

Tracking the Emergence of the Iraqi Paralympic Committee until 2020

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Abstract

The 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul, South Korea represented a turning point was. They were held using the same facilities as the Summer Olympics. They were followed by the 1992, 1996, and 2000 Paralympics. Subsequently, the 1992 Winter Paralympics was the first to use the same facilities as the Winter Olympics as eventually agreed upon between the International Paralympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee in 2001 and recently extended until 2020. The present study is significant as it is a serious attempt to identify the priorities of establishing the Iraqi Paralympic Committee, the date of its establishment, and the duration from establishing it until 2020. The problem of the study revolves around the idea that establishing the Iraqi Federation for Sports of the Disabled on February 8, 1982 had a prominent role in caring for the disabled and rehabilitating them in a way that guarantees their correct and integrated educational preparation (Ibrahim, 1992). Throughout the years of its establishment, the Federation took upon itself the work of laying the correct foundations for the sport of the disabled in Iraq and developing the sports movement through the establishment of many internal tournaments and competitions, as well as keenness to participate in external tournaments. Therefore, the researcher decided to delve into this previously unaddressed topic in the form of a scientific study to begin with historical and documentary pages to learn about the history of the emergence of the Paralympic courses until 2020. The present study aims to identify the history of the establishment of the Paralympic Committee until 2020.

Keywords

Analytical study, the establishment of the Paralympic Committee, the Paralympic Committee

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Introduction

Studying history in all fields in general and in the field of sports in particular is of great importance because it shows the achievements and failures that took place in that era of time. The best evidence of that is the Paralympic Committee. It is one of the institutions that is parallel to the Olympic Committee. It is concerned with managing the affairs of people with special needs sports with the aim of integrating them in community and communication with peers. Therefore, any study or analysis of the past or the present must study events as history is a chain of interrelationship between the past and the present. Scientific development has a great renaissance in all fields. This development had a great influence on sports through the great achievements in various sports events. The Paralympic Games are the second largest international multi-sport event, in which athletes with varying degrees of disability participate, including weak muscular strength, such as paraplegia, quadriplegia, amputation, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, movement impairment as a result of Disability in limbs such as amputation, short stature, muscle tension, poor vision, and retarded growth. The first launch of the Paralympic Games is a small gathering of World War II veterans in 1948 to become one of the largest international sporting events at the beginning of the 21st century. Paralympians seek equality with non-disabled Olympic athletes. However, there is a large funding gap between the funding of Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Winter and Summer Paralympic Games are also held. (Ibrahim & et al.1984) Its first tournament was in 1988 in Seoul, South Korea. It is held immediately after each Olympic Games. All the games are subject to the management and arbitration of the International Paralympic Committee. Therefore, the Olympic administration classified ten categories of disabilities to be within its range, including disability in the limbs, difference in the length of the legs, dwarfism, muscle tension, ataxia, sclerosis, visual impairment, and retardation of growth. These categories are re-divided into sub-categories, which differ from one sport to another. The classification system has led to many controversies. Some athletes over-stated their disabilities and some others used stimulant drugs in other events, including the numerous Paralympic Games. (American psychiatric association, 1994) The first official Paralympic Games, open to all, not just war-affected people, were held in Rome in 1960. 400 athletes from 23 countries participated. Since 1960, the Paralympic Games have been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. At first, the Paralympics were only accessible to wheelchair users. But, by the 1976 Summer Paralympics, athletes with all disabilities were able to participate for the first time. With the addition of more disability categories for the 1976 Summer Paralympics, participation expanded to include 1,600 athletes from 40 countries. Another turning point was the 1988 Summer Paralympics in Seoul, South Korea. They were held in the same city using the same facilities as the Summer Olympics. They were followed by the 1992, 1996 and 2000 Games. Subsequently, the 1992 Winter Paralympics was the first in the Winter Paralympics to use the same facilities as the Winter Olympics. They were eventually agreed upon between the International Paralympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee in 2001 and recently extended until 2020. The present study is significant as it is a serious attempt to find out the priorities of the Iraqi Paralympic Committee, the date of establishing it, and the duration from establishing it until 2020.

Problem of the Study

Physical education and sports sciences is the first outlet and effective means that occupies the first place in the interests of the disabled athletes. It contributes to emptying the negative energy possessed by the disabled athletes as a result of disability, contributing to early detection to identify the capabilities of the disabled athletes, and improving their skills through sports practice and directions received by the disabled athletes from coaches or specialists. The establishment of the Iraqi Disabled Sports Federation on February 8, 1982 played a prominent role in caring for the disabled and rehabilitating them to ensure their correct and integrated educational preparation (Ibrahim, 1992). Throughout the years of its establishment, the Federation took upon itself to work on laying the correct foundations for the sport of the disabled athletes in Iraq and developing the sports movement through the establishment of many internal tournaments and competitions, as well as keenness to participate in external tournaments. Therefore, the researcher decided to delve into this previously unaddressed topic in the form of a scientific study to begin with historical and documentary pages to learn about the history of the establishment of the Paralympic Committee until 2020.

