



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

"Growth in Asia
& creating the Education Plan."



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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

This report summarises the principal activity, progress and priorities of the Federation during 2025 across finance, development, competition, governance, education, coaching and technical officials.



COMPETITION

Competition activity in 2025 included delivery and approval of international events and development of the wider competition structure.

New International Rules had been introduced and were trialled throughout 2025. These were the first major rule changes implemented since the introduction of the 40 second clock after the Beijing Paralympic Games.

The philosophy and principles used to develop sport technical changes included:

1. Increase opportunities for turnovers
2. Elevate the value of defence
3. Enhance spectator experience

In addition another Rule change was part of other initiatives that are being developed to increase female participation. The change was based on evidence-based research that would consider strength difference between male and female with unaffected and partially affected muscles.



COMPETITION

The European Championship Division A in the Netherlands was delivered successfully to a very high standard by Team TOC. It was the first event held under the new rule changes and included a structured feedback process developed by the Technical Working Group. The Federation also welcomed a partnership with Loughborough University to support qualitative and objective assessment of the rule changes affecting female athletes.



The European Championship Division C in Norway was approved, reflecting the Federation's expanded competition pathway and the inclusion of South Africa within the European Zonal structure.

COMPETITION

The Americas Championship took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil in July. Brazil achieved their highest ever zone championship placing which is testament to the development of the sport within their country. The event was held at the Brazilian Paralympic Training Centre, a national facility for all Paralympic disciplines. This will also be the venue for the 2026 WWR World Championship.

This was the first time that eight teams attended the WWR Americas Championship which shows the increased investment in the sport in South America has been fruitful. Congratulations to Peru for their first international attendance at a licensed event.



Credit: ABRC

COMPETITION

The Asia Oceania Championship took place in Bangkok in November. It saw the inclusion of new and upcoming nations within the zone such as the host team Thailand and the first time for Malaysia competing internationally.



COMPETITION

Planning also progressed for the European Para Championships, with a host city secured and an event window confirmed for 2–15 August 2027. This represents an important multisport opportunity for wheelchair rugby.

Competition systems were further strengthened through a revision of the world ranking system, developed following extensive work by Tim Johnson, Chair of the Competitions Working Group.

The revised system provides a clearer, fairer picture of international performance and helps ensure rankings reflect the sport's evolving competitiveness. The changes were based on consultation with the membership following in-person workshops.



DEVELOPMENT

Development remained a strategic priority throughout 2025, with particular emphasis on the Asian region, women's participation and the inclusion of emerging nations.

WWR signed "The Brighton plus Helsinki Declaration" a leading global framework designed to advance gender equality in sport and physical activity, reinforcing the Federation's commitment to equity across athletes, officials, classifiers and leaders. In March, WWR launched a gender equity strategy with resources designed to provide practical guidance for national members and the wider sport system. These are provided in English and French.

To support growth in new regions, membership grants were provided to approximately eight countries, enabling their participation in the official WWR competition system. This initiative is expected to strengthen future regional championships and support broader global development.

The Federation also advanced planning for a women's discipline pathway within the Paralympic movement and continued to work with partners to identify evidence-based approaches to increasing women+ participation.

A feature is included in the Annual Report on the development clinic that took place in Malaysia in May.



TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Technical official development remained a core operational priority in 2025. Work continued on appointments for Technical Delegates, including efforts to achieve greater gender equity across TD and assistant TD roles at major events.

John Timms was appointed as LA28 IF Delegate, and an appointment process was developed to address the challenge of identifying suitable personnel for international appointments.

The Classification Working Group worked to update its Classification Rules to align with the IPC 2025 Classification Code and Standards. The new code introduced compliance priorities that are to be completed by Paralympic International Federations.

The Classification Evaluator role proved valuable in training, mentoring and maintaining consistency among classifiers. The Federation also identified the need to consider Minimum Impairment Criteria for athletes with Passive Range of Motion impairment, as participation in this impairment type increases.

Master List extraction and the WWR online system called MALS was nearing completion, improving the Federation's ability to provide member nations with accurate and regularly updated records.



