



IFCPF
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CP FOOTBALL

**Analysis of CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire Results
Supporting 2020 Paralympic Inclusion
Final Report
April 2015**

Analysis of CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire Results Supporting 2020 Paralympic Inclusion

Objective

To complete a review of the results from the CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire distributed by the International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF) to all member nations in February 2015, and demonstrate the compelling case for re-inclusion of CP Football on the Paralympic program for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games.

Executive Summary

The decision by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to not select the sport of CP Football to the Paralympic sport program for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games came as quite a surprise to the International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF), the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) and athletes, coaches, officials, classifiers, and volunteers who contributed to the growth and development of CP Football over many decades.

After reviewing the CP Football submission, the IPC ruled that CP Football did not achieve the required worldwide reach criteria outlined in the Paralympic Games eligibility guidelines. During debrief discussions, the IPC identified the perceived lack of worldwide reach as the key factor supporting their decision, and therefore the IFCPF immediately developed and circulated a CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire to all member nations in order to verify the status of all national team programs between 2011-2015. It was critical for all CP Football nations to work together to confirm the current state of their programs, in order to enable the IFCPF to advocate as strongly as possible with the IPC for the sport to be returned to the Paralympic sport program.

A total of thirty-five IFCPF member nations responded to the survey, and the data demonstrated growth in the number of nations widely and regularly practicing the sport, supported by a steady increase in the number of participating athletes (and particularly young athletes under the age of fifteen), the number of certified coaches, the formalization of athlete development pathways and the expansion of international competitive opportunities. There are currently 4210 athletes competing in CP Football worldwide, including more than 1000 athletes fifteen years of age or younger. These athletes are supported by 121 national team coaches and a further 657 active certified coaches within the CP Football system, and the health of the sport is further demonstrated by the presence of 370 CP Football club teams, currently providing regular competitive and practice opportunities for 3549 athletes. Finally, and most importantly, the IFCPF has verified that a total of 29 member countries across 5 regions have met the IPC's

widely and regularly practicing criteria, and therefore CP Football has met the team sport criteria to be eligible for selection to the sport program at the Paralympic Games.

Based on the updated information gathered through the Worldwide Reach Questionnaire, and given the significant growth identified in multiple regions, along with the enhanced capacity and strategic direction provided by the new international governance structure, the IFCPF believes CP Football clearly meets all required eligibility criteria and will bring this new information to the attention of the IPC.

Background

The IPC initiated the selection process for the sport program of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games in late 2013. At that time, both sports currently on the Paralympic program and new sports seeking to be added for the first time, had the opportunity to declare their interest, and then to submit a detailed initial application by Summer 2014. After selecting an initial sixteen sports, the IPC continued to work with the remaining eligible International Federations to review and clarify their applications, before then selecting an additional six sports to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic program in February 2015.

The decision to not select the sport of CP Football to the Paralympic sport program for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games came as quite a surprise to the International Federation of CP Football (IFCPF) and all of its member organizations.

Following extensive discussions with IPC staff to identify the key areas in which the sport of CP Football was considered to be failing to achieve the required eligibility standards for the Paralympic Games, the IFCPF immediately began to develop a strategy to address these areas to ensure the sport would regain Paralympic eligibility as soon as possible.

Given the IPC identified the failure of CP Football to achieve the required worldwide reach identified in the Paralympic Games eligibility guidelines as the key factor supporting their decision, the IFCPF immediately developed and circulated a CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire to all member nations. The questionnaire was intended to achieve two primary objectives; in the short-term, the provision of verified data regarding the status of CP Football programs around the world would enable the IFCPF to determine if the sport currently achieved the minimum worldwide reach criteria and potentially provide the grounds to revisit the IPC's decision regarding the 2020 sport program. In the longer term, the questionnaire will become a regular tool to enable the IFCPF to work more closely with its' members in order to monitor and support the development of the sport, and to identify potential development opportunities to ensure the sport will meet worldwide reach requirements for all future Paralympic Games.

The IFCPF is grateful to its' members for the timely and detailed response to the Questionnaire, and has identified a number of new details which they are requesting IPC to consider in re-evaluating CP Football's candidacy for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic sport program.

