



Making the
Paralympic
Games 2030

Press Release

TRULY INCLUSIVE

Paris

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A year of sports and civic engagement to make the 2030 Alps Winter Paralympic Games truly inclusive!!

The **#Inclusive2030Games** statement, launched on September 27, 2025, is celebrating its first year of advocacy today. With nearly 6,000 signatories—including athletes, organizations, elected officials, members of the Paralympic movement, businesses, and citizens from many countries—this movement is making a difference in the Paralympic world. We'll tell you all about it!



Gaël Salomon, an adapted Nordic skier at the 1998 Nagano Winter Paralympic Games.

One year ago, Marc Truffaut, president of the French Adapted Sports Federation (FFSA), and Sandrine Chaix, vice president for disability affairs for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, launched the statement **“France, Standard-Bearer for Paralympic Inclusion! It’s up to us to write this chapter.”** 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).

Its goal is clear: **to enable para-ski athletes with neurodevelopmental disorders—intellectual disabilities with or without additional disabilities such as Down syndrome or autism spectrum disorders—to reclaim their place at the Paralympic Winter Games during the 2030 edition to be held in the French Alps.**

Athletes Speaking Out, in France and Around the World

One of the strengths of this movement is that it has given a face to the athletes involved. Alongside Marc Truffaut and Sandrine Chaix, the campaign is also led by top French athletes: **Thomas Girard** and **Mélanie De Bona** (adapted para alpine skiing), **Clément Richard** and **Clément Colomby** (adapted para cross-country skiing), and **Marie Graftiaux** (adapted para swimming). Alongside them, the movement has gradually gone global with the involvement of **Georgia Yuen**, an Australian skier; **Magdalena Sailerová**, a Czech skier; and **Haleigh Bates**, an American skier and member of the first Virtus Athletes’ Council.

[Discover all their profiles here.](#)

These stories highlight a reality: **Adaptive Sports skiers train, compete, and perform on**

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the same slopes used in competitions.

In 2025, the Virtus World Championships in alpine and Nordic skiing, held in the French Alps, demonstrated the feasibility of such competitions on courses certified by **the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS)**. **And these events were organized in accordance with FIS regulations.**

Support Gains Momentum

Over the course of the year, the call for the reinstatement of Adapted Sports also received support from numerous stakeholders in the sports and institutional sectors.

The **French Paralympic and Sports Committee (CPSF)**, members of Parliament, local and regional elected officials, sports figures, and private partners—including Malakoff Humanis—helped raise the profile of this initiative. Starting in November 2025, the campaign gained **significant media and political attention**, particularly during the Senate committee hearing on “The French Sports Movement: Hearing with the Olympic Committees,” where Senator **Cédric Vial** spoke on behalf of the campaign and Adapted Sports.

In March 2026, **Edgar Grospiron**, then president of the Organizing Committee for the Alpes 2030 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, told *Le Figaro* that the issue of integrating athletes with intellectual disabilities “is part of the discussions.” This statement reinforced the idea that the issue now has a rightful place in the preparations for the Games. A few days later, **Ophélie David** interviewed him live on *France TV* (Fench TV) on the subject of reintegrating para-athletes with intellectual disabilities into the 2030 Games.

More recently, at the **National Conference on Disability** on September 4, 2026, the French President **Emmanuel Macron** called for “rehabilitating” the image of disability and specifically mentioned the need for better representation of people with disabilities in sports competitions, with particular attention paid to athletes with intellectual disabilities.

Virtus’s Role: Balancing International Initiatives and Scientific Research

In 2012, thanks to international research on eligibility and classifications, athletes in Adapted Sports were able to return to the 2012 Summer Paralympic Games in London, but not to the Winter Paralympic Games.

In July 2025, **Virtus and the FIS signed a memorandum** of understanding that, among other things, called for strengthening their technical cooperation and working toward the inclusion of athletes with intellectual disabilities in alpine and Nordic skiing disciplines, potentially as early as 2030.

In 2026, the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)** awarded a grant to the research department at KU Leuven Virtus to further advance research on eligibility and **classifications for several Virtus sports**, particularly adapted Nordic para-skiing.

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In 2026, Italy—a country deeply committed to Adapted Sports—also launched a campaign to reintegrate adapted skiing by 2030.

It is also worth noting the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, adopted on December 12, 2006, and its Article 30 regarding equal access to sports.



The Next Door to Open: That of the FIS

For Adaptive Sports skiers around the world to return to the Winter Paralympic Games in 2030, **the International Ski and Snowboard Federation (FIS) is now a key player in the final decision.**

Together with the IPC, it must facilitate the creation of a new disability class for Adaptive Sports in Nordic and alpine skiing events.

The FIS and Virtus have already formalized their cooperation for 2025, with a joint working group focused specifically on technical issues, competition rules, and classifications.

The “Inclusive 2030 Games” statement is therefore now calling **for this cooperation to be accelerated and for a final decision to be made on the reintegration of skiers into Adapted Sports for the 2030 Alpine Games.**

The momentum is building. The athletes are ready. France is ready. International stakeholders are already working together.

“All that remains now is to turn this momentum into a decision that will allow Adaptive Skiing athletes to return to **the biggest stage in Paralympic winter sports** as early as 2030. Yes, **we must make 2030 a new chapter in Paralympic history,**” Sandrine Chaix

One year after its launch, the Inclusive 2030 Games statement intends to continue its advocacy with a simple conviction: **the 2030 Winter Paralympic Games in the French Alps can become a new milestone in the history of inclusion in sports.**

Following Paris 2024, which played a major role in changing perceptions of disability, **“the 2030 Games offer France a new opportunity to convey a universal message: that of a sport where every athlete can find their place.** That is the very essence of this movement we are championing,” said Marc Truffaut.

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“We also hope that, **in the coming months, France will advocate** with the International Olympic Committee for better representation of all people with disabilities at major sporting events, including **the Paralympic Games**, and **more specifically for the participation of people with neurodevelopmental disorders, intellectual disabilities, and Down syndrome**,” said Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, at the National Conference on Disability in September 2026.

Nearly **6,000 signatures** have already helped make this voice heard around the world.

The next step is in the hands of international stakeholders in the skiing and Paralympic movements.

Thank you for your invaluable support in driving these decisions forward!

France has opened the door. Now it's up to all of us, collectively, to throw it wide open to the whole world! Together, let's go even further.

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