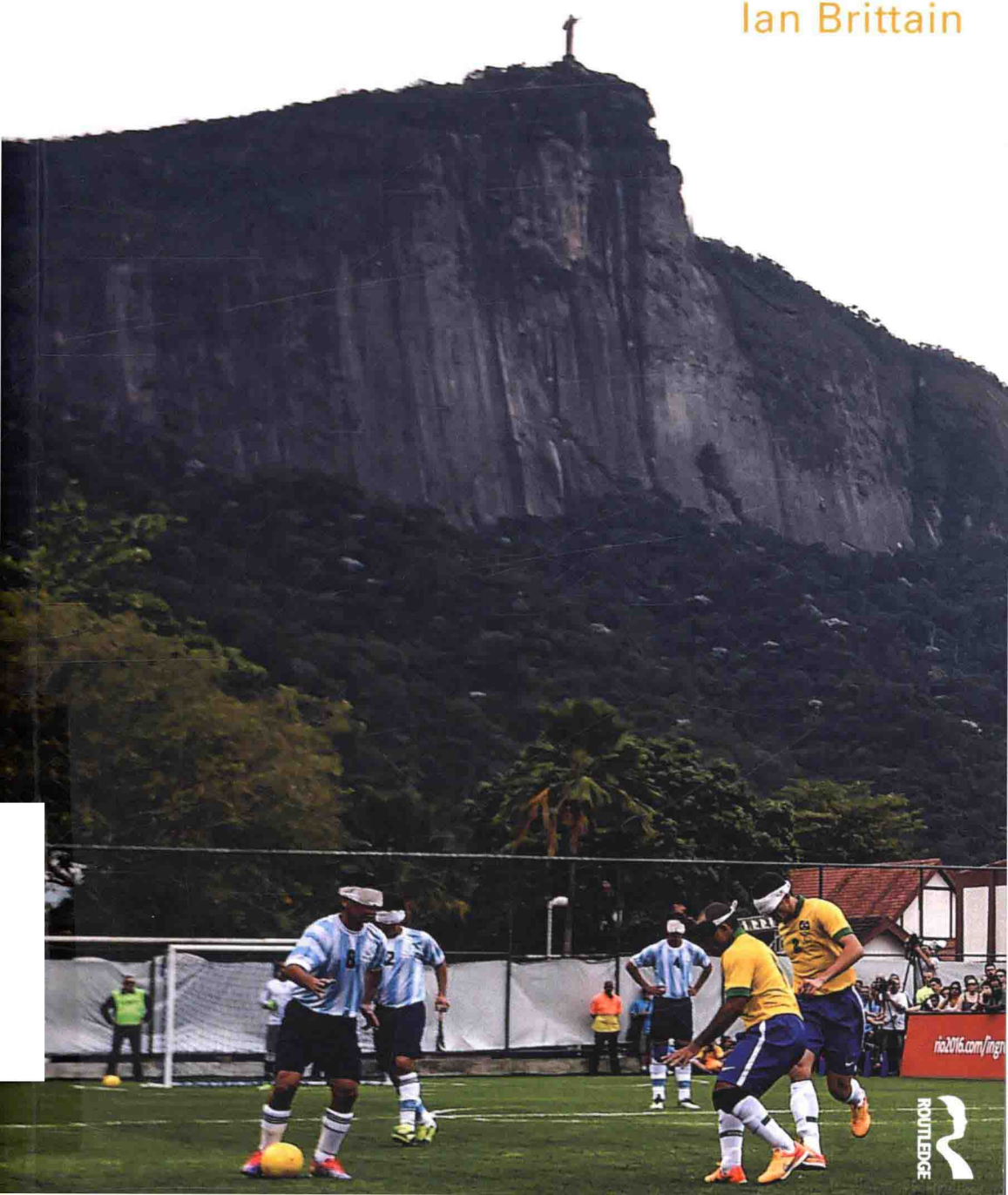
SECOND EDITION

THE PARALYMPIC GAMES EXPLAINED

Ian Brittain



ROUTLEDGE

THE PARALYMPIC GAMES EXPLAINED

The Paralympic Games is the second largest multi-sport festival on earth and an event which poses profound and challenging questions about the nature of sport, disability and society. *The Paralympic Games Explained* is the first complete introduction to the Paralympic phenomenon, exploring every key aspect and issue, from the history and development of the Paralympic movement to the economic and social impact of the contemporary Games.

Now in a fully revised and updated second edition, it includes new material on hosting and legacy, Vancouver 2010 to Rio 2016, sport for development, and case studies of an additional ten Paralympic nations. Drawing on a range of international examples, it discusses key issues such as:

- how societal attitudes influence disability sport
- the governance of Paralympic and elite disability sport
- the relationship between the Paralympics and the Olympics
- drugs and technology in disability sport
- classification in disability sport.

Containing useful features including review questions, study activities, web links and guides to further reading throughout, *The Paralympic Games Explained* is the most accessible and comprehensive guide to the Paralympics currently available. It is essential reading for all students with an interest in disability sport, sporting mega-events, the politics of sport, or disability in society.

