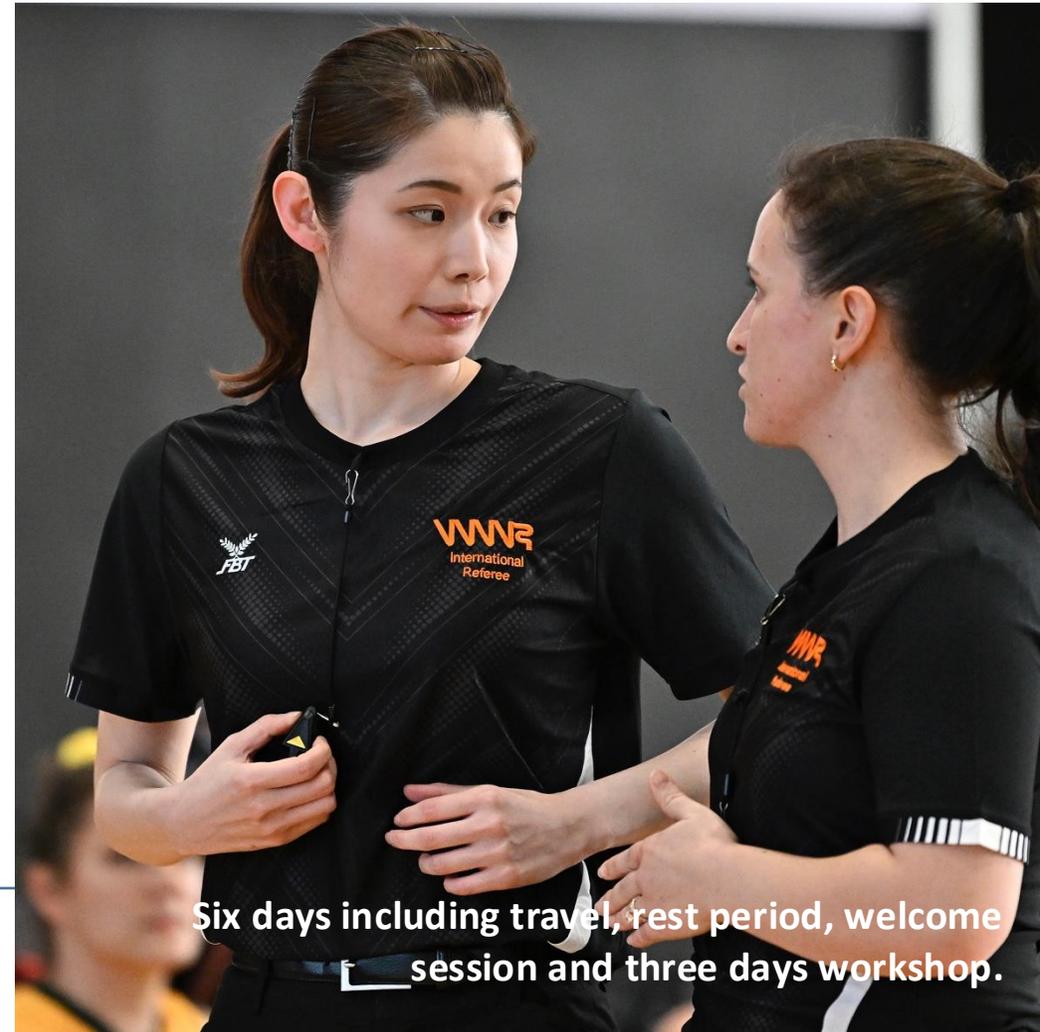
WWR run an administrative service in Sheffield, United Kingdom and the city welcomed the Heads of Working Groups and the President to develop ideas that fed into the next strategic phase.

Day 1 – Education

To develop strong partnerships that will enable WWR to deliver high quality educational programmes globally

- ❑ Introduction to World Academy and an outline of the partnership
- ❑ Curriculum Advisory Groups will be developed to create and ensure appropriate content.
- ❑ Greg Woods, International Relations and Jock Peggie, Head of Education from World Rugby attended .

Heads of Working Groups in-person meeting



Six days including travel, rest period, welcome session and three days workshop.



Sheffield, England | June 2024

Back row left to right:
Joe Elliott, Admin. Kathy Newman, Development. Stan Battock, Technical. Jaques Erasmus, Classification. Greg Ungerer, Classification. Alison Bridge, Admin. John Timms, Operations Manager

Front row left to right:
Rob Tarr, Coaching. Richard Allcroft, President. Tim Johnson, Competitions

Day 2 – Competition Structure

How can we provide an affordable and meaningful competition pathway leading into our Championship events that supports developing Nations.

