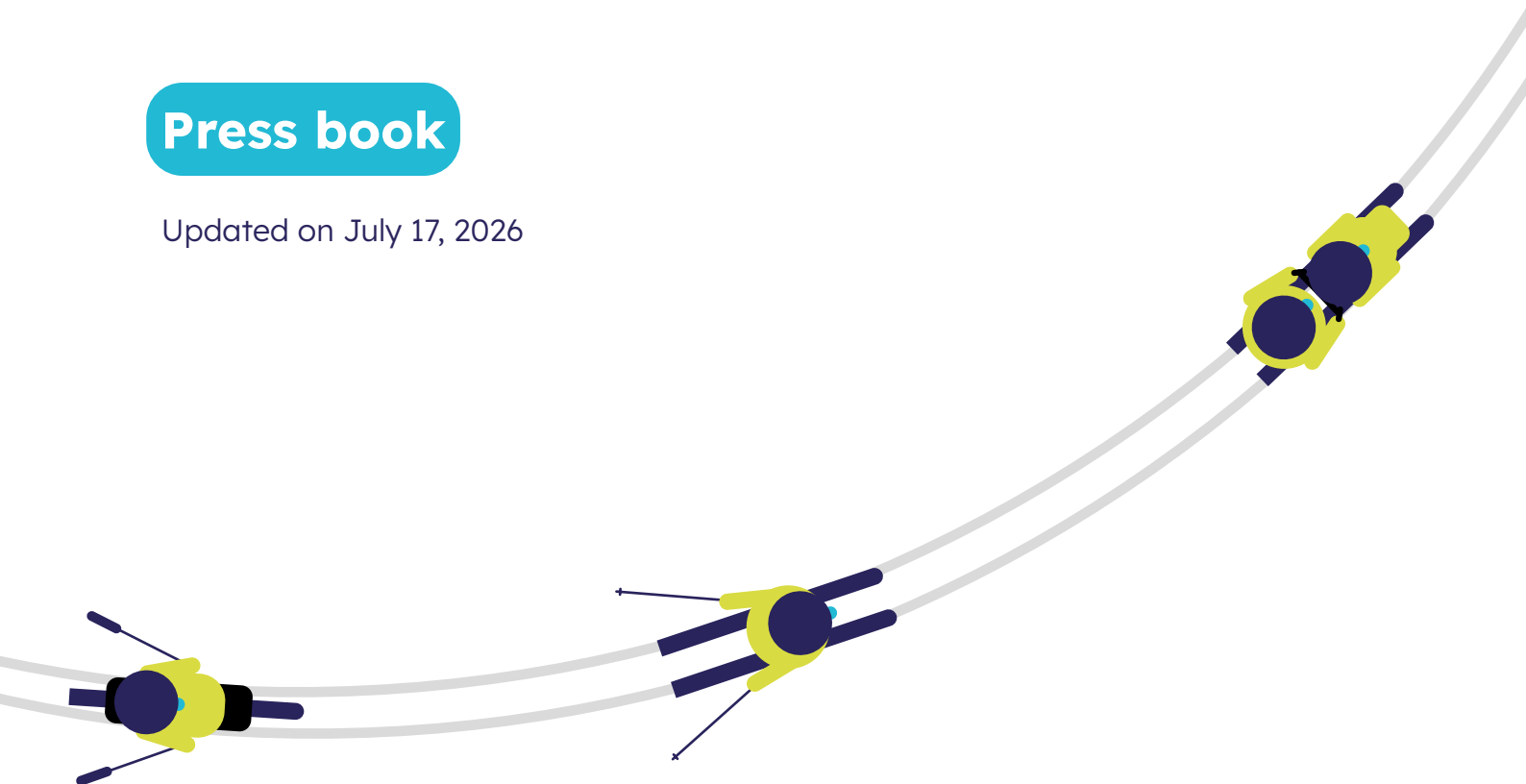


Making the Paralympic Games 2030

TRULY INCLUSIVE

Press book

Updated on July 17, 2026



jeux2030inclusifs.fr/en

#Jeux2030Inclusifs
#InclusiveGames2030

**Already more than
5,000 signatories!**

Press contacts

Julien Leroy +33 6 72 25 38 95 contact@jeux2030inclusifs.fr
Pascale Tilagone +33 6 07 28 41 19 pascale.tilagone@sportadapte.com

Instagram [@jeux2030inclusifs](https://www.instagram.com/jeux2030inclusifs)

Facebook [Jeux 2030 Inclusifs / Inclusive Games 2030](https://www.facebook.com/Jeux2030Inclusifs/)

A Statement for a Dream That Will Become Reality

Entitled «**France: Leading the Way for Paralympic Inclusion – Together, Let's Write the Next Chapter.**», the statement is spearheaded by **Marc Truffaut**, President of the French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA), and **Sandrine Chaix**, Vice-President for Disability Affairs of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council.

It calls for the reinstatement of **Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities** in the official programme of the **French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games**.

The athletes concerned — those with intellectual disabilities, including athletes with Down syndrome and other additional impairments, as well as autistic athletes — already compete at the highest international level and proudly represent France in major international competitions.

