

Paralympic sport in Chile: Historical results of participation in Summer and Winter Paralympic Games

El deporte paralímpico en Chile: resultados históricos de las participaciones en los Juegos Paralímpicos de Invierno y Verano

O esporte paralímpico no Chile: Resultados históricos das participações em Jogos Paralímpico de Inverno e Verão

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper was to describe the evolution of the Paralympic movement and its connection with the national and international political scenario. The Summer Paralympic Games made their debut in 1960, while Chile first participated in 1992. On the other hand, the Winter Paralympic Games began in 1976, and Chile's first participation in this event occurred in 2002. A documentary analysis was conducted for the study, in which the official documents of the Chilean delegations were analyzed, along with the overall results obtained in the Paralympic Games. The documents provided information on the number of participating athletes of both genders, results and sports. This information was later grouped based on the presence or absence of medals and the type of medal obtained. It was further analyzed by type of disability and year of participation. Over the years, Chile experienced constant processes and changes in management, in addition to the enactment of laws, both national and international. The constant support received from various private and governmental organizations contributed to the gradual increase in paralympic athletes, which greatly facilitated the overall development of the Chilean Paralympic movement to its current state. This growth led to successful outcomes, such as Chile's 1st Paralympic medal in 2012, and the country has now achieved a total of 7 medals in 4 disciplines in Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, placing it in the 45th position in the Paralympic medal board.

Key words: Sports for Persons with Disabilities, Paralympic Games, Para-Athletes.

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RESUMEN

Esta investigación tuvo como objetivo relatar la evolución del movimiento paralímpico y su vínculo con el escenario político nacional e internacional. Los Juegos Paralímpicos de Verano hicieron su debut en 1960, mientras que Chile participó por primera vez en 1992. Por otro lado, los Juegos Paralímpicos de Invierno comenzaron en 1976, y la primera participación chilena en este evento se produjo en 2002. Para el desarrollo del estudio se utilizó un análisis documental, donde se analizaron las convocatorias oficiales de las delegaciones chilenas, junto con las planillas de resultados generales obtenidos en los Juegos Paralímpicos, se extrajo de los documentos: el número de atletas participantes de ambos sexos y deportes, información que posteriormente fue agrupada en presencia o no de medallas y tipo de medalla obtenida y, a partir de aquello, se analizó por tipo de discapacidad y año de participación. A través de los años, Chile vivió constantes procesos y cambios en los periodos de gestión, a esto se suma la promulgación de leyes, tanto nacionales como internacionales, junto con la constante ayuda recibida de distintas agrupaciones privadas y gubernamentales, resultando en un paulatino incremento de deportistas paralímpicos, situación que colaboró en gran medida con el desarrollo integral del movimiento paralímpico chileno hasta lo que es en la actualidad; este crecimiento facilitó resultados exitosos, como el obtenido en el año 2012 con la conquista de la primera medalla paralímpica de Chile, llegando a un total de siete medallas distribuidas en cuatro deportes en los Juegos Paralímpicos Tokio 2020, quedando situado en el ranking paralímpico en la cuadragésima quinta posición.

Palabras clave: Deportes para Personas con Discapacidad, Juegos Paralímpicos, Paratletas.

RESUMO

O presente trabalho tem como objetivo relatar a evolução do movimento paralímpico e sua relação com o cenário político nacional e internacional. Os Jogos Paralímpicos de Verão fizeram sua estreia em 1960, enquanto o Chile participou pela primeira vez em 1992. Por outro lado, os Jogos Paralímpicos de Inverno começaram em 1976, e a primeira participação chilena neste evento ocorreu em 2002. O estudo foi realizado através de análise documental, de onde foram extraídas informações sobre as delegações chilenas, juntamente com as planilhas de resultados gerais obtidos dos Jogos Paralímpicos. As variáveis registradas foram número de atletas participantes de ambos os sexos, modalidades e esportes. As informações posteriormente foram agrupadas em quantidade de medalhas e tipo de medalha obtida, sendo analisadas por tipo de deficiência e ano de participação. Ao longo dos anos, o Chile experimentou constantes processos e mudanças nos períodos de gestão, como a promulgação de leis, tanto nacionais como internacionais, juntamente com a ajuda constante recebida de diferentes grupos privados e governamentais, resultando em aumento de atletas paralímpicos, situação que contribuiu com o desenvolvimento integral do movimento paralímpico chileno. Este crescimento facilitou resultados exitosos, como o obtido em 2012 com a conquista da primeira medalha paralímpica do Chile, alcançando hoje um total de 7 medalhas distribuídas em 4 disciplinas em Tóquio 2022, colocando-se na quadragésima quinta posição do quadro de medalhas.