- Reviewed membership structure including fees. Allow Affiliate members to obtain ranking points.
- Reviewed event licensing and world ranking.
- Developed rule change ideas for implementation in January 2025.
- WWR online system was presented and demonstrated.

Heads of Working Groups in-person meeting

Day 3 – Female participation

Global alignment on a shared vision for the future of increased female participation and successful pursuit of excellence in the sport of wheelchair rugby.

- Presentation of ideas to consult and survey the sport about increasing female participation.
- Move forward with a rule change proposal for women classified 2.0 and above. The rationale was based on evidence-based data.
- WWR Office to support social media campaign to be launched July 2024 – Women’s Wednesday.

**Congratulations to Japan,
first time Paralympic gold medalists.**



Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

29 August - 2 September

- ❑ 8 teams
- ❑ 20 games
- ❑ 5 days
- ❑ 2016 tries
- ❑ 142 turnovers
- ❑ 147 steals
- ❑ 33 strong management & officiating team [website](#)
- [article](#)
- ❑ WWR dedicated media and photographer
- ❑ Partner and stakeholder hosting programme

1. Japan 🏆
2. USA 🥈
3. Australia 🥉
4. Great Britain
5. France
6. Canada
7. Denmark
8. Germany

2024 featured a series of exciting international tournaments across multiple countries.

Spain kicked off the year with a victory at the International Wheelchair Rugby Tournament, defeating Poland in a thrilling final.

The 2024 WWR Paralympic

Qualification Tournament in New Zealand saw Australia, Canada and Germany secure spots for the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

In Denmark, the USA won the Musholm Cup, while Japan triumphed at the Quad Nations in Wales.

Japan also claimed the Canada Cup, before dominating at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.



2024 events

The European Championship Division B in Finland saw Poland top the podium.

Colombia won the 4 Nações Sul Americanas tournament, and the year concluded with the Women's Cup in Paris, where Team Energie emerged victorious.

Throughout the year, tournaments helped refine team strategies, fostered regional growth, and provided athletes with valuable competition on their pathway to WWR World Championship or Paralympic Games.

Governance and organisational business

- ❑ Membership calls took place in March & August.
- ❑ Independent judiciary system is functioning and was able to deal with 3 Members right to appeal.
- ❑ Disciplinary officer appointed 2nd quarter.
- ❑ Professional Indemnity insurance has been evaluated and will be implemented in 2025 for WWR volunteers.
- ❑ Travel insurance in place for WWR appointed officials / volunteers.
- ❑ Anti-doping – organisation removed from WADA watchlist by the end of 2nd quarter. Thanks to IPC & World Rugby for technical guidance.
- ❑ Appointment of an Anti-Doping Manager in 3rd quarter.
- ❑ Creation of the TUE Committee.
- ❑ General Assembly and conference held in Prague following successful Expression of Interest.





A summary and narrative of the 2024 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 Members and stakeholders. It provides transparency in how financial resources are being allocated.

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". 2024 and 2025 statements will be presented to the General Assembly in 2026.

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.

As these payments can often fall within different financial years, the revenue and expenditure will balance over financial years. These figures are included in the financial statements.

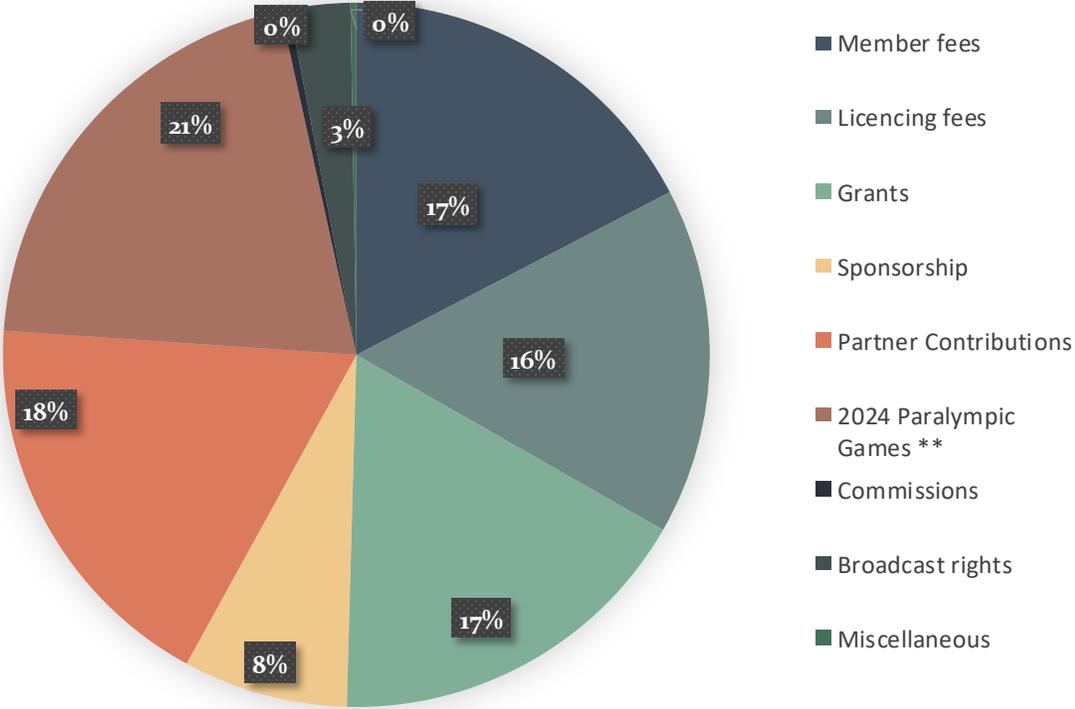
All figures presented are in US Dollars (USD\$)