Yet they remain excluded from the Winter Paralympic Games.

This statement reminds us that inclusion cannot remain an abstract principle. It must be translated into action. As co-host of the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games, **France has both the opportunity—and the responsibility—to make this vision a reality.**



Wednesday, August 28, 2024: Lighting of the cauldron during the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, featuring Charles Antoine Kouakou, Nantenin Keïta, Fabien Lamirault, Alexis Hanquingquant, and Élodie Lorandi. Credit © French Federation of Adapted Sports (FFSA)

Statement for the reintegration of Adapted Sports at the 2030 Winter Paralympic Games

**France, champion of
Paralympic inclusion!
It's up to us to write this page.**

By Marc Truffaut, President of the French Federation of Adapted Sports (FFSA)

And Sandrine Chaix, Vice President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region delegate for disability

With the support of Fabrice Pannekoucke, President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, and **Marie-Amélie Le Fur**, President of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee (CPSF).

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games gave France a wonderful image of itself: committed, resilient, inspiring. For two weeks, the eyes of the world turned to our country, celebrating the high-level performances of athletes with disabilities who have combined excellence in sport with human strength.

But one question remains. An absence, too discreet to be noticed by everyone, but too significant to be ignored any longer: **where are the Adaptive Sports athletes with intellectual disabilities?**

The aim of this statement is to secure **the reintegration of Adapted Sports events at the 2030 Winter Paralympic Games**, which will take place in the French Alps.

The concept of the Winter Paralympics now allows the inclusion of additional disciplines or categories without removing others. **There is a real window of opportunity. The willingness must follow.** It would be a source of pride for France to achieve this sporting and human advance by 2030.

Through this statement, we want France to make history at the Winter Paralympics by reintegrating classifications for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Be part of this movement by signing this statement!

A silent exclusion

Since the Nagano Games in 1998, **no athlete with a mental or psychological disability has competed in the Winter Paralympic Games.**

Yet these athletes exist. They train. They perform. They excel in their disciplines: alpine skiing and Nordic skiing. They are represented by **Virtus**, the international federation for adapted sports and founder of the International Paralympic Committee, which brings together more than 500,000 athletes from over 90 nations. **In France, the French Federation of Adapted Sports (FFSA) has more than 66,000 licensed members.**

For more than twenty years, **the Virtus Global Games** have been held every four years, offering athletes with intellectual or psychological disabilities **their own Games.**

In 2023, France hosted the Global Games in Vichy. Organized by the

FFSA, they brought together more than 1,000 athletes representing 44 countries, with the French delegation winning 87 titles.

In 2025, France also hosted **the World Para Alpine Skiing Championships** in Tignes and the World Para Nordic Skiing Championships in Bessans, under the auspices of Virtus, on slopes approved by the International Ski Federation (FIS).

These events demonstrate that Adapted Sport is a **high-level sport** and not a sport apart.

The conditions are met

Since 2012, the Summer Paralympic Games have welcomed back athletes with mental or psychological disabilities in three disciplines: **athletics, swimming, and table tennis**.

Why not follow suit for the Winter Games?

There are no major obstacles:

- The **disciplines are ready**, with regulations approved by Virtus and the FIS.
- **Classifications have been established** for adapted alpine and Nordic para skiing.
- The **venues are accessible**, the infrastructure are compliant, and the partners are mobilized.
- France **has already proven its ability** to host these competitions.

Arguments relating to budget, visibility, and competition have been contradicted by **the organizational successes** of Vichy, Tignes, and Bessans.

For truly inclusive Paralympic Games

This is a citizen's statement. A call, supported by **federations, educators, athletes, elected representatives, and citizens.**

We call on **everyone committed to an inclusive society** to join this movement: decision-makers, journalists, sponsors, influencers, audience, families, young people...

If France wants to embody a society that is open to all, it must seize the historic opportunity of the 2030 Winter Paralympics by reintegrating Adaptive Sports athletes.

This is not only a **sporting issue**, but also **one of human dignity and civic recognition** for those who are still too often referred to as "the invisible."

So yes, France is a standard-bearer. This was proved in Paris. But today, in 2030, there is still a page to be written. A line remains to be completed. It is up to us to hold that flag high. It is up to us to complete the story.

A flag to be carried higher!

**I am signing the petition
for truly inclusive
Paralympic Games in 2030.**



**Click or scan
to sign!**

This document has been formatted for ease of reading.

The spokespersons for our statement



Marc Truffaut

President of the French Federation of Adapted Sports (FFSA)

President of Virtus Europe

President of the French Federation of Adapted Sports since 2013 and of Virtus Europe since July 2026, Marc Truffaut is a leading figure in the field of inclusion through sports in France. Deeply committed to raising awareness and recognition of people with intellectual and/or mental disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorders, he has made the FFSA a key player in the national and international sports movement.

Under his leadership, the federation has strengthened its institutional partnerships, developed its high-performance sports, and brought the voices of Adapted Sports athletes to the forefront of major sporting events. A tireless advocate for a truly universal parasport, he campaigns for the full and complete integration of Adapted Sports into the Paralympic Games. He is also vice president of Virtus, the international federation for Adapted Sports and the world's leading authority on these issues.

