

China's Parasports: Progress and the Protection of Rights

中国残疾人体育事业发展和权利保障

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Preamble

Sports are important for all individuals, including those with a disability. Developing parasports is an effective way to help persons with disabilities to improve physical fitness, pursue physical and mental rehabilitation, participate in social activities, and achieve all-round development. It also provides a special opportunity for the public to better understand the potential and value of the disabled, and promote social harmony and progress. In addition, developing parasports is of great importance in ensuring that persons with disabilities can enjoy equal rights, integrate readily into society, and share the fruits of economic and social progress. Participation in sports is an important right of persons with disabilities as well as an integral component of human rights protection.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) with Xi Jinping at the core attaches great importance to the cause of the disabled, and provides them with extensive care. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, China has included this cause in the Five-sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy, and taken concrete and effective measures to develop parasports. With the steady advance of parasports in China, many athletes with disabilities have worked hard and won honors for the country in the international arena, inspiring the public through their sporting prowess. Historic progress has been made in developing sports for persons with disabilities.

With the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games just around the corner, athletes with disabilities are once again drawing global attention. The Games will certainly provide an opportunity for the development of parasports in China; they will enable the international parasports movement to advance “together for a shared future”.

前言

体育对包括残疾人在内的每个人的生活都具有重要价值。残疾人体育是残疾人增强体质、康复身心、参与社会、实现全面发展的有效途径；是人们认识残疾人潜能与价值、促进社会和谐共进的独特渠道。发展残疾人体育，对于保障残疾人平等权利、促进残疾人融合发展、推动残疾人共享经济社会发展成果，具有重要意义。残疾人体育重在参与，这是残疾人的一项重要权利，是人权保障的重要内容。

以习近平同志为核心的党中央十分关心残疾人，高度重视残疾人事业发展。中共十八大以来，在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想指引下，中国将残疾人事业纳入“五位一体”总体布局和“四个全面”战略布局，采取切实有效措施促进残疾人体育蓬勃发展。残疾人体育运动水平不断提高，残疾人运动员自强不息、顽强拼搏、为国争光、激励社会，残疾人体育事业取得历史性成就。

北京2022年冬残奥会开幕在即，全世界的目光再次聚焦残疾人体育健儿，中国残疾人体育迎来新的发展机遇，必将推动国际残疾人体育运动“一起向未来”。

I. Parasports Have Progressed Through National Development

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949, in the cause of socialist revolution and reconstruction, reform and opening up, socialist modernization, and socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, along with making progress in the cause of the disabled, parasports have steadily developed and prospered, embarking on a path that carries distinct Chinese features and respects the trends of the times.

1. Steady progress was made in parasports after the founding of the PRC. With the founding of the PRC, the people became masters of the country. Persons with disabilities were granted equal political status, enjoying the same lawful rights and obligations as other citizens. The 1954 Constitution of the People's Republic of China stipulated that they "have the right to material assistance". Welfare factories, welfare institutions, special education schools, specialized social organizations and a positive social environment have guaranteed the basic rights and interests of disabled people and improved their lives.

In the early years of the PRC, the CPC and the Chinese government attached great importance to sports for the people. Parasports made gradual progress in schools, factories and sanatoriums. Large numbers of disabled people actively participated in sports activities such as radio calisthenics, workplace exercises, table tennis, basketball, and tug of war, laying the foundations for more disabled people to participate in sports.

In 1957, the first national games for blind youth took place in Shanghai. Sports organizations for people with hearing impairments were established all over the country, and they organized regional sports events. In 1959, the first national men's basketball competition for those with hearing impairments was held. National sports competitions encouraged more disabled people to participate in sports, improved their physical fitness, and increased their enthusiasm for social integration.

2. Parasports progressed rapidly following the launch of reform and opening up. Following the introduction of reform and opening up in 1978, China achieved a historic transformation—raising the living standards of its people from bare subsistence to a basic level of moderate prosperity. This marked a tremendous step forward for the Chinese nation—from standing upright to becoming better-off.

The CPC and the Chinese government launched a host of major initiatives to champion the progress of parasports and improve the lives of disabled people. The state promulgated the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, and ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. As reform and opening up progressed, promoting the interests of disabled people evolved from social welfare, provided mainly in the form of relief, into a comprehensive social undertaking. Greater efforts were made to increase opportunities for disabled people to participate in social

一、国家发展促进残疾人体育进步

新中国成立以来，在社会主义革命和建设、改革开放和社会主义现代化建设、新时代中国特色社会主义伟大进程中，伴随着残疾人事业的发展，残疾人体育不断发展壮大，走出一条具有中国特色、符合时代潮流的残疾人体育发展之路。