Palavras chave: Esportes para Pessoas com Deficiência; Jogos Paralímpicos; Paratletas.

INTRODUCTION

Sport for People with Disabilities (PWD) began as a therapeutic work focused on the physical and psychological rehabilitation of wounded soldiers from World War II, led by neurologist Dr. Ludwig Guttmann. In 1944, sports were included in rehabilitation processes as a means to rehabilitate the body and mind, as well as contributing to reintegration into society

(Jacinto et al., 2022; Mauerberg-de Castro et al., 2016; Santos et al., 2022; Webborn & Van de Vliet, 2012). The participation of PwD in sporting activities is recognised as a vital protocol in their rehabilitation, and health professionals have used sport as a therapeutic tool (Blauwet & Willick, 2012; Mauerberg-de Castro et al., 2016; Santos et al., 2023; Tweedy et al., 2018; Wilson & Ramchandani, 2017).

As the Paralympic Games develop in size and scale, their transformative effect on society is perceived (Bantjes & Swartz, 2018; Brittain, 2018; Mauerberg-de Castro et al., 2016; United Nations [UN], 2022; St. George et al., 2022). This growth comes hand in hand with factors that directly affect para-athletes and their immediate environment. The development of para-athletes is a complex task that requires an approach associated with different levels, taking into account the interaction of the local culture, the political system, the geography, and also the historical context of the country where the athlete is competing (Patatas et al., 2020). The complexity of the sports career requires an analysis, together with the constant training of sports professionals for PwD (Dehghansai, Lemez, et al., 2020; Dehghansai et al., 2020; Hutzler et al., 2016; Patatas et al., 2022). The Spliss model (Abdolmaleki et al., 2019; De Bosscher et al., 2015) analyses the factors inherent to an accomplished sports career. Among the many factors is the role of public policies for the sporting development of the country (Brouwers et al., 2015; Hutzler et al., 1998; Patatas et al., 2020; Shilbury et al., 2008).

The public policies generated by states or governments to satisfy and cover the needs of para-athletes and/or Paralympic athletes¹ when carrying out their performance and development as elite athletes reflect the specificity of the sports policy of each country. In Spain, Paralympic athletes with achievements among the top three places in world championships and European tournaments receive financial support. The awards have been granted by the High Council of Sports since 2015. The criteria for the allocation of these subsidies to Spanish athletes based on their sporting achievements are uniform for both Olympic and Paralympic athletes (Lara, 2019). In

the Brazilian legislative sphere, Law 9.615 (Brazil, 1998) determines the allocation of resources to the Brazilian Olympic Committee (BOC) and the Brazilian Paralympic Committee (BPC); the Agnelo/Piva Law - 10.264 (2001) determined that 2% of the gross proceeds of all federal lotteries in the country would go to the BOC and the BPC, guaranteeing direct investment in national sport. In addition, the "Bolsa-Athlete" program was instituted through Law 10.891 (2004), with the aim of sponsoring high-performance athletes and parathletes. In 2013, the program was expanded with the inclusion of the "Athlete Podium" project - Law 12,395/11 (Brazil, 2004, 2011), to support international level athletes (Brazil, 1998, 2011, 2015).