Marc Truffaut embodies a demanding yet deeply human vision of sport, viewing every athlete as a full-fledged citizen, deserving of recognition, respect, and visibility on the biggest stages.

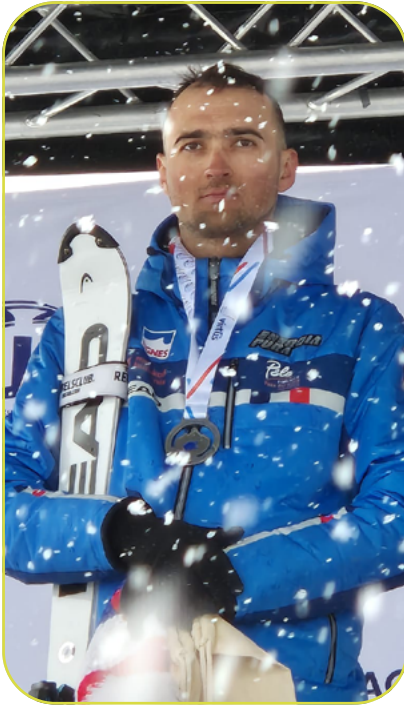


Sandrine Chaix

Vice President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region delegate for disability

Deeply committed to a more just society, where each person, regardless of their disability, has their place, their voice, their horizon. Since 2016, she has steered the regional disability policy with determination, placing listening to life experiences at the heart of public action.

Passionate about the field, close to families, educators, associations and athletes alike, Sandrine Chaix has an inclusive vision of sport as a lever for emancipation. Mom, an activist for the human bond, she refuses half-measures. Through the wish for the integration of adapted sport in the 2030 Paralympic Games, voted during the Plenary Assembly of June 2024 at the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, it calls for combining political ambition with respect for singularities.



Thomas Girard

 **High-Level athlete in adapted alpine para skiing - Classification II3**

A specialist in adaptive alpine skiing, Thomas Girard has established himself as a leading competitor in the Virtus International Championships. At the 2025 World Championships in Tignes, he achieved several notable podium finishes, confirming his potential in a demanding discipline where speed and precision are combined with total commitment. With several national titles and honorable mentions in international competitions already under his belt, he is one of the most promising athletes in French adapted alpine skiing.

Thomas is a staunch advocate for the Paralympic Winter Games to finally officially welcome athletes with intellectual disabilities. For him, 2030 represents a unique opportunity to show the world that adapted sports are high-level sports in their own right and that sporting excellence thrives on diversity.

 [Discover Thomas Girard's video](#)



Clément Richard

 **High-level athlete in adapted nordic para skiing - Classification II3**

A young talent in adapted Nordic para skiing, Clément Richard distinguished himself at the 2025 Virtus World Championships in Bessans, where he won three world titles in classic sprint, 10 km classic, and 15 km skate. He then confirmed his status as a top athlete by winning two new national titles in quick succession. He is also the first adapted para Nordic skiing athlete to be elected to the French Para Athletes Commission (CPAF) of the French Paralympic Committee (CPSF), a role that allows him to represent athletes in the governance of the movement.

Licensed in category II3 (athletes with autism without intellectual disabilities), Clément is a testament to the high level of demand and performance that adapted sport represents. Through his commitment as spokesperson for the Inclusive Games 2030 forum, he defends a simple conviction: the 2030 Winter Paralympic Games must be an opportunity to finally give adapted sports athletes their rightful place.

 [Discover Clément Richard's video](#)



Championnat du Monde Virtus de Para ski nordique adapté - Bessans 2025

Crédit © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA



Clément Colomby

 **High-level athlete in adapted Nordic para skiing and adapted para swimming - Classification II2**

A renowned athlete in adapted Nordic para skiing, Clément Colomby has built a reputation over the years as a strong and determined competitor. A member of the Ski Belledonne Chamrousse club and Eybens sport adapté Grenoble Alpes Métropole Isère, he has risen through the ranks of elite sport thanks to his rigorous training and a strong passion for performance. French champion in his category and a regular contender in major national competitions, Clément has also represented France at the European and World Championships in VIRTUS para Nordic skiing, where his results—world champion in the individual classic and

mass start events—were unanimously praised.

With Down syndrome, he belongs to category II2 of Adaptive Sports, where he has established himself as one of the most promising faces of French skiing. Known for his fighting spirit and his determination to always go further, Clément is supported by numerous partners and trains alongside a specialized coaching team that supports his ambition: to reach the highest level and show that Adaptive Sports athletes have a rightful place in the Paralympic movement.

By joining the Inclusive Games 2030 statement, Clément is strongly promoting the idea that the Paralympic Winter Games should once again welcome athletes with intellectual disabilities. For him, participating in the 2030 Games is more than a personal dream: it is an opportunity to prove that Adapted Sports is a high-level, structured, demanding, and fully legitimate sport on the international stage.