Objectives of the Study

The present study aims to date the establishment of the Paralympic Committee until 2020.

Scope of the Study

The human domain

The research sample was limited to a number of coaches, administrators, and the first players in the sport of the disabled athletes in Iraq who had an influential and effective role in the emergence of the Iraqi Paralympic Committee.

The temporal domain

From 1/2/2018 to 30/3/2020.

The Spatial Domain

- The Iraqi Olympic Committee.
- The Iraqi Paralympic Committee.
- Disabled sports federations
- Al-Majd Club.

Literature Review

The Paralympic Committee is defined as a non-governmental sports organization that belongs to the International Paralympic Committee. In Iraq, it is the only institution that is concerned with sports for persons with disabilities. It does not intersect with the Iraqi laws, regulations, and instructions in force. (Dunn,1989) Disabled sport did not continue under the name of the Sports Federation or Al-Majd Club. The Iraqi Paralympic Committee was established on the ninth of April 2003. Faculty of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, University of Baghdad witnessed the first meeting of the Interim Authority for the Management of Disabled Sports in Iraq headed by Ahmed Abdulghafour Al-Samarrai, accompanied by a member of the temporary body, Dr. Falih Francis. In that meeting, it was agreed to form a temporary body to manage the sport of the disabled. Dr. Mudhaffar Abdullah Shafeeq was named a coordinator between the temporary authority for the management of the sport of the disabled and the temporary body for the management of the country's sport. The temporary body for the management of the disabled consisted of: Qahtan Tayeh Al-Nuaimi, Dr. Dhari Toma, Fakhir Al-Jamali, Khalid Rashag, Dr. Aqeel Hameed, Alaa Al-Din Musa Al-Roudhan, Haidar Ameen, Siham Hassan, Dr. Kareem Abees, Muhammad Salman Tawfeeq, Muhammad Majeed, Asaad Ismail, Hassan Ridha, Dr. Abdulaziz Nayef, Abdulkareem Abdulhussein, Abdulkareem Baqir, Samir Ali Latif, Qassim Shanishil, and Hadi Abdulkareem. The ninth of the October 2003 is a historic day in the Iraqi Paralympic Committee's record. The first elections were held for the ten federations, which in turn formed the organizational structure of the Paralympic Committee, which are (weightlifting - athletics, volleyball from a sitting position, fencing swimming on chairs, goal ball for the blind, table tennis, tennis Ground, Deaf and Dumb Games. At that time, the executive office of the Iraqi Paralympic Committee was elected for the first time. It consisted of: Qahtan Tayeh Al-Nuaimi as President, Fakhir Ali Al-Jamali as a Secretary General, Hani Abdulmajeed as a First Deputy, Khalid Rashag as a Second Deputy, Abdulkareem Baqir as a Financial Secretary, Dr. Aqeel Hameed as Executive Director, Siham Hassan as Responsible for Women's Sports, Muzhir Ghanim as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Nawfal Abdulsattar and Kawthar Hussain Members of the Board of Directors, Dr. Zuhair Saudi as representative of Ministry of Health, Mr. Mahmoud Dahash Representative of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Dr. Falih Francis as Coordinator with the Interim Sports Administration in Iraq. At the present time, the Iraqi Paralympic Committee consists of: Dr. Aqeel Hameed as President, Khalid Rashag as First Deputy, Farast Ibrahim as Second Deputy, Kawthar Hussein as General Secretary, Obaid Aneed as Financial Secretary, Dr. Ahmad Al-Ani, Haidar Al-Shafi, Saad Abdulmajeed, Majdy Odeh as members. The executive office consists of the same members as

above. The main work of the Paralympic Committee in accordance with the law of the International Paralympic Committee is to achieve several goals, including:

- Raising the technical level of players for all types of disabilities in accordance with the principles of the Paralympic Committee.
 - Holding International, continental, Arab, and regional Paralympic Games in Iraq.
 - Coordinating with the International Committee and its sub-committees to prepare the technical and administrative capacities.
 - It is important to coordinate with civil and governmental institutions responsible for rehabilitating people with special needs in Iraq.
 - Paying attention to strengthening the relationship and bonds of friendship and cooperation with the International Paralympic Committee, federations, and affiliated committees.
 - Affiliating to develop sports for people with special needs in Iraq by following the Paralympic rules.
 - Striving to develop Arab, continental, and international sports activities for people with special needs.
 - Achieving the humanitarian and technical goals of this sport can only be accomplished by spreading and encouraging the challenge sport in Iraq.
- It is worth noting that the Iraqi Paralympic Committee has multiple branches in all Provinces of Iraq. (Educational trends in south east Asia, 1971)