In Chile, from a legal perspective, the first concrete step taken in relation to disability was the return to democracy in 1994, when Law 19,284 of the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation was enacted, which established the rules for the full social integration of PwD (Ministry of Planning and Cooperation, 1994). As a result, the National Disability Registry was created, run by the Civil Registry and Identification, with the aim of gathering and maintaining the records of this sector of the population. Likewise, and in order to cover some of their needs, the National Disability Fund (FONADIS) was created, an organization in charge of contributing to the social integration and equalization of opportunities for PwD, through the efficient administration of the financial resources at its disposal (Ministry of Planning and Cooperation, 1994). In 2015, Decree 4 approved the New Regulations of the High Performance Athlete Scholarship Program of the Ministry of Sports [MINDEP], which states that the National Sports Institute (IND) will grant a financial incentive or scholarship to athletes of individual or collective sports, with or without disabilities, together with their coaches and

¹ Athletes who participated in the Winter and/or Summer Paralympic Games

physical trainers of all federations that are recognized by the Chilean Olympic Committee or similar Paralympic Committee (Lara, 2019; MINDEP, 2015).

Despite various actions that contribute to the comprehensive development of the Paralympic movement in Chile, resulting in an increase in successful results in international tournaments such as the performance obtained in the last Summer Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020², in which Chile achieved seven medals in four different disciplines, there was no evidence in the literature of studies that present the evolution of the Paralympic movement and its relationship with the historical-political context.

Therefore, the objective of this study was: (i) to characterize Chile's participation trajectory during the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games (SWPGs – SWPPGs) between 1992-2022, in terms of the number of participating athletes, medals won, and modalities that won medals; and (ii) to describe the public policy proposals that supported the development of Chilean participation in SWPGs and SWPPGs, according to the national historical-political context.

METHODS

The data for the study were obtained from the IPC website (<https://www.paralympic.org/>) and from official documents published by the Chilean Paralympic Committee between 1992 and 2022. The official call-ups of the Chilean delegations and general results sheets between the years 1992 and 2022 were analyzed in a documentary manner, corresponding to the summer and winter Olympic Games of the modern era (Legg, 2018). From these documents, the number of participating athletes of both sexes, modalities

and events contested was extracted. Subsequently, the data was grouped into “presence” or “non-presence” of a medal (medalist and non-medalist) and the type of medal and, from this grouping, it was analyzed by type of disability: Physical (PD), Visual (VD), Intellectual (ID) and year of participation.

DATA ANALYSIS AND PROCESSING

The variables related to the number of Chilean athletes participating and medalists by SPG and WPG, the number of medalist athletes in general, by gender, type of disability and modalities, were presented in absolute values according to the year of participation. All data were tabulated and analyzed using Microsoft Excel®. For each variable a specific equation was defined:

- Participants: Athletes registered in the results book of each PG in the respective modality in which they participated.
- Medalists: Athletes registered in the results book of each PG in the respective modality who participated in a final and won a gold, silver or bronze medal.
- % Male and % Female: (number of male or female athletes / total participants in PG) *100.
- % Gold Medal, % Silver Medal, % Bronze Medal: (Number of medals by type / total medals in PG) *100
- % PD Medalist, % VD Medalist and % ID Medalist: (Number of medalists by type of disability / total number of medalists in PG) *100.

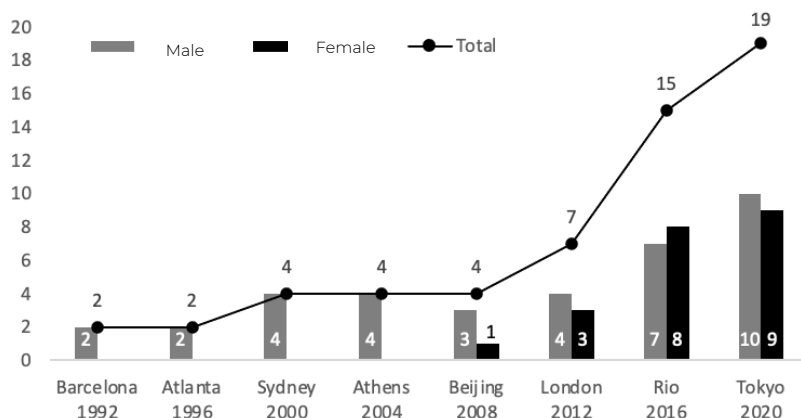
RESULTS

² The Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games were held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

In Figure 1, it can be seen that Chile has a total of 45 athletes, of which 29 are male (64.44%) and 16 are female (35.66%).