New Evidence Supporting the Selection of CP Football to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Program

The IPC Handbook includes the following key criteria for team sports to be eligible for selection to the sport program at the Paralympic Games:

- **Only team sports widely and regularly practised in a minimum of 24 countries and three (3) IPC regions will be considered for inclusion in the Paralympic Games.**
- **A country shall be considered as widely and regularly practising a sport or discipline if:**
 - **It has been holding recognised/sanctioned National Championships within the last four (4) years OR:**
 - **It has been competing with a national delegation in internationally recognised/sanctioned competitions on a regular basis within the last four (4) years.**

Football is the most widely practiced sport in the world, and CP Football has grown steadily in all regions around the world, particularly over the last decade. In total, there are now over 50 countries who have established some level of a domestic CP Football program, and the chart below illustrates how the pace of growth has dramatically increased within the last 5 years.

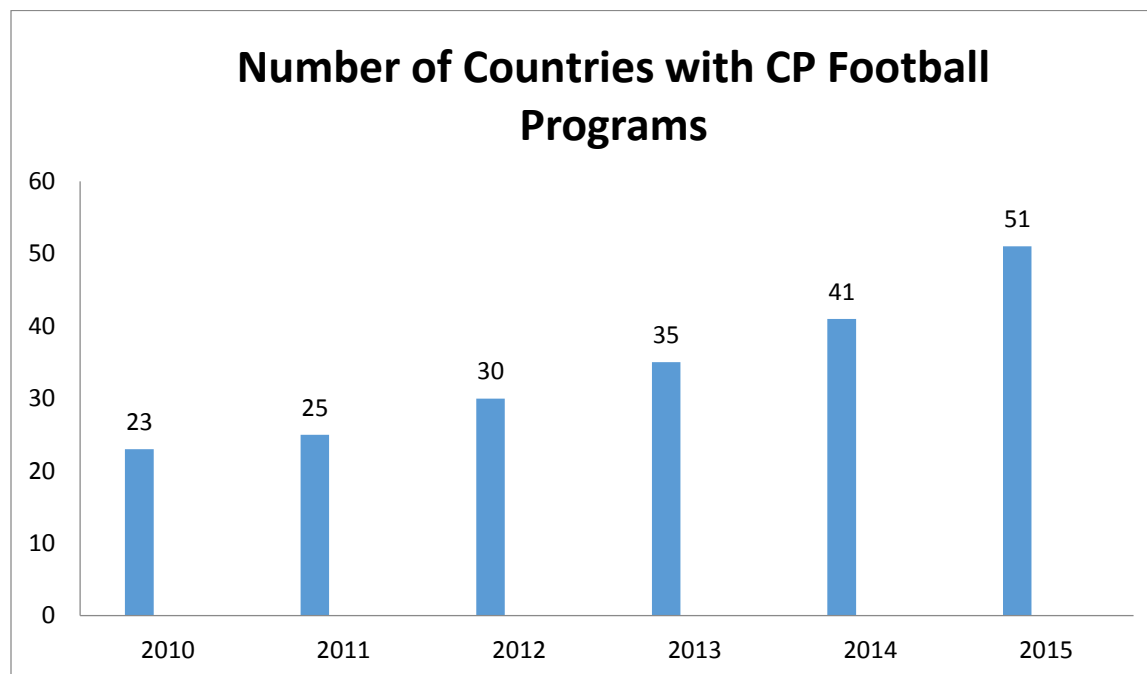


Figure 1 – Number of Countries with CP Football Programs

The Questionnaire

As the IFCPF, in consultation with its member organizations, drafts and implements plans to support the growth of CP Football around the world through the upcoming Development Strategy, it will ensure to balance the needs and requirements of nations currently competing at the international level, while also supporting the growth of CP Football within member nations who are currently focused on building the capacity of their domestic programs. This dual approach will ensure the ongoing growth and expansion of CP Football to benefit many future generations of Paralympians.

Of course, while the IFCPF is incredibly proud of the development of new programs around the world and will continue to invest to support the emergence of new member nations, they also recognize many of these countries do not yet meet the IPC requirements to be considered “widely and regularly practicing” the sport.