Mélanie De Bona

 **High-level athlete in adapted para alpine skiing – Classification III1 déficience intellectuelle**

At 29, Mélanie De Bona is one of the leading figures in French adapted alpine skiing.

A member of the Lans-en-Vercors Ski Club and registered on the ministerial list since 2017, she impresses with her exceptional track record and unwavering commitment.

At the 2025 Virtus Alpine Skiing World Championships in Tignes, Mélanie once again made her mark by becoming the 2025 Virtus World Champion in slalom and the 2025 Virtus World Vice-Champion in super-G.

These titles add to a long list of achievements: multiple world medals in 2023 and 2024, international podiums in France, Austria, and Poland, and numerous French championship titles.

Even after a 2019 season marked by injury, she came back with even greater determination.

A rigorous athlete, Mélanie trains at the French adapted alpine skiing center, where she completes training courses and preparation under the guidance of her national coach, Rémy Gounon.

Supported by Malakoff Humanis Team MH and the Massif du Vercors, she is also pursuing a professional project in the world of sports and childhood.

As spokesperson for the “Inclusive Games 2030” statement, Mélanie De Bona is convinced that Adaptive Sports and Virtus athletes have a rightful place in the Winter Paralympic Games.

For her, 2030 represents the hope of long-awaited, well-deserved recognition shared by an entire generation of athletes. See you in 2030 in the French Alps!



Georgia Yuen



High-level athlete in adapted alpine para skiing – Classification II3

At just 16 years old, Georgia Yuen has already begun to write her name into the history of international ski racing — not by chance, but through sheer talent, passion and courage. From Sydney, Australia, Georgia competes in the II3 category (autism) and trains year-round across Australia, the USA and Europe, driven by one simple belief: sport is a space where dreams must be given room to grow.

In 2025, at the Virtus World Alpine Skiing Championships in Tignes (France), Georgia delivered a performance for the ages, winning gold in all four of her events — Super-G, Slalom, Giant Slalom and Combined

— and ending a 13-year medal drought for Australia at Virtus skiing. Her dominance on the slopes was not just an athletic triumph, but a powerful affirmation of what athletes in the Sport Adapted community can achieve on the world stage.

Georgia is a member of Snow Australia, Disabled Wintersport Australia — an organisation that supports athletes with disabilities in winter sport — and US Ski & Snowboard, and proudly holds a FIS licence, meaning she competes under the same international framework as her peers around the world.

Her journey is about more than medals. It's about breaking barriers, showing young athletes — especially those with autism — that excellence has no single shape or story. As a new voice in elite sport, Georgia embodies the spirit of resilience, curiosity and joy. Through her achievements, she not only inspires on the snow, but also fuels the movement for inclusion that seeks to open the Paralympic stage to all athletes of the Sport Adapted community.



[Discover Georgia Yuen's video](#)



Magdalena Sailerová

 **High-level athlete in adapted alpine para skiing – Classification II2**

At twenty years old, Magdalena Sailerová is one of the leading figures in Czech adaptive alpine skiing in the II2 category. In 2024, she placed 2nd in the Virtus European Cup series, and at the World Championships in Austria and Poland she ranked among the top five skiers in her category.

She is a member of the Olymp Centre of the Ministry of the Interior, holds a national team contract, and competes under the Czech Ski Association (SLČR). Magdalena represents SK Sokol Špičák, where she continues to develop her talent, technique, and racing experience.

Not even a serious injury in 2025 — sustained during training and requiring a demanding knee surgery — diminished her determination. Thanks to her perseverance, discipline, and strong will, she is gradually returning to the race courses, ready to continue the path she has worked so hard to build.

As an spokesperson for the Inclusive Games 2030 initiative, Magdalena supports athletes of Adaptive Sports and Virtus competitors in their pursuit of participation in the Winter Paralympic Games in France. She believes that the dedication, training, and performances of these athletes are fully comparable to those of athletes without disabilities — and that they deserve equal recognition and a rightful place on the world's highest sporting stage.

 [**Discover Magdalena Sailerová's video**](#)

They support the “Inclusive 2030 Games” statement

They are speaking out to support and encourage Paralympic stakeholders to once again include Adapted Sports athletes in the upcoming 2030 Paralympic Games in France.

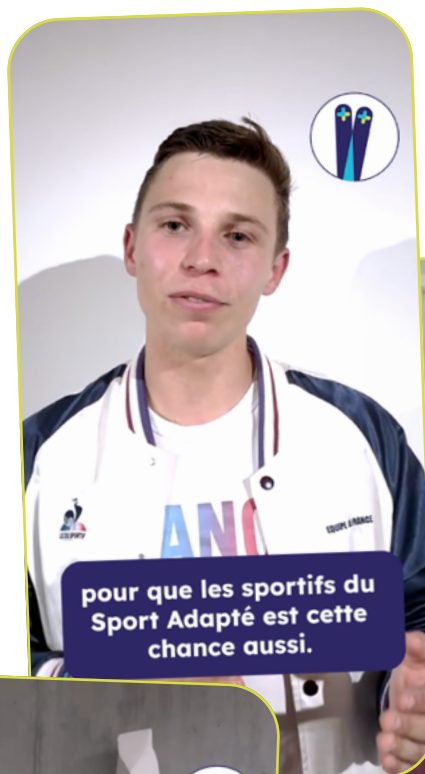


Yohann Taberlet

Multiple medalist at the World Para Alpine Skiing Championships

Philippe Candeloro

Two-time Olympic medalist in figure skating



Arthur Bauchet

Eight-time Paralympic medalist in para alpine skiing



Alain Bernard

Four-time Olympic medalist in swimming



David Smetanine

Multiple Paralympic medalist in para swimming



Click on the image to learn more about their support.