WWR – an organisation of dedicated volunteers

WWR Budget analysis | revenue

Operational Revenue (by type)



** 2024 as a Paralympic year included revenue for travel and site visits

REVENUES	
Operational Revenue	265,042
Competitions Revenue (entry fees)	159,550
TOTAL	424,592
Operational Revenue (by type)	
Member fees	46,000
Licencing fees	42,211
Grants	45,457
Sponsorship	20,000
Partner Contributions	48,005
Competitions **	54,266
Commissions	1,005
Broadcast rights	7,389
Miscellaneous	709
TOTAL	265,042

WWR Budget narrative | revenue

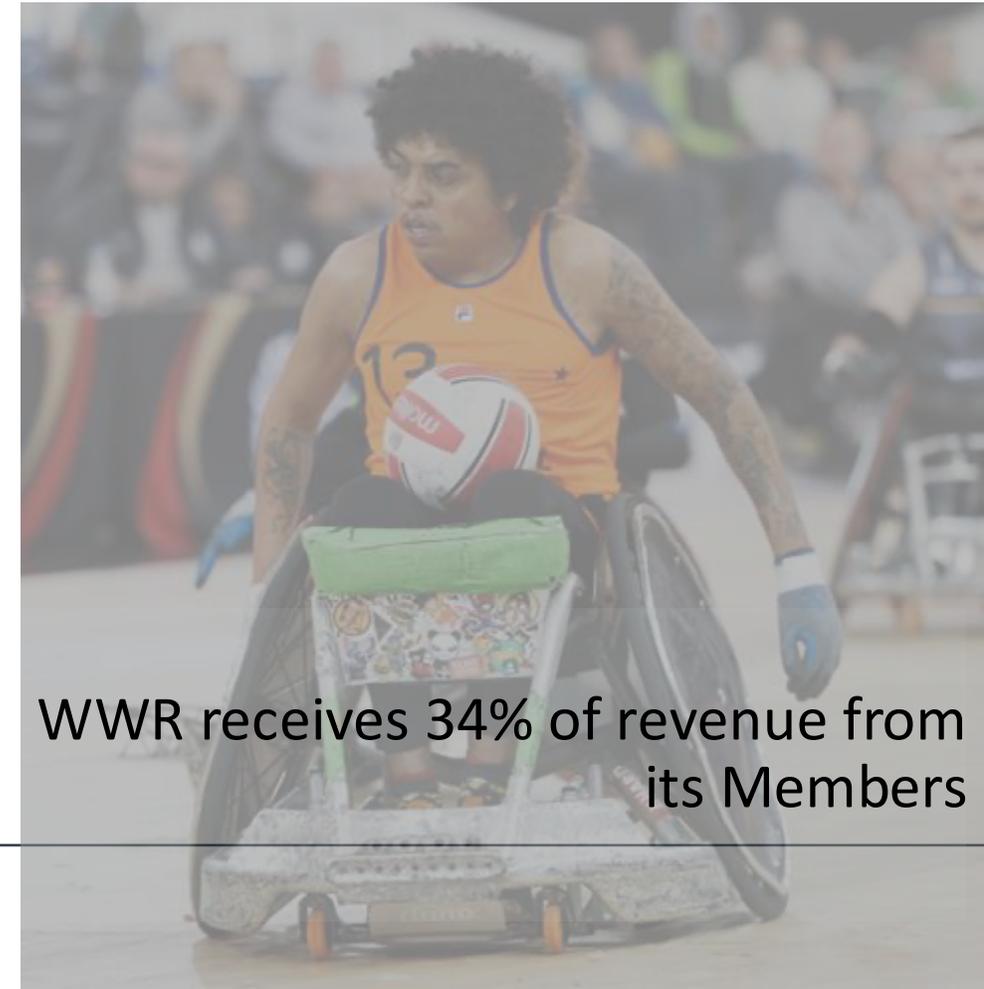
Competition Revenues (includes reference to expenditure)