Due to this, as mentioned above, the IFCPF decided to distribute the Worldwide Reach Questionnaire to all member organizations in February 2015, in order to obtain the most accurate and current snapshot of the status of all international CP Football programs.

The questionnaire examined a wide variety of elements related to both the international and domestic components of national CP Football programs, including:

- Athlete participation numbers at the National Team, Junior National, National Development, Regional Development and Club Team level from 2011 to 2015
- Coach numbers and certification levels with both the National Team and domestic program (all levels)
- Frequency and duration of training for National Team athletes (both as a team and individually)
- International competitive appearances from 2011-2015
- National Championships hosted from 2011-2015

Highlights

In terms of key highlights from the questionnaire data, the rapid growth of athletes participating in CP Football worldwide stood out immediately. As the graph below indicates, in less than 5 years the total number of athletes has more than doubled, to a total of 4210 in 2015. The emergence of new programs in multiple countries, along with the significant growth within existing programs demonstrates the healthy current state of the sport, and the tremendous prospects for the future.

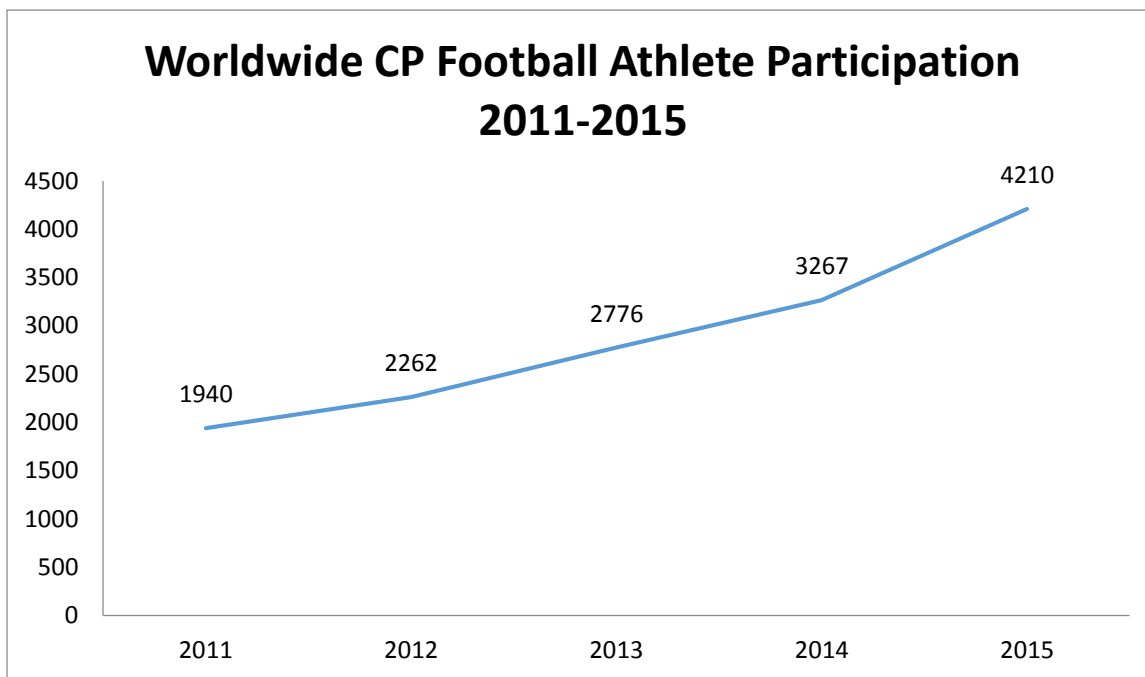


Figure 2 – Worldwide CP Football Athlete Participation 2011-2015

The recruitment of young athletes has been an ongoing challenge faced by all countries across the vast majority of Paralympic sports. Therefore, it was particularly encouraging when the CP Football questionnaire data revealed that not only is overall athlete recruitment and participation increasing, but it is escalating particularly rapidly for young athletes under the age of fifteen. The chart below indicates the participation of youth athletes in CP Football has more than tripled since 2011, to a total of 1036 athletes worldwide in 2015.