EDUCATION PLAN - “EMPOWERING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION”

Our Education Plan continued its development in partnership with the World Academy of Sport (WAoS). The first online course went live - Wheelchair Rugby Ready, was developed as a five-module online course covering introduction to the sport, coaching, health and safety, officiating and classification.

Although the planned launch was delayed, the expected release moved to early August 2025. Technical and classification content required additional time due to volunteer capacity constraints, but the partnership remained productive.

WAoS also supported familiarisation with the CENSEO digital platform, helping people within the Federation build the infrastructure needed for future online education delivery. WWR Office are supporting the upload of course content.



COACHING

Coaching development progressed under Head of Coaching, Rob Tarr, who established a Curriculum Advisory Group and worked with W AoS to advance a Level 2 Coaching Course.

WWR also explored the creation of video-based learning resources to support multilingual delivery and improve accessibility for international audiences. This approach was intended to reduce barriers created by live translation and to strengthen the quality of coaching education materials. These are aimed to be launched in 2026.

South Africa Coaching Clinic – February 2025



South Korea Coaching Clinic – September 2025



GOVERNANCE

Governance work in 2025 focused on strengthening organisational capacity, improving WADA and IPC Classification Code compliancy, and preparing for key decisions affecting the future structure of the Federation.

The Board co-opted Ruth Momanyi from Kenya as an Independent Director for finance and risk management affairs.

Work continued on a proposal to improve organisational capacity with additional support from World Rugby, focusing on competition, development and education. Planning for this was scheduled to continue into 2026.

Discussions also continued on a strategic plan for the future direction of the sport, with the Board having sight of a near-final draft. The plan will be in place for a four year cycle covering 2026 – 2029.



GOVERNANCE

The Federation held a Special Assembly in November 2025, with Members approving the appointment of new auditors, changes to the Statutes to allow affiliate members to compete internationally, and the admission of 10 new affiliate members. These changes marked a significant step in broadening membership and competition access.

Whilst this may not be viewed as the traditional model for developing grassroots programmes, WWR took the initiative to make changes with the hope that we will see growth within the sport.

1. Peru
2. Paraguay
3. Uruguay
4. Turkey
5. Malaysia
6. Indonesia
7. Timor-Leste
8. Singapore
9. India
10. Ghana

Welcome to the wheelchair rugby family.



FINANCE

WWR reported a manageable financial position during 2025, with year-to-date performance broadly in line with budget and a forecast deficit that remained within planned levels. Spending was lower than forecast in some areas, largely due to limited capacity within working groups to fully deploy allocated budgets.

Financial work included consideration of a new revenue model to strengthen long-term sustainability. This included the introduction of event entry fees to help fund the delivery of international events and associated WWR personnel costs, while maintaining registration fees at Local Organising Committee level for accommodation, transport and related services. The Board also considered opportunities to improve returns on cash reserves and to explore banking benefits such as cashback facilities.

Tax liabilities continued to be reviewed, including the viability of tax exemption status. WWR progressed discussions with a potential new auditor to simplify annual account closure, improve tax documentation processes and support the financial review for General Assembly reporting.

A Special Assembly approved Guédon Révision SA1 as WWR auditors as per the WWR Statutes, A breakdown of the finances is provided as part of this report.

FINANCE

WWR 2025 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS REPORT
ANALYSIS OF REVENUE & EXPENDITURE (BASED ON
WWR 2025 BUDGET)

1. Executive Financial Summary & Key Metrics

ALL FIGURES ARE PROVIDED AS \$US DOLLAR

Financial Category	Revenue	Expenditure	Net Balance
Operational Activities	190,226.00	213,748.00	-23,522.00
Competitions (Entry Fees & Direct Costs)	191,485.00	186,381.00	5,104.00
TOTAL CONSOLIDATED	381,711.00	400,129.00	-18,418.00 (-4.83%)

FINANCE

2025 BUDGET NARRATIVE

Net Balance is the profit (or loss) remaining after deducting all of an organisation's expenditure 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 organisation.