WWR collect an entry fee for its Championship events. These are used to cover the cost of flights for technical officials with the balance reimbursed to the organising committee completion of the event. This is why the revenue and expenditure are very similar. The small difference in 2024 was due to a nation dropping out and some of the event entry fee being retained.

Operational Revenues

WWR receives 34% of its revenue directly through its National Member Organisations in the form of member and individual licensing fees (17% + 16%).

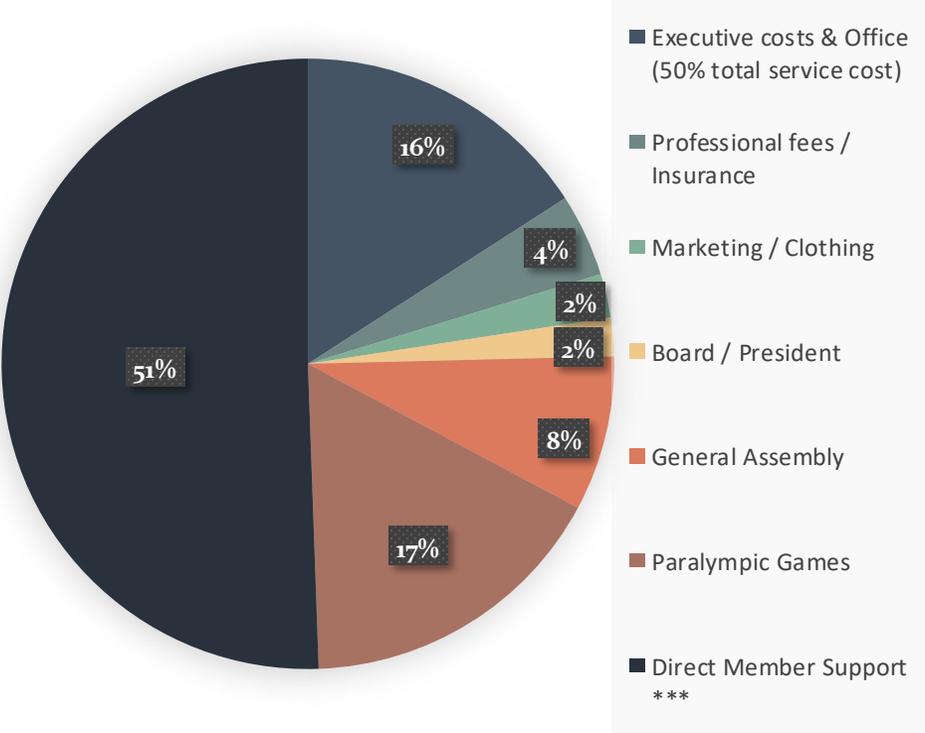
Grants, sponsorship and partner contributions combined contribute to 43%, as the second major revenue stream.



WWR receives 34% of revenue from its Members

WWR Budget analysis | expenditure

Total Operational Expenditure



*** Direct Member support is covered in more detail next

EXPENDITURE	
Executive & Office (50% total service)	52,694
Professional fees / Insurance	14,545
Marketing / Clothing	7,715
Board / President	6,777
General Assembly	27,244
Paralympic Games	55,184
Direct Member Support ***	167,891
Total Operational Expenditure	332,049

WWR Budget narrative | expenditure

The WWR Board agreed to a deficit budget for 2024. One of the main reasons was due to a healthy surplus in 2023. It was felt that the sport would welcome some investment.

An in-person Membership conference and General Assembly as well as an opportunity for the board and its working groups to meet was planned for November 2024.

Comprehensive travel insurance was also implemented to support and protect our volunteer officials and staff.