The emergence and launch of the Paralympic sport

If the French Baron Pierre de Coubertin is considered the founder and reviver of the modern Olympic Games and initiator in Athens in 1896, then the German physician Dr. Ludwig Guttman is considered the father of Paralympic sports in 1944 in the city of Stoke Mandeville. (Dunn, 1989) Guttman organized the first sports games for the disabled using wheelchairs in the sport of darts, which was given the name of the Stockmand and Vale Games on the same day as the Olympic Games in London in 1948. That was the first organizational initiative in the history of modern disabled sport. Since then, the disabled sport has moved from the recreational and rehabilitation field to the competitive sports field. The organizational seeds of the institutions concerned with this sport began to appear. In 1952, after a group of former Dutch soldiers joined those games, they established the first official sports organization for the disabled under the name: The Stoke Mandeville Games Federation (ISMGF). (Jovsma, 1990) It is stated that in July 1948, 16 paraplegics competed in darts in the British city of Stoke Mandeville, where the Stoke Mandeville Games were born as important means of social reintegration and gaining community recognition (Landry, 1995). In 1960, after the establishment of the first Paralympic Games in Rome - Italy, the so-called International Working Group for Disabled Sports was formed under the auspices of the World Federation of Veterans to study the problems and difficulties of sports practice for the disabled, which in turn led, after four years of work, to the formation of the International Sports Organization For the disabled IOSD in 1964. This new organization gave the opportunity for disabled athletes who did not have the opportunity to participate in sports within the activities of the Stoke Mandeville Games Federation (ISMGF) for people with visual disabilities, amputations, cerebral palsy, and paraplegia. A new initiative for people with amputations and visual disabilities in the 1976 Toronto Games, and the inclusion of cerebral palsy sports in the 1980 Arnhem Games aimed to embrace all disabilities in the future Paralympic Games to work as a coordination committee between these disabilities that established its own sports organizations such as CP-ISRA organized International Cerebral Palsy Association for Sport and Recreation in 1978, and IBSA International Organization for Blind Sports in 1980. (Joseph, 2005) It is noted that although the International Sports Organization for Persons with Spinal Cord Injury and Paraplegia was formed for years by the Stoke Mandeville Games Federation (ISMGF), there was an urgent need to create an international sports organization that includes all other disability groups with the same goal (Scruton, 1998). Therefore, the International Para sport working group was established in 1960 in Paris by the World Veterans Federation (WVF). In 1982, the four fledgling international organizations of disabled sports, IOSD, IBSA, CP-ISRA and ISMGF, witnessed the establishment of the so-called (International Coordinating Committee for Disabled Sports in the World ICC), which officially included the four heads of those organizations, a general secretary and an additional member initially a vice president Then his name was changed to Technical Director. This international

committee was joined later in 1986 by the International Federation for Sports of Intellectual Disabilities INAS-F and the International Federation for the Sports of the Deaf CISS.

The Methodology

The researchers used the historical method. He took advantage of the sequence of the formation of the Paralympic Committee from (1987) to (2020). The historical method is "a description and recording of past facts and events that are interpreted and analyzed to reach to facts (Mahjoub et al. 1988).

Community and Sample of the Study

The researcher chose administrators, players, and coaches to be the sample of the present study for the period from (1987) to (2020).

Devices and tools used and means of collecting data

- Means of collecting data
- Written or printed sources.
- Arab and foreign historical books and literature, as well as Arab and foreign newspapers and periodicals related to the game.
- Documents archives and records of the Iraqi National Paralympic Committee.
- The Worldwide Information Network (Internet).
- Personal interviews.
- A computer of (Dell) type.
- Flash and DVD.

Field Study Procedures

The researcher recounted the events for the date of the establishment of the Iraqi Paralympic Committee by conducting personal meetings with those concerned with the Paralympic Committee.

Conclusions

1. The emergence of the Paralympic Committee was documented for the period from (1987) to (2020) by the concerned authorities.
2. The emergence of the Paralympic Committee has a good influence on the disabled athletes in Iraq.
3. One of the reasons for the emergence of the Paralympic Committee in Iraq is to take care of the disabled and make them participate in special courses for them.

Recommendations

1. Documenting all that is important and necessary for the Iraqi Paralympic Committee.
2. Documenting the names and members of the committees throughout history.
3. Conducting other historical research on different samples.

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Appendices

Appendix (1) Names of experts with whom interviews were conducted

No.	Name	Title
1	Saeed Hameed Rassooli	Player
2	Majeed Eedan Majeed	Coach
3	Qassim Muhammad Ali	Player
4	Nassir Ali Salih	Player
5	Salah Hassan Kadhim	Player
6	Samir Ali Lateef	Coach
7	Qassim Shnaishil Radhi	Player
8	Hadi Abdulkareem Abduljabbar	Plauyer
9	Majeed Ne'ma Zaboub	Coach