The Board approved a deficit budget, recognising the importance of investing in areas such as development, education, female participation and working groups. The deficit is managed based on the organisation's cash assets and is reviewed on an annual basis. The Board ensure that there is a balance between investing in the sport as a not-for-profit organisation versus ensuring the organisation is financially sustainable and can support itself as an ongoing concern.

WWR receives a majority of its revenue directly through its National Member Organisations in the form of membership and licensing fees when combined. (24.2%+21.9%=46.1%).

Partner contributions contribute to the second major revenue stream i.e. IPC, World Rugby. The grant relating to member fees is value-in-kind to some new members. You will note that this is reflected directly in expenditure.

The revenue streams are considered stable and reliant within the short term current Paralympic cycle (2025-2028 inclusive). However, given that the organisation still remembers the impact of a pandemic, risk cannot be fully removed. Mitigation occurs through improved budget and financial management.

The cost of running an International Federation by providing important services is reflected in the expenditure categories.

FINANCE

DIRECT MEMBER SUPPORT

This has been presented with a more detailed breakdown to provide information for our member nations. It aims to highlight areas that are a direct service for the membership.

Governance, finance and banking may not be an obvious membership service but does reflect how we operate as a global organisation. It includes important areas such as international banking fees (including STRIPE) which are significant and relate to how we manage entry fees, transfer money for events and deal with currency fluctuations. The provision of a Membership and Licensing System is central to how we engage with and manage matters relating to membership or events.

Other services include website, technology and shipping.

The WWR Office expenditure has been split with a reasonable estimate and allocated 50% to direct membership support. As highlighted above, it manages the majority of membership communication as well as significant support across all of the event delivery, social media, development projects, technology platforms and working groups.

The grant relating to member fees is value-in-kind to some new members. WADA Compliancy covers the oversight and management of our anti-doping programme as well as out of competition testing. In-competition testing is covered by local organising committees as part of WWR event contracts and so does not feature within our budget.

Insurance policies are in place for three areas. Professional indemnity and Director & Officers indemnity provides good coverage for our independent judicial process, board directors as well as volunteer staff. Also, The first travel insurance policy for all volunteer technical officials and WWR volunteer staff and Board was implemented throughout 2025.

The remaining three categories cover coaching, education, female participation and competitions working group.

FINANCE

EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES (ADDITIONAL TO DIRECT MEMBER SUPPORT)

Executive costs relate to the President acting in an operational role (not salary), also supported by the Operations Manager (consultancy fee). Travel, accommodation and additional project costs that aren't specifically budgeted for are allocated to operational management and delivery.

The other 50% of costs relating to the WWR Office are included.

Following appropriate domicile arrangements being put in place in Switzerland at the end of 2020, inclusion on the Swiss Commercial Register and financial accounting being appropriately submitted, tax is now a cost that is being addressed. The expenditure covers multiple years across 2023, 2024 and 2025. It is forecasted to be lower in the future on an annual basis. Tax exemption is also being considered.

The remaining categories relate to board activity as well as a busy year for the President with a focus on the IPC General Assembly in Korea. There was a lot of activity throughout 2025 relating to IPC elections.

Revenue and expenditure related to "Competitions (Entry Fees & Direct Costs)" is explained within the financial statements section.