Une tribune qui fait parler d'elle

Click on the image to watch the videos.



Cédric Vial
Sénateur de la Savoie

Mouvement sportif français : audition des comités olympiques au Sénat

Sénat - Mercredi 12 novembre 2025
COMMISSION DE LA CULTURE, DE L'ÉDUCATION,
DE LA COMMUNICATION ET DU SPORT

November 12, 2025

Cédric Vial, French senator from Savoie, spoke on behalf of the “Inclusive 2030 Games” forum during the Senate committee hearing titled “French Sports Movement: Hearing with the Olympic Committees.”

And Marie-Amélie Le Fur and Amélie Oudéa Castera gave strong responses.



Hello Edgar, at the beginning

Samedi 14 mars 2026
France TV

March 14, 2026

Edgar Grospiron, president of the Alpes 2030 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organizing Committee, spoke with **Ophélie David Racz** about the role of Adaptive Sports at the 2030 Winter Paralympic Games.

He highlighted the momentum surrounding the #Inclusive2030Games campaign and also explained that discussions are underway with international governing bodies.



March 10, 2026

In an interview published by Le Figaro, **Edgar Grospiron**, president of the Organizing Committee for the 2030 French Alps Olympic and Paralympic Games (COJOP Alpes 2030), spoke about the possibility of including athletes with intellectual disabilities in the Winter Paralympic Games.

[Read our article on the topic here.](#)

Click here to view the press review for the “Inclusive Games 2030” statement.

Stakeholders taking action

The Malakoff Humanis Disability Foundation: driving national awareness

Since the launch of the **#Inclusive2030Games Statement**, the **Malakoff Humanis Disability Foundation** has partnered with the French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA) to raise national awareness of this citizen-led campaign.

Through a nationwide media relations campaign featured in leading French media outlets, participation in a televised programme on the Mieux channel, a public advertising campaign, high-profile speaking engagements and the promotion of the statement at major sporting events—including a **Top 14 rugby match at Stade Jean Bouin attended by more than 18,000 spectators**—the Foundation has helped bring the issue of access to the Winter Paralympic Games for athletes with intellectual disabilities, psychological disabilities and autism spectrum disorder into the national conversation.

This commitment demonstrates the vital role that companies, foundations and the wider business community can play in driving meaningful social change.

By championing this cause, they increase its visibility, engage new audiences and help transform public perceptions of disability and inclusion.

Because inclusion is everyone's responsibility, the mobilisation of economic stakeholders is essential to strengthening this movement and turning a shared ambition into a lasting legacy for the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games.

[Read the latest articles about this initiative.](#)



Crédit © FFSA

Saturday, 25 April – Stade Jean Bouin, Paris

During the Top 14 rugby match between Stade Français Paris and Section Paloise, **Timothé Ivaldi** and **Axel Bringdal**, two members of the French national Intellectual Disability Sport team, delivered the ceremonial kick-off in front of 18,000 spectators.

Throughout the match, a QR code displayed on the stadium's giant screens invited fans to sign the **#Inclusive2030Games Statement** live, giving thousands of supporters the opportunity to join the campaign.

The French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA): A leading federation driving the ambition for the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games

A recognised and official governing body

The **French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA)** is the national governing body responsible for sport for people with intellectual disabilities, psychological disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in France.

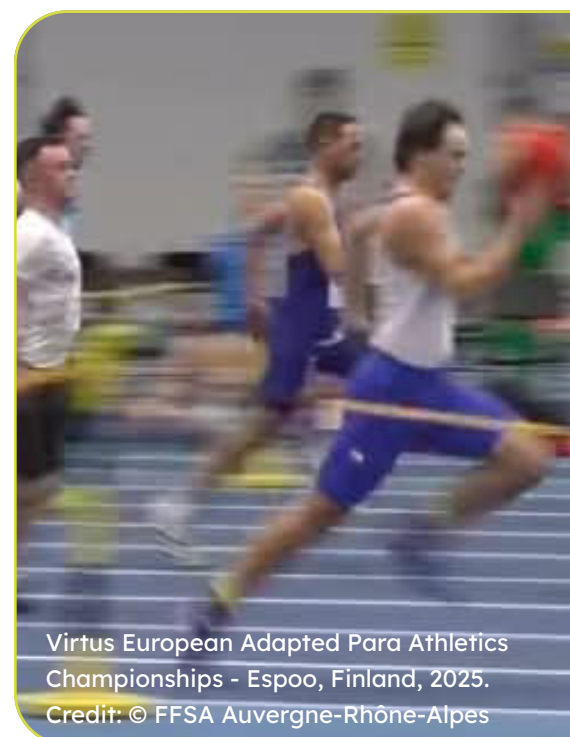
Since 1977, the FFSA has held official delegated authority from the French Ministry of Sports, giving it responsibility for organising, developing, regulating and promoting Intellectual Disability Sport throughout the country.