1.新中国成立后残疾人体育活动逐步开展。1949年中华人民共和国成立，实现了人民当家作主，残疾人在政治上获得了和其他人平等的地位，享受应有的公民权利和义务。1954年制定的《中华人民共和国宪法》规定，残疾人“有获得物质帮助的权利”。福利工厂、福利机构、特殊教育学校、残疾人社会组织和友善的社会环境保障了残疾人的基本权益，改善了残疾人的生活。新中国成立初期，中国共产党和中国政府就非常重视全民体育运动，基于学校、工厂、疗养院的残疾人体育逐步发展起来。广大残疾人积极参与体育活动，开展了广播操、生产操、乒乓球、篮球、拔河等体育活动，为残疾人体育的发展奠定了基础。1957年，第一届全国青年盲人运动会在上海举办。全国各地建立了聋人体育组织，积极举办区域性聋人体育运动会。1959年，举办了全国首届聋人男子篮球赛。全国性残疾人体育比赛的开展，推动更多残疾人参加体育活动，增强了残疾人体质，激发了残疾人社会参与的热情。

2.残疾人体育在改革开放中快速发展。改革开放后，中国实现了人民生活从温饱不足到总体小康、奔向全面小康的历史性跨越，推进了中华民族从站起来到富起来的伟大飞跃。中国共产党和中国政府实施了一系列发展残疾人事业、改善残疾人状况的重大举措。中国制定了《中华人民共和国残疾人保障法》，批准了联合国《残疾人权利公约》。残疾人事业由改革开放初期以救济为主的社会福利工作，逐步发展成为综合性社会事业。残疾人参与社会生活的环境大为改善，残疾人各方面的权利得到尊重和保障，为发展残疾

activities, and to respect and protect their rights in all respects, laying the foundations for the development of parasports.

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Physical Culture and Sports stipulates that society as a whole should concern itself with and support the participation of the disabled in physical activities, and that governments at all levels shall take measures to provide conditions for disabled people to participate in physical activities. The law also prescribes that disabled people should have preferential access to public sports installations and facilities, and that schools shall create conditions for organizing sports activities suited to the particular conditions of students who are in poor health or disabled.

Parasports were included in the national development strategies and in development plans for the disabled. Relevant work mechanisms and public services were improved, enabling parasports to enter a stage of rapid development.

In 1983, a national sports invitational for persons with disabilities was held in Tianjin. In 1984, the First National Games for Persons with Disabilities took place in Hefei, Anhui Province. In the same year, Team China made its debut at the 7th Paralympic Summer Games in New York, and won its first ever Paralympic gold medal. In 1994, Beijing hosted the 6th Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled (FESPIC Games), the first international multi-sport event for disabled people held in China. In 2001, Beijing won the bid to host the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games. In 2004, Team China led both the gold medal count and the overall medal count for the first time at the Athens Paralympic Summer Games. In 2007, Shanghai hosted the Special Olympics World Summer Games. In 2008, the Paralympic Summer Games were held in Beijing. In 2010, Guangzhou hosted the Asian Para Games.

Over this period, China set up a number of sports organizations for disabled people, including the China Sports Association for the Disabled (later renamed the National Paralympic Committee of China), the China Sports Association for the Deaf, and the China Association for the Mentally Challenged (later renamed Special Olympics China). China also joined a number of international sports organizations for the disabled, including the International Paralympic Committee. Meanwhile, various local sports organizations for disabled people were set up across the country.

3. Historic progress has been made in parasports in the new era. Since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China has built a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled, and the Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation—from standing upright to becoming prosperous and growing in strength.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of China, has a particular concern for people with disabilities. He emphasizes that disabled people are equal members of society, and an important force for the development of human civilization and for upholding and developing Chinese

人体育奠定了基础。《中华人民共和国体育法》规定，全社会应当关心、支持残疾人参加体育活动，各级政府应当采取措施为残疾人参加体育活动提供方便，公共体育设施要对残疾人实行优惠办法，学校应当创造条件为病残学生组织适合其特点的体育活动。残疾人体育纳入国家发展战略和残疾人事业发展规划，残疾人体育工作机制逐步健全，公共服务全面开展，残疾人体育迎来了快速发展阶段。1983年，在天津举办全国伤残人体育邀请赛。1984年，在安徽合肥举办首届全国残疾人运动会。同年，中国残奥代表团首次赴美国纽约参加第七届残奥会，并实现中国残奥史上金牌“零的突破”。1994年，北京承办第六届远东及南太平洋地区残疾人运动会（以下简称“远南运动会”），这是中国首次承办综合性国际残疾人体育赛事。2001年，北京获得2008年奥运会和残奥会举办权。2004年，中国残奥代表团在雅典残奥会上首次获得金牌数和奖牌数双第一。2007年，举办上海世界夏季特殊奥林匹克运动会（以下简称“上海特奥会”）。2008年，举办北京残奥会。2010年，举办广州亚洲残疾人运动会（以下简称“广州亚残运会”）。这一时期，先后成立了中国伤残人体育协会（后更名为中国残疾人体育协会、中国残奥委员会）、中国聋人体育协会、中国智残人体育协会（后更名为中国特奥委员会）等残疾人体育组织，并相继加入国际残奥委员会等多个国际残疾人体育组织。各地也先后成立了各类残疾人体育组织。

3.新时代残疾人体育取得历史性成就。中共十八大以来，中国特色社会主义进入新时代，中国如期全面建成小康社会，中华民族迎来了从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大飞跃。中共中央总书记、中国国家主席习近平对残疾人格外关心、格外关注，强调“残疾人是社会大家庭的平等成员，是人类文明发展的一支重要力量，是坚持和发展中国特色社会主义的一支重要力量”“健全人