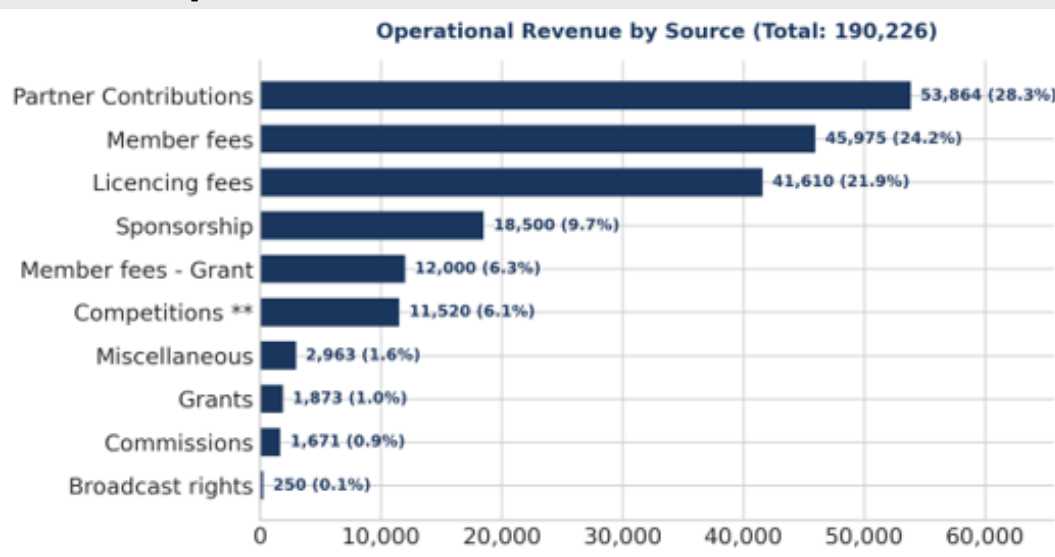
FINANCE

2. OPERATIONAL REVENUE ANALYSIS

Operational Revenue (by Type)

Category	Amount	Share
Partner	53,864.00	28.30%
Member fees	45,975.00	24.20%
Licencing fees	41,610.00	21.90%
Sponsorship	18,500.00	9.70%
Member fees -	12,000.00	6.30%
Competitions **	11,520.00	6.10%
Miscellaneous	2,963.00	1.60%
Grants	1,873.00	1.00%
Commissions -	1,671.00	0.90%
Broadcast rights	250	0.10%

Operational Revenue Structure



**** Made up of bid fees for licensed events
e.g. Worlds 2026, Zonal Championships.**

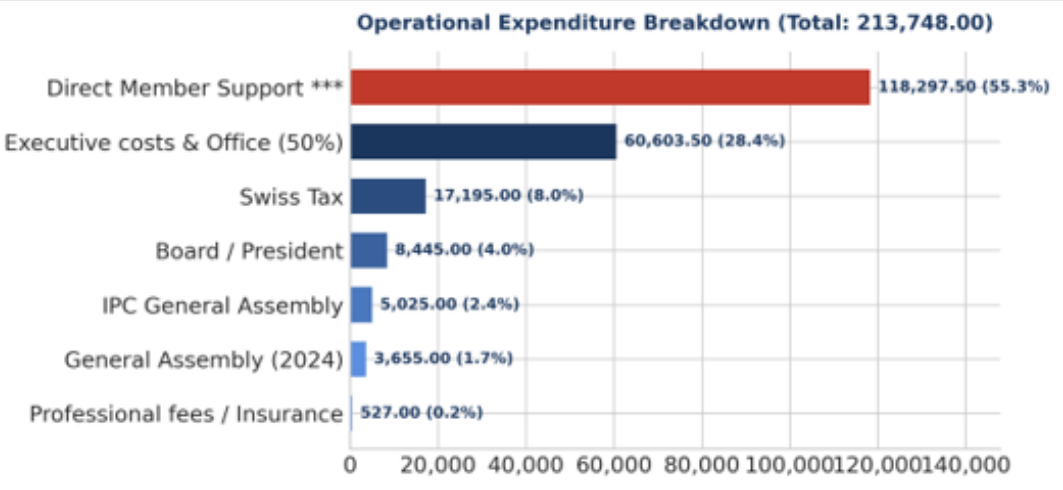
FINANCE

3. OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Operational Revenue (by Type)

Item	Amount	Share
Direct Member Support ***	118,297.50	55.30%
Executive costs & Office (50%)	60,603.50	28.40%
Swiss Tax	17,195.00	8.00%
Board / President	8,445.00	4.00%
IPC General Assembly	5,025.00	2.40%
General Assembly (2024)	3,655.00	1.70%
Professional fees / Insurance	527	0.20%
Marketing	0	0.00%