As a multi-sport federation, the FFSA now brings together more than **66,500 licensed members** across nearly **1,600 affiliated clubs**, offering a wide range of sporting opportunities from recreational participation to elite international competition. Every year, the Federation organises more than 3,500 sporting events, providing athletes of all abilities with opportunities to compete, develop and thrive. The FFSA is also responsible for France's high-performance programme, preparing and managing the national teams across the **nine recognised elite disciplines**: Para Athletics, Para Basketball, Para Cycling, Para Football, Para Swimming, Para Tennis, Para Table Tennis, Para Alpine Skiing, Para Nordic Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities.

A major player in international high-performance sport

For more than two decades, the FFSA has proudly represented France at the highest level of international competition organised by Virtus, the world's governing body for Intellectual Disability Sport.

French athletes compete in the **Virtus Global Games**, the world's largest international event for athletes with intellectual disabilities, as well as the **Virtus Summer Games**, **Virtus Winter Games**, European Championships and World Championships.



Virtus European Adapted Para Athletics Championships - Espoo, Finland, 2025.
Credit: © FFSA Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes 2025 Photo credit: © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA

The Federation supports national teams across a broad range of sports, including athletics, swimming, table tennis and judo, while steadily strengthening its winter sports programme since 2018.

Today, France's **Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing** teams for athletes with intellectual disabilities are consistently ranked among the world's leading delegations.

Their preparation is centred primarily in **Tignes** and **Bessans**, two internationally recognised high-performance training venues in the French Alps, where athletes benefit from professional coaching, specialised expertise and world-class training environments.

A clear commitment: giving intellectual disability sport a place at the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games

Building on decades of expertise and international success, the FFSA is today the legitimate organisation to **formally advocate for the reinstatement of Intellectual Disability Sport within the programme of the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games**

The Federation promotes a vision of inclusion founded on three essential principles: sporting excellence, fairness, equal visibility for every athlete.

Its active engagement with the **French Alps 2030 Organising Committee, the French Paralympic and Sports Committee (CPSF)**, the **International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS)** and international sporting authorities will be instrumental in ensuring that the voices of thousands of high-performance athletes are finally heard.

For the FFSA, the issue extends beyond sport.

It is about ensuring that every athlete who meets the highest international standards has the opportunity to compete on the world's greatest sporting stage.

Key Facts About Intellectual Disability Sport

In France

- 66,500+ licensed members
- Nearly 1,600 affiliated clubs across France
- More than 3,500 sporting events organised every year
- 60 sports available for participation
- 25 French National Championships held annually
- 9 recognised high-performance disciplines
- 155 elite athletes officially recognised by the French Ministry of Sports
- Nearly 2 million people in France are living with an intellectual disability or a psychological disability

Internationally

- 90 member countries
- More than 15 World and Continental Championships organised each year
- Virtus Summer Games and Virtus Winter Games held every two years
- Global Games, the world's premier event for Intellectual Disability Sport, held every four years
- More than 20 internationally recognised sports governed by Virtus
- Annual international Open competitions and World Championships in Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes 2025 Credit
© FFSA

The Winter Paralympic Games: a unique opportunity

A brief history: A young movement with great potential

The Winter Paralympic Games were first held in **1976** in **Örnsköldsvik, Sweden**, making them significantly younger than their summer counterpart, which began in **Rome in 1960**.

Over the past five decades, the Winter Games have steadily evolved into one of the world's premier sporting events for athletes with disabilities. Since 2006, they have been staged immediately after the Olympic Winter Games, benefiting from the same venues, infrastructure and global visibility.

While the Games have grown in scale and prestige, they have yet to become fully inclusive.

Today, the Winter Paralympic programme represents athletes with physical and visual impairments. Athletes with intellectual disabilities, psychological disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD) remain excluded.



1998 Nagano Winter Paralympic Games

Intellectual disability sport: the missing piece of the Winter Paralympic Games

The history of Intellectual Disability Sport within the Winter Paralympic Games is one of early promise followed by decades of missed opportunities.

At the **Lillehammer 1994 Winter Paralympic Games**, Para Alpine Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities was presented as a demonstration event.

Four years later, at **Nagano 1998**, Para Nordic Skiing reached a significant milestone when four events—men's and women's classical and freestyle races—were officially included in the Paralympic programme.

It was an encouraging beginning.

Unfortunately, that momentum was never sustained.

The cheating scandal involving the Spanish intellectual disability basketball team at the **Sydney 2000**

Paralympic Games had profound consequences for the entire Paralympic Movement.

Following the incident, all athletes with intellectual disabilities were excluded from the Paralympic Games for more than a decade.