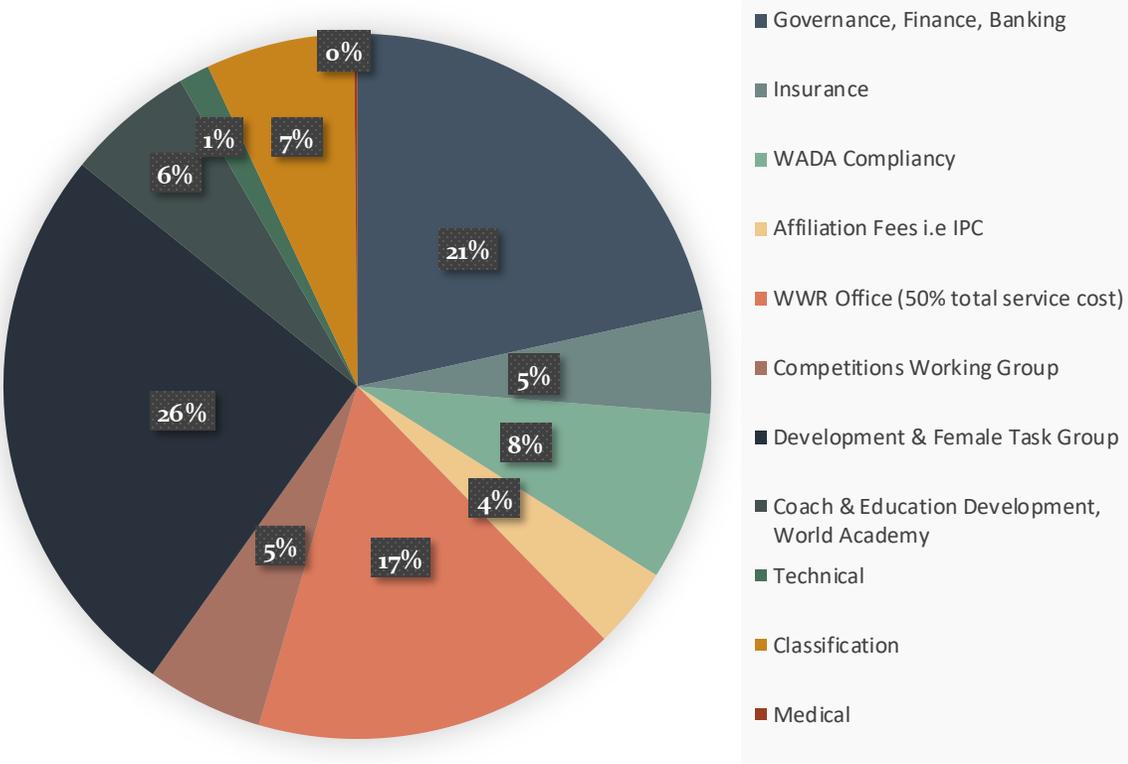
An Operations Manager continued to provide leadership and support to the working groups and to try and reduce some of the operational commitments that were being covered by the President



investing in governance and
development

WWR Budget analysis | expenditure

Direct Member Support Expenditure



Direct Member Support ***	
Governance, Finance, Banking	36,132
Insurance	7,935
WADA Compliancy	13,009
Affiliation Fees i.e IPC	6,230
WWR Office (50% total service cost)	28,180
Competitions Working Group	8,929
Development & Female Task Group	43,664
Coach & Education Development, World Academy	9,813
Technical	2,356
Classification	11,393
Medical	250
Total Direct Membership Support	167,891

This is a breakdown of the "direct member support" line from the total operational expenditure

WWR Budget narrative | expenditure

The figures provided provides more detail for what is presented as “direct member support”. As a membership organisation, WWR’s ultimate commitment is to its Member Nations and therefore everything we aim for should be for the benefit of members.

For governance and finance, the cost of banking internationally is not cheap (circa 15K).

In addition, our Membership and Licencing System continues to help with how we manage individual licencing and event entry.

Compliance with the World Anti Doping Agency requires strict management and WWR now have an Anti Doping Manager. In addition, is the requirement for out of competition testing and storage of samples.

The support of the WWR Office, as direct member support is presented as 50%

Development. A clinic in Bali, Indonesia took place in October 2024. The female task group created a “playbook” to support strategies to increase female participation.

19% of the allocation was spread across WWR Working Groups

Totals and Net Profit / Loss	
Total Operatonal Revenue	265,042
Total Competition Revenues	159,550
Total Revenue	424,592
Total Operatonal Expenditure	332,049
Total Competition Expenditure	154,480
Total Expenditure	486,529
Net Loss	(61,937)
Net Loss Margin	-15%

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, revenue generation and of the sustainability and viability of the organisation.



Thank you to all who contribute to our sport.

World Wheelchair Rugby is domiciled in Switzerland and regarded as an “Association” under Swiss law, with its address being:

World Wheelchair Rugby, c/o World Academy of Sport,
Switzerland Sàrl, Route Suisse 8A, 1163 Etoy

Enterprise Identification Number UID - CHE-471.375.823

All active companies in Switzerland are given a standardised business identification number (UID).

[click here](#)

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