Managing the Paralympics
It is both an honor and privilege to compose the foreword for *Managing the Paralympics*. It is a major contribution to the academic understanding and industry practice of the Paralympic Games.

As a former coach and leader of Paralympic sport in Canada since the 1960s, being elected as the founding president of the International Paralympic Committee, a role I held from 1989 until 2001, and as a passionate fan and observer of sport for athletes with disability, I have had a unique perspective on the Games’ growth and evolution. I have attended every Summer and Winter Paralympic Games since 1968.

Since 1964, I have been working as Professor of Adapted Physical Activity at the University of Alberta and thus have appreciated and seen firsthand the importance and benefits of sport, physical activity, and recreation for persons with disability. This understanding is also reflected in important international declarations such as the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Unfortunately, we also know that there are still many inequities for people with disability impacting their ability to participate.

One of the best ways to address these inequities and barriers is the hosting of well-managed Paralympic Games. As the pinnacle mega-sport event of the International Paralympic Committee, the Paralympic Games are crucial for the global exposure and changing the realities of the various challenges facing the community with disability. I have seen firsthand
how the exposure from a Paralympic Games can result in social change in both developing and developed nations so that all the people with disability have the opportunity to play.

While past Games have provided tremendous support and growth in the future, I would suggest that for the Paralympic Games to offer further opportunities for social change; more is needed. This book is a significant start to this process.

The chapters in this book provide valuable insights for academics and practitioners regarding the stakeholders, legacy, classification, sport delivery, accessibility, doping, National Paralympic Committees, volunteer management, media representation, marketing, and social media that make up the Paralympic Games. Managing the Paralympics thus explores the crucial considerations in managing a Paralympic Games and moves forward our knowledge and understanding of a much overlooked area of sporting excellence.

It is my hope that this book provides the necessary guidance and leadership for future administrators, coaches, athletes, and leaders of Paralympic sport.

Robert Steadward
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Acknowledgements

Managing the Paralympics follows on from previous publications by Palgrave into the management of mega-events in sport: Managing the Olympics (2012), edited by Frawley and Adair, and Managing the World Cup (2014), edited by Frawley and Adair. With the addition of Simon Darcy—an expert on para-sport—to the editorial team, Managing the Paralympics provides the first study of planning, logistics, policy and practice at one of the world’s largest and most important sport events. This book is overdue recognition of the scale and reach of high performance para-sport: since 1988, the Paralympics have been staged shortly after the Olympics and used the same facilities. Cities bidding for the ‘Games’ have therefore been expected to incorporate both events in their host bid submission. The Paralympics are substantial by way of participant numbers—with approximately half the volume of athletes at the Olympics, and similar contributions by support personnel and volunteers. However, the event is arguably more complex due to the ten eligible impairment types, classification groupings for competition and extra sports specific to the Paralympic programme. The Paralympics are now also much more visible: crowds at the Games have grown substantially, while media coverage—whether on television or digital media—has improved both in quantity and quality. In short, high performance para-sport is now firmly on the public radar, whereas it was once little known, while the athletic status of Paralympians has been elevated to the point that their on-field
athletic achievements are of more significance to sport reporters than narratives of ‘inspiration’ and ‘courage despite adversity’. Much has changed; but much still needs to change.

In framing this volume, the editors were conscious of the need to make the material research-driven. Each of the contributing authors has honoured the intent of the editors and we thank them for their collegiality and enthusiasm. As editors we also wanted to ensure the overall quality of the manuscript and subjected the chapters to review in addition to our own editorial processes. All of this has been important to ensure that the book has coherence and continuity in the development of the concepts and issues.

The editors are very grateful to the contributors in this book. As noted in the introduction to this, Paralympic scholarship has been dominated by sports science and this book has benefited from the recent introduction by the International Paralympic Committee’s introduction of an IPC Sport Science Committee’s Social Impact Working Group of which many of the authors to this volume are members. Further, the last two International Paralympic Committee VISTA conferences have had substantial social science programmes that included keynote addresses and plenary sessions contributed to by authors of this volume. For the academics who gave up their time and energy, this was a labour of love. All the authors are passionate about the Paralympic Games and Para-athletes. The editors are also very appreciative of the support of Palgrave for their support of developing global understandings of managerial aspects of major sport events. The previous volumes together provide a rich collection for sport and event researchers, students and practitioners. The present book, *Managing the Paralympics*, certainly benefited from the keen eye and feedback of Maddie Holder, Liz Barlow and their team at Palgrave. We hope that all readers, but especially those from within the disability, disability sport and broader sport management communities will find value in this collection.
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theory to examine the organisation and structure of United Kingdom and Canadian sport. Mathew’s current para-research-related interests lies in the application of cross-comparative sport policy and governance to examine the Paralympic domain, and he has co-authored book chapters (Dowling, Legg, & Brown, in press) and discussion papers for the International Paralympic Committee Sports Science Committee (Legg, Dowling, & Brown, 2015).

Daniel Favaloro completed a Bachelor of Business with First Class Honours in 2012 at the UTS Business School. His thesis explored leadership development practices across Australia’s major professional sports. Currently Daniel is a senior manager in sport broadcasting at the Sydney based Channel Ten network.

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Paul Kitchin was appointed to a lectureship in Sport Management at the School of Sport, University of Ulster. Paul has provided business services for community sports organisations in London and Belfast where he specialises in monitoring and evaluation advice. Paul is a graduate of University of Tasmania and Deakin University in Australia and completed his PhD at Loughborough University, investigating organisational change in disability sport.

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Laura Misener is an associate professor in the School of Kinesiology at Western University. She teaches in the areas of sport for development, globalisation, and event management. Her research focuses on how sport and events can be used as instruments of social change. Dr. Misener’s current research programme is focusing on the role of sport events for persons with a disability in influencing community accessibility and perceptions of disability. Her work has been published in scholarly outlets such as Journal of Sport Management, European Sport Management Quarterly, Managing Leisure, and Disability and Society, and is an associate editor of Leisure Sciences. Dr Misener is also a member of the International Paralympic Committee’s Sports Science: Social Impacts sub-committee.

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