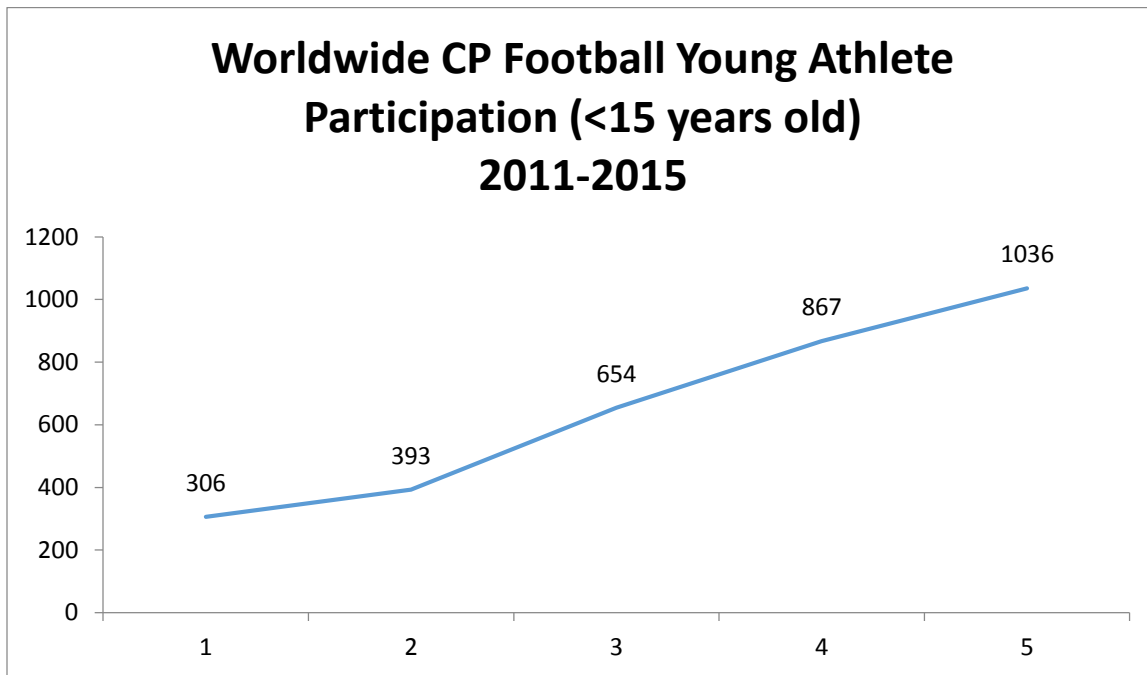


Figure 3 – Worldwide CP Football Young Athlete Participation (<15 years old), 2011-2015

While the enhanced recruitment and participation of athletes is a critical step in the ongoing growth and development of a Paralympic sport, it is perhaps just as important to ensure the sport is also developing sufficient certified expert coaches to guide the growth and development of the individual athletes and the sport itself. The results of the questionnaire indicated that in addition to having 121 coaches currently working at the National Team level, there are in addition another 657 certified coaches working at various levels of the CP Football athlete development pathway around the world, as shown in Figure 4 below.



Figure 4 – Worldwide CP Football Coaches

The presence of a growing pool of athletes and coaches serves as the foundation to support the growth and development of any sport, but the establishment of an athlete development pathway or structure is also a key component of long-term success. Should the National Team provide the only viable competitive opportunity for an athlete, the limited number of positions available can serve as a significant deterrent to both the recruitment and retention of new athletes. Therefore, CP Football is in the process of establishing a strong foundation to support additional long-term growth and development, as Figure 5 illustrates that a range of development programs are being implemented to support and feed into the National Team level, including 527 athletes worldwide currently identified and receiving enhanced support as members of Regional Development teams. Furthermore, in 2015 there are now a total of 370 CP Football club teams, providing regular competitive and practice opportunities for 3549 athletes.

