



Members via email

24 March 2020

Postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games

Dear friends,

I write to inform you that the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games have been postponed until 2021.

The decision was taken less than one hour ago by the IOC Executive Board and Japanese Government, with the full support of the IPC who joined the IOC Executive Board meeting.

Postponing the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak is absolutely the right thing to do. The health and well-being of human life must always be our number one priority and staging a sport event of any kind during this pandemic is simply not possible.

The unprecedented and unpredictable spread of the disease is now impacting nearly every country in the world. On Monday (23 March), the Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said that the COVID-19 pandemic is "accelerating". There are more than 375,000 cases now recorded worldwide and the number is growing by the hour. Based on the information provided by the WHO today (24 March), it is clear the Games must be rescheduled in order to safeguard the international community.

As for postponement, work still needs to be undertaken with all stakeholders to determine the exact dates for next year's Olympic and Paralympic Games. However, the Games will be held at a date beyond 2020 but no later than the summer of 2021. Please inform your athletes to stay safe and protect their health at all costs.

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I know many of you will have multiple questions regarding the impact of this decision. Currently we do not have the answers and I count on your full understanding during this unprecedented time.

In the meantime, I hope you, together with your friends and families stay safe during this extremely difficult time for the whole world.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Parsons', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andrew Parsons
President
International Paralympic Committee