Operational Revenue Structure



FINANCE

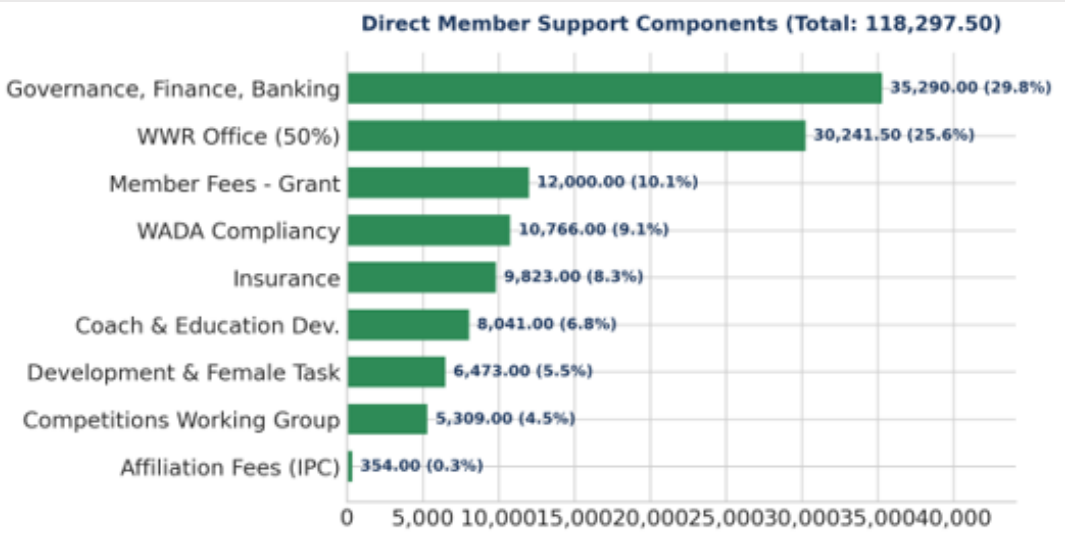
4. DIRECT MEMBER SUPPORT BREAKDOWN

*** Direct Member Support represents 55.34% of total operational expenditure (118,297.50 of 213,748.00)

Direct Member Support Components

Program / Item	Amount	Share
Governance, Finance, Banking	35,290.00	29.80%
WWR Office (50%)	30,241.50	25.60%
Member Fees - Grant	12,000.00	10.10%
WADA Compliancy	10,766.00	9.10%
Insurance	9,823.00	8.30%
Coach & Education Dev.	8,041.00	6.80%
Development & Female Task	6,473.00	5.50%
Competitions Working Group	5,309.00	4.50%
Affiliation Fees (IPC)	354	0.30%

Direct Member Support Distribution



FINANCE

It's important to note that in addition to these visual representations of the budget, 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.

In 2025 any surplus from the event entry fee is reimbursed to the Member Nation/Local Organising Committee on completion of the event. Therefore, the revenue versus expenditure in "Competitions (Entry Fees & Direct Costs)" is comparable with a net balance of \$5,104 (to be reimbursed in 2026). As these payments can often fall within different financial years (1st January to 31st December), the revenue and expenditure will balance over proceeding years.

CONCLUSION

2025 was a year of meaningful progress for wheelchair rugby internationally. WWR strengthened its governance, advanced inclusion and development priorities, improved competition systems, and continued building the foundations for education, to include coaching, classification and technical official support that will underpin growth in 2026 and beyond.

My thanks to our partners and sponsors for their commitment and passion in supporting WWR and the sport globally. World Rugby our sport partner, World Academy of Sport our education partner, . To our legal partners Hogan Lovells Cadwalader and CMS.

Also, our Paralympic partners, the International Paralympic Committee and the Association of Paralympic Sport Organisations.

As an organisation it continues to be challenged by the lack of paid human resource. It's incredible volunteer workforce deliver above and beyond. In a post-pandemic world, volunteer time appears to be even more precious. The ability to deliver projects often needs to take place over years rather than months.

It continues to be a privilege to serve the membership and be president of an amazing sport.

I hope you enjoy reading this review of 2025.

Yours in sport

Richard Allcroft
WWR President



World Wheelchair Rugby is a Swiss-based association construed under Swiss law.

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WWR operates an administration service which is based in the UK.

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