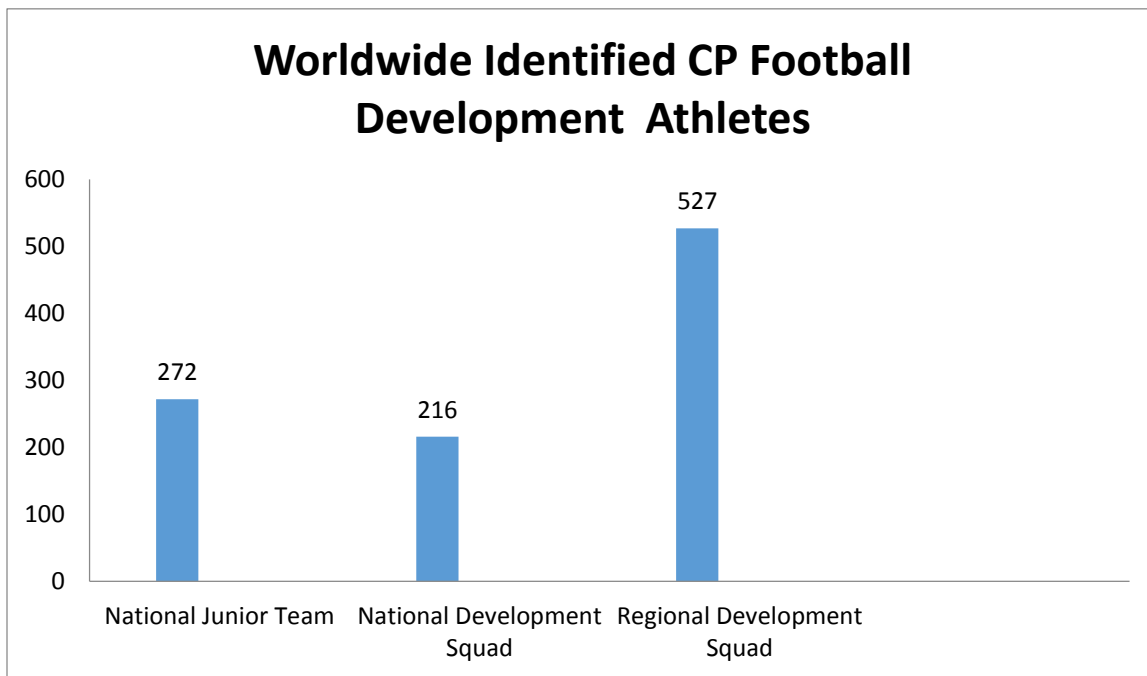


Figure 5 – Worldwide Identified CP Football Development Athletes

The recent growth of domestic CP Football programs worldwide has supported the establishment of annual National Championship events in an increasing number of IFCPF members. Based on current data, the following countries have hosted annual National Championship events since at least 2013 (many since 2010), and as the IFCPF will monitor the continued growth of this trend through future questionnaires. In addition to the athlete development benefits of an annual domestic competitive opportunity, National Championships can also serve as an invaluable tool in raising awareness and promoting the sport, supporting both athlete recruitment and also potential revenue generation opportunities.

ANNUAL CP FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Argentina
Australia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
England
Iran
Japan
Mexico
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russia
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Ukraine
Venezuela

Figure 6 – Hosts of Annual CP Football National Championships

ADDITIONAL ANNUAL CP FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS post 2013
India (since 2014)
Thailand (since 2014)
Tunisia (since 2014)
Canada (beginning 2015)

Figure 7 – Hosts of Additional Annual CP Football National Championships post 2013

Conclusion

As illustrated above, the results of the CP Football Worldwide Reach Questionnaire have provided a wealth of information illustrating the rapid growth and development of the sport from 2011 to 2015. The recruitment of new athletes and coaches, the development of enhanced athlete development pathways and the hosting of additional competitive opportunities illustrate the tremendous strides that have been made, and also reinforce the potential for significant further growth.

However, the strong CP Football foundation that has been further established in recent years is under tremendous threat from the decision to remove the sport from the Paralympic program for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games.

Given the importance of this decision to the future of the sport, the most important response to the Worldwide Questionnaire related to the status of IFCPF members at both National Championship and international competitive opportunities from 2011 to 2015.

After carefully reviewing and verifying the data regarding both National Championships and international competitions, the IFCPF has identified a total of 29 countries across 5 regions who we feel meet the “widely and regularly” practicing requirements. The complete list of twenty-nine countries is presented in Appendix A below, along with an indication of whether they have achieved the criteria through the hosting of regular National Championships within the last four years, and/or by regularly participating in sanctioned international competitions within that same time period.

