

# MANIFESTO ELVIRA

THE NEXT STEP OF WORLD PARAVOLLEY: MORE COUNTRIES, MORE ATHLETES, MORE EXPOSURE!



Dear ParaVolleyball friends, I would like to share with you my manifest regarding the elections for the role of Vice President.

## My experience

### Athlete

From the first moment I started playing sitting volleyball, it was love at first sight. I played in the Dutch Sitting Volleyball team for almost 20 years, 10 of which as team captain. With the Dutch team we achieved great heights, such as participating in three Paralympic Games, winning a bronze medal in Beijing. I contributed to the developments of World ParaVolley as an athlete and as a volunteer. In setting up the athletes' committee with several athletes, made my voice heard as an athlete in the developments in the field of classification and have been able to contribute to honouring our most important ParaVolleyball members.



### Board and advisory committees

It has always been important for me to contribute to the sport off court as well. At the national volleyball federation I worked on the development of sitting and beach volleyball with all parties. At the same time I was elected as Vice Chair in the national athletes' committee and later also in the IPC athletes' council. Besides that, I contributed as a governing board member of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), and served on various boards and advisory councils. I have always filled these positions with full dedication with the aim of improving the sport, making it grow and promoting it to ensure that more people with a disability have the opportunity to play sports.

## My vision

The experience I have gained has made me realise that sitting volleyball is seen as one of the most inclusive sports in the world. It is an opportunity to strengthen that image. The four disciplines of ParaVolley: Sitting Volleyball, Beach ParaVolley, Standing Volleyball and Beach Sitting Volleyball are exciting, dynamic and popular sports. These disciplines can play an important role to make society more inclusive and make the world better by emphasizing the social relevance of sports. And to show the world what a great athletes are involved in our sports. There are also opportunities in strategic collaboration with parties such as the zones of WPV, IPC and FIVB. World ParaVolley is ready for the next step: **more countries, more athletes, more exposure**. Its moving forward on the path that has been set by people who have already worked on this with great passion!

### Advisor Ministry Health, Welfare and Sports

As an advisor at the Ministry over the previous 11 years, I am responsible for making sport as inclusive as possible. My work consists of devising strategies, finding strong partnerships and financial support to make sport future-proof. How to make politics adopt the strategies and ultimately implement them is one of my tasks. I have built and now lead a network organization of more than 50 organizations that really want to work together to make sport accessible to people with disabilities.

Quote Hong Zhou (Head Coach Dutch Women's Sitting Volleyball team): "As a former Olympian and Paralympian, and currently the head coach of the Dutch women's sitting volleyball team, I have had the privilege of working with many inspiring people. However, Elvira was someone who really stood out.

Elvira was always more than just a captain; she was the heart of our team. With her positive energy and inspiring leadership, she created an atmosphere where everyone could be at their best. Her ability to listen, connect and think strategically made us stronger as a team. As a teammate and leader, she was the driving force behind our successes, and her support made us always look out for each other. Her empathy and dedication make her an essential leader, a special teammate and colleague"

"Working with Elvira is always good and enjoyable; sharp on the content, focused on the goal with an eye for the interests of other people and always with a smile!"  
Rita van Driel, former IPC director and colleague in the Netherlands

# MY MANIFESTO

**World ParaVolley is ready for the next step: more countries, more athletes, more exposure. The three main opportunities I see for World ParaVolley:**

- 1. Growth: Zones are central**
- 2. Strengthen: Strengthen and utilise relationships with IPC and FIVB**
- 3. Future-proof: A clear and open structure with strong partnerships**

*“Elvira, a strong captain on and off the court. As an experienced leader and former athlete she will be a strong promotor for World ParaVolley.” Peter Sprenger, President Nevobo*

## **1. Growth: Zones are central**

We need to further strengthen and support the zones in order to realize further growth. The sport has developed in Africa, Asia-Oceania, Pan America and Europe. We can build on those developments with powerful and inclusive exposure. Exposure is what our athletes deserve. This means more interest in the sport, more partnerships, more countries and more athletes. Isn't that where we want to go?!

**How can we do that:** Ensure more regional events that are organised in such a way that they are manageable for members and have a large impact whilst taking into account the differences that exist regionally and nationally. As it comes to exposure an important intermediate step is the Paralympic Games in LA in 2028. As far as. Together we can make sure that all sitting volleyball matches are broadcast in a fantastic way.



## **2. Strengthen: Improve and utilise relationships between WPV, IPC and FIVB**

A good relationship between WPV, the IPC and FIVB is essential to further strengthen the position of WPV. A lot of work has been done in this area in recent years and can be expanded upon in the coming years. The knowledge, partnerships and network IPC and FIVB have are of great importance to WPV members. At the same time WPV has something to offer these organizations as well: an overall inclusive sport, with great athletes, strong zones and involved nation members!

**How can we do that:** Where the three organizations find each others is that sports can make society more inclusive and make the world better by emphasizing the social relevance of sports. The Foundation can play an important role in this. There are opportunities to work together!

*“Elvira is a truly committed sports leader with a great capability to build strong long lasting relationships.”  
Anneke van Zanen, President NPC Netherlands*



## **3. Future-proof: A clear and open structure with strong partnerships**

In order to be a future-proof, athletes centred organization, to grow in the number of members and athletes and to be able to offer the support that the zones need, further professionalisation is necessary. WPV has already taken the first steps to become a professional organization with the appointment of a General Manager. Besides that a clear structure of WPV for the next 10 years with strong partnerships can set a future proof open organization with a strong own identity. With all four disciplines of ParaVolley: Sitting Volleyball, Beach ParaVolley, Standing Volleyball and Beach Sitting Volleyball as exciting, dynamic and popular sports.

**How can we do that:** In order to achieve this, funding is necessary. Other sources must be tapped for this, and the Foundation must be put to good use. It is about collaboration between sports, governments, business and funds.

**Thank you for reading my Manifesto. I am looking forward to meeting with you and strengthen our sport together! World ParaVolley to take the next step: more countries, more athletes and more exposure!**