Their gradual return only began at the **London 2012 Paralympic Games**, where athletes with intellectual disabilities were once again eligible to compete in **Para Athletics, Para Swimming and Para Table Tennis**.

However, this reinstatement applied exclusively to the Summer Paralympic Games.

More than twenty-five years after Nagano, **no Intellectual Disability Sport event has returned to the Winter Paralympic programme.**



Gloria Agblemagnon at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Photo credit: © FFSA

A significant gap in representation

The figures from the **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games** clearly illustrate the current imbalance. Only **151 athletes with intellectual disabilities** competed, representing just over 3% of the **4,400 athletes** participating in the Games.

Among the **160 participating nations**, only **51** entered athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Of the **22 sports** on the Paralympic programme, only **three** included events for athletes with intellectual disabilities: Para Athletics, Para Swimming, Para Table Tennis. These events accounted for only a small proportion of the medals awarded, highlighting how limited competitive opportunities remain.

As a result, thousands of elite athletes continue to be excluded from the Paralympic dream, while the Movement itself misses a powerful opportunity to inspire future generations.

Everything is already in place

Yet Intellectual Disability Sport is not a developing discipline. It is already a well-established, internationally recognised sporting movement.

In France, it is governed by the **French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA)**.

Internationally, it is regulated by **Virtus**, supported by a growing network of national member federations across every continent.

The sport benefits from:

- internationally recognised competition regulations;
- established athlete pathways;
- experienced technical officials;
- qualified coaches;
- an expanding pool of elite athletes;
- and proven organisational expertise.

The foundations already exist.

Expanding the programme without removing existing events

Unlike the Summer Paralympic Games, the Winter Paralympic programme has the capacity to introduce new events and sport classes **without removing existing competitions**.

This creates a unique opportunity to reinstate **Para Alpine Skiing** and **Para Nordic Skiing** for athletes with intellectual disabilities while fully preserving the existing events for athletes with physical and visual impairments.

These disciplines are complementary. They do not compete with one another. They enrich the Paralympic programme by making it more representative of the diversity of disability sport.

The infrastructure already exists

The argument that introducing these events would require significant new investment no longer reflects reality. Competition venues are already homologated. Equipment is already available. Officials and coaches are already trained.

The **2025 Virtus World Championships in Tignes and Bessans** demonstrated that no new infrastructure is required. Success depends not on building new facilities, but on intelligently adapting event operations, logistics and communications.

International classification and competition systems are already established

Virtus has developed a comprehensive international classification system that guarantees fair competition based on athletes' functional profiles.

Every athlete undergoes rigorous eligibility assessments before being authorised to compete in international Virtus competitions.

A dedicated team of classification specialists oversees this process, ensuring the integrity and credibility of every competition.

Furthermore:

- Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities have been organised internationally for several years under recognised technical regulations.
- The most recent World Championships in France were conducted in alignment with the regulations of the **International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS)**.
- Performance management systems, technical expertise and anti-doping procedures are already fully operational.

In other words, the sporting framework required for Paralympic inclusion already exists.

Building a lasting legacy

Including Intellectual Disability Sport in the **French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games** would do far more than correct a long-standing inequality. It would create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Building on the extraordinary success of the **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**, which transformed perceptions of disability and inclusion, French Alps 2030 offers the opportunity to take the next decisive step.

The inclusion of Intellectual Disability Sport would encourage more people with intellectual disabilities, psychological disabilities and autism spectrum disorder to join sports clubs throughout France, strengthening participation at every level of the sporting pathway.

It would transform the legacy of the Games into everyday opportunities for thousands of people.

A powerful message to the world

By becoming the first host nation to include athletes from Intellectual Disability Sport in both the **Summer and Winter Paralympic Games**, France would send an



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes 2025 Photo credit: © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA

unprecedented message to the international community.

It would demonstrate that inclusion is not a distant aspiration. It is a commitment that can—and should—be realised today.

The **French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games** have the opportunity to become a defining milestone in the history of the Paralympic Movement.

Not only by celebrating sporting excellence.

But by ensuring that excellence is recognised wherever it exists.

Virtus: the global governing body for high-performance intellectual disability sport

A Key Stakeholder in the Paralympic Movement

Virtus is the international federation responsible for the development of high-performance sport for athletes with intellectual disabilities, psychological disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Recognised by the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**, Virtus has played a central role in the Paralympic Movement for decades, promoting equal opportunities, sporting excellence and international recognition for athletes with intellectual disabilities.



Virtus Global Games Swimming Finals -
Vichy 2023

Credit © Virtus Global Games

Created to provide a fair, credible and professionally governed competitive framework, Virtus now oversees more than 15 international sports, including Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing for athletes with intellectual disabilities. Virtus works closely with its national member organisations—such as the French Federation for Intellectual Disability Sport (FFSA)—as well as with international sport governing bodies, including the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS).

An experienced partner for the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games

France has already demonstrated the strength of this

partnership. On behalf of Virtus, the FFSA successfully organised the Virtus Global Games 2023 in Vichy, followed by the **Virtus World Championships in Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing in Tignes and Bessans in 2025**, with the support of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council. These events brought together hundreds of athletes from around the world and demonstrated Virtus' ability to integrate seamlessly into an existing sporting ecosystem in partnership with the FFSA and the French Ski Federation (FFS).