Ian Brittain has formerly been an Executive Board member of the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation and was the Sports Coordinator for the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) World Games in Rio de Janeiro and currently acts as Heritage Advisor to IWAS. He has attended the last four Summer Paralympic Games in Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London and was a Ceremonies Consultant for the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony. His research focuses upon sociological, historical and sports management aspects of Paralympic and disability sport.

SPORTS STUDIES / DISABILITY STUDIES

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Ian Brittain

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Ian Brittain is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University, UK. He has formerly been an Executive Board member of the International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation and was the Sports Coordinator for the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) World Games in Rio de Janeiro and currently acts as Heritage Advisor to IWAS. He has attended the last four Summer Paralympic Games in Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London and was a Ceremonies Consultant for the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony. His research focuses upon sociological, historical and sports management aspects of Paralympic and disability sport.

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Acronyms

AHSN	Athletes with High Support Needs
APC	Australian Paralympic Committee
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BLESMA	British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association
BOCOG	Beijing Organising Committee of the Olympic Games
CAS	Court of Arbitration for Sport
CP-ISRA	Cerebal Palsied International Sports and Recreation Association
CISS	Comité International des Sports des Sourds
DQS	Delegation Quota System
EHRC	Equality and Human Rights Commission
FEI	Fédération Equestre Internationale
FINA	Fédération Internationale de Natation
FISA	Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d'Aviron
FITA	Fédération Internationale Tir a l'Arc
IAAF	International Assocation of Athletics Federations
IBD	International Bowls for the Disabled
IBSA	International Blind Sports Association
ICC	International Co-ordinating Committee
IFDS	International Federation for Disabled Sailing
INAS-FID	International Sports Federation for People with an Intellectual Disability
INAS-FMH	International Association of Sports for Persons with a Mental Handicap
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOSD	International Organisations for Sport for the Disabled
IPC	International Paralympic Committee
IPSF	International Paralympic Sports Federation
ISMGF	International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation
ISMWSF	International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation
ISOD	International Sports Organisation for the Disabled
IWAS	International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation
NOC	National Olympic Committee
NOSD	National Organisation for Sport for the Disabled

NPC	National Paralympic Committee
NWAA	National Wheelchair Athletic Association
OCOG	Organising Committee of the Olympic Games
PPP	Paralympic Preparation Program
TUE	Therapeutic Use Exemption
UCI	Union Cycliste Internationale
UKSA	UK Sports Association for People with Learning Difficulties
USOC	United States Olympic Committee
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency
WCF	World Curling Federation
WOVD	World Organisation Volleyball for the Disabled

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Introduction

Paralympic and disability sport is a seriously under researched area with a dearth of academic material, although it has to be noted that things have slowly improved since the first edition of this book came out in 2009. Disability issues impact upon all areas of life. As such, any piece of research that has been carried out in the area of non-disabled sport can also be applied to Paralympic and disability sport, with numerous extra issues to add in to the analytical mix that make the outcomes interesting, informative and useful. There is already an emerging area of research entitled Olympic studies; however, this still leaves a gaping hole in the research agenda. Despite the fact that there is now a strong working link between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) most Olympic studies courses and researchers still pay scant attention to the Paralympic Games. The Paralympic Games are the jewel in the crown of the Paralympic Movement just as the Olympic Games are for the Olympic Movement and are a relatively untouched area for any researcher wishing to instigate a completely new area for study.

This lack of perceived interest in Paralympic and disability sport is, for disabled people, simply a further affirmation of their exclusion from the rest of society based upon non-disabled perceptions of their abilities, which for the most part are unfounded. The aim of this and the first edition of the book, therefore, is to provide information and data regarding the Paralympic Games that will hopefully provoke interest and further research in this fascinating area of sport. This edition of the book has attempted to not only update the original edition in terms of data from the most recent Games, but also to try and add new information, some of which attempt to respond to criticisms of the first edition in various reviews.

The Paralympic Games are a modern day sporting phenomenon that have grown from a small archery demonstration event sixty-eight years ago to become the second largest multi-sport festival on the planet after the Olympic Games. Despite this, there are still many misunderstandings and misconceptions regarding both the Paralympic Games and disability sport in general. Part of the reason for these misunderstandings and misconceptions is the aforementioned dearth of academic research and introductory texts

regarding these Games and the issues that surround them. Given this fact the main purpose of this book is to clear up many of these misunderstandings by providing a clear and accessible text that clearly explains how the Paralympic Games have developed and the kinds of issues both their organisers and the athletes that compete in them have had to overcome to reach the stage they are at today.

The structure of the book

The first two chapters trace the development of the Paralympic Games from their inception as an archery demonstration event at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, UK to the second largest multi-sport festival on the planet after the Olympic Games. They highlight the visionary nature of the Games founder, Sir Ludwig Guttmann, and the methods he used to gain acceptance of, and media coverage for, the early Stoke Mandeville Games. Guttmann constantly drew parallels between the Stoke Mandeville Games and the

Figure 0.1 Archery, the very first competitive sport for athletes with disabilities

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