The IFCPF would be happy to provide additional information from the respective countries to support the information presented in Appendix A, and would respectfully request the IPC to confirm if there are any countries listed who in their opinion are not considered to be widely and regularly practicing CP Football, so that we can address the specific discrepancies.

The IFCPF greatly appreciates and values the support of the IPC throughout the process to establish the Tokyo 2020 sport program, and have fully recognized the requirement to collect and monitor information from our members in a more standardized format to ensure CP Football continues to expand and achieve its full potential. With the opportunity provided by the revamped governance and leadership model of a new international federation, we look forward to continuing to work with IPC to demonstrate the ability of CP Football to achieve all eligibility criteria for inclusion on the sport program at the Paralympic Games. As the next step, the IFCPF respectfully requests the IPC Governing Board to consider this new information gathered through the Worldwide Reach Questionnaire and summarized above, and select CP Football to the sport program for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Summer Games.

APPENDIX A

CP FOOTBALL WORLDWIDE REACH SUMMARY

Country	Region	Widely and Regularly Practicing Criteria	Primary Competitions (2010-2015)
1. Argentina	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2014 America Cup ➤ 2015 Tournament - Portugal
2. Australia	Oceania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2012 Dream Asia Tournament ➤ Multiple international friendlies
3. Austria	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2015 (June) – hosting international tournament ➤ 2014 – hosted international tournament ➤ 2013 – hosted international tournament
4. Brazil	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2014 America Cup ➤ 2014 Tournament - Netherlands
5. Canada	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds, CPISRA Intercontinental Cup, multiple international friendlies

6. Chile	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Championships in 2014 and 2015 ➤ 2013 Parapanam Youth Games
7. China	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2010 Regional Championships
8. Colombia	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships since 2011
9. Denmark	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011 Hosted International Development Tournament ➤ 2012 Barcelona Cup ➤ 2014 Regional Championship – Porto ➤ 2014 – Friendly vs Netherlands (2x)
10. England	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ Annual National Championships since 2013
11. Finland	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ 2011, 2012 and 2013 International Tournament - Barcelona
12. Germany	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2015 – Upcoming Int'l tournaments: Denmark (May), Austria (June) ➤ 2015 – Friendly vs Denmark (x2) ➤ 2014 – European Championships ➤ 2013 – Austrian tournament ➤ 2013 – Friendly vs Netherlands

13. Iran	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2010 and 2014 Asian Para Games ➤ National Championships in 2011, 2013 and 2014
14. Italy	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2015 (June) – Austrian tournament ➤ 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 - Hosted international friendlies
15. Japan	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Host annual National Championships ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup
16. Mexico	Americas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2014 America Cup ➤ 2012 International Tournament - Portugal
17. Netherlands	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2010 and 2014 European Championships
18. Northern Ireland	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2014 European Championships ➤ 2014 – International Tournament - Ireland ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ 2012 – International Tournament - Spain

19. Portugal	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup
20. Republic of Ireland	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup
21. Republic of Korea	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2014 Asian Para Games ➤ 2012, 2013 and 2014 Friendlies vs Japan ➤ 2012 Dream Asia Tournament
22. Russia	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2010 and 2014 European Championships
23. Scotland	Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ 2010 and 2014 European Championships
24. Singapore	Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2014 ASEAN Para Games ➤ 2014 Asian Para Games ➤ 2013 International Development Tournament (Austria) ➤ 2012 Asian Dream Tournament

25. South Africa	Africa	✓ holding recognized National Championships	➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2013 International Tournament – Barcelona
26. Spain	Europe	✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions	➤ Annual National Championships ➤ 2011 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ 2010 and 2014 European Championships
27. Ukraine	Europe	✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions	➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2010 and 2014 European Championships ➤ Annual National Championships
28. USA	Americas	✓ Regular international competitions	➤ 2012 Paralympic Games ➤ 2011 and 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2014 America Cup
29. Venezuela	Americas	✓ holding recognized National Championships ✓ Regular international competitions	➤ 2015 CPISRA Worlds ➤ 2013 CPISRA Intercontinental Cup ➤ 2014 America Cup ➤ Annual National Championships