Looking ahead to the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games, **Virtus is ideally positioned to serve as the technical partner responsible for coordinating Intellectual Disability Sport events**, in the same way that other international federations already oversee Paralympic disciplines—for example, the FIS for skiing and the International Biathlon Union (IBU) for biathlon.

Such a partnership would:

- ensure the effective integration of the international classification system for athletes with intellectual disabilities;
- guarantee the highest technical and sporting standards;
- mobilise Virtus' global network of member nations to maximise athlete participation.

A global network of expertise

Virtus brings together more than 90 member nations and coordinates an extensive international competition calendar that includes:

- the Virtus Global Games every four years;
- the Virtus Summer Games and Virtus Winter Games every two years;
- World Championships and Continental Championships across multiple sports;
- the continuous development and governance of international classification systems for athletes with intellectual disabilities;
- scientific, technical and regulatory collaboration with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) and numerous international sports federations.

This unique combination of operational experience, technical expertise and international governance makes Virtus the natural organisation to support the delivery of Intellectual Disability Sport competitions at the highest level.

Previous major events

Virtus Global Games – Vichy 2023: A landmark success for elite intellectual disability sport



Virtus Global Games - Vichy 2023

Credit © Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

Held in Vichy from 4 to 10 June 2023, the Virtus Global Games marked a major milestone in the recognition of Intellectual Disability Sport in France. **Nearly 1,000 athletes from 44 countries competed across 13 international sports, all delivered according to the highest international standards.** France topped the medal table, demonstrating not only sporting excellence but also outstanding organisational capability.

Supported by the **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council, the French Ministry of Sports**, extensive media coverage—including regional newspapers, France Télévisions and social media—and strong public engagement, particularly from schools and volunteers, the Games showcased what a large-scale Intellectual Disability Sport event can achieve. Importantly, all competitions were delivered using existing venues and

infrastructure.

No major adaptations were required—only effective planning, accessibility measures and strong collaboration between organisers and local stakeholders.

The event delivered a clear message: **Intellectual Disability Sport inspires. It attracts audiences. It delivers world-class competition. And France is ready to go even further.**

Virtus World Championships – Tignes & Bessans 2025: World-Class performance in the French Alps

The Virtus World Championships in Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing were held in Tignes (8–14 March 2025) and Bessans (30 March–5 April 2025).

Supported by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Council, the Championships were staged on **FIS-homologated courses** already used for other major international skiing competitions.

The event clearly demonstrated that elite Intellectual Disability Sport **requires no dedicated sporting infrastructure.**

The existing competition venues fully met the technical requirements of a World Championship, provided that accessibility, signage and athlete support services were carefully planned.

These are the very same slopes used for international Paralympic competitions. Delegations from around the world, together with strong attendance from local spectators, confirmed both the international appeal of the Championships and their media potential. Tignes—already the primary training base for the French national Para Alpine Skiing team—illustrates that a fully operational high-performance ecosystem is already in place and ready to be scaled up for the **French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games.**



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes 2025 Photo credit: © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA

An initiative born in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

The **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region** has established itself as a leader in disability inclusion through ambitious policies promoting access to education, employment, mobility, culture and sport. Its commitment is driven by a simple conviction: inclusion is essential to building a fairer society.

This vision has translated into support for major international events, including the Virtus Global Games 2023 in Vichy and the Virtus World Championships in Para Alpine Skiing and Para Nordic Skiing held in Tignes and Bessans in 2025, demonstrating France's ability to host elite Intellectual Disability Sport competitions.

In **June 2025**, the Regional Council adopted a resolution introduced by Sandrine Chaix, Vice-President for Disability Affairs, calling for the inclusion of Intellectual Disability Sport in the French Alps 2030 Winter Paralympic Games. It states: «The French Alps provide the ideal setting for a historic milestone—one that would represent a genuine step forward in promoting diversity and equal opportunities through sport.»

Through this commitment, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region reaffirms its role as a **standard-bearer for inclusion**, promoting a vision of sport that celebrates dignity, equal opportunity and excellence. The Jeux 2030 Inclusifs statement carries that same ambition: ensuring every athlete has the opportunity to compete on the world's greatest winter sporting stage.



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes and Bessans 2025

Photo credit: © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA



Virtus World Championships in Adapted Para Alpine Skiing - Tignes 2025 Photo
credit: © Geoffroy Wahlen - FFSA

Useful Links

News and feature articles:

- [Adapted Sport: A Sport for All, an Opportunity for Everyone](#)
- [International Classifications in Intellectual Disability Sport: Understanding Categories II1, II2 and II3](#)
- [The French Federation for Adapted Sport \(FFSA\): over 50 years of commitment to the right to sport for all](#)
- [The History of the Paralympic Games and Intellectual Disability Sport: A Shared Journey Towards Inclusion](#)

Press Roundup

Press resources available: photos, press release