Figure 1

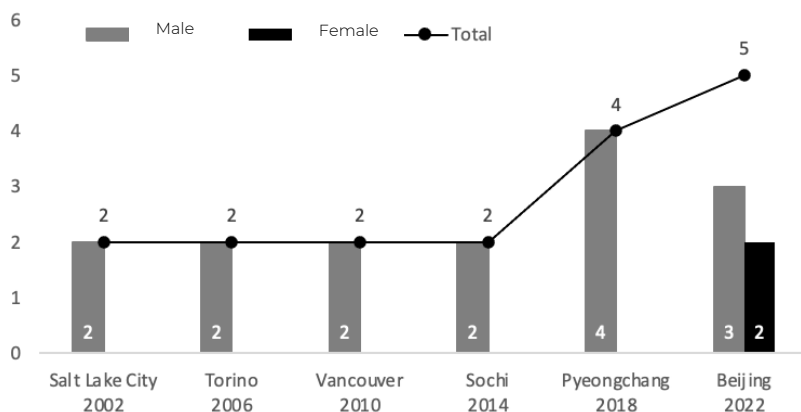
Composition of the Chilean delegation in Summer PG. (b) Composition of the Chilean delegation in Winter PG.



Source: Author's elaboration.

Figure 2

Composition of the Chilean delegation in winter PG.



Source: Author's elaboration.

In Figure 2, it can be seen that between 2002 and 2014, the number of athletes in WPG remained constant, with two athletes in male events. At the WPG Pyeongchang 2018, the number of athletes representing Chile doubled in relation to the participations in the WPG editions held between 2002 and 2014, reaching four

participants. At the WPG Beijing 2022, a female representative appears in the delegation, where athlete Claudia Hernández competed in the women's Giant Slalom Standing and Slalom Standing events, this being the first female participation in the WPG.

Among all the participations in the SPG, the delegation was represented by 35 athletes, of which 14.28% were medalists, while 10 athletes participated in the WPG and so far there was no record of medalist athletes (Table 1). Of the total number of medalists, 40% are men and 60% are women, in four different modalities: athletics, swimming, archery and canoeing. Regarding the type of disability, 80% of the medal-winning athletes have a physical disability and 20% have a visual disability.

In addition to the above information, Table 1 also shows the absolute number of participants,

medalists, modalities and types of disability of the athletes in all participations in SPG and WPG. It was observed that Chile won a total of seven medals in SPG, three of which were gold (42.85%), three silver (42.85%) and one bronze (14.28%). Classifying the medals won by eligible disability groups, the PD is responsible for the largest number of medals, with two gold, three silver and one bronze, totaling six medals (85.71%), followed by the VD with one gold (14.28%). All the medals are concentrated in the individual modalities, being: Swimming (SW) with 3 (Gold = 1 and Silver = 2), Athletics (AT) with 2 (Gold = 2), Archery (AR) with 1 (Silver = 1) and Canoeing (Bronze = 1)

Table 1

Characterization of participants considering type of sport and type of disability in summer and winter PG.

Paralympic Games	Participants	Members			Sport			Type of Disability		
		Overall	M	F	Overall	I N	C O	PD	VD	ID
Summer	Non-medalist	30	18	12	3	3	-	27	3	-
	Medalist	5	2	3	4	4	-	4	1	-
Winter	Non-medalist	10	9	1	1	1	-	10	-	-
	Medalist	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	45	29	16	8	8	-	41	4	-

M: Male; F: Female; IN: Individual; CO: Collective; PD: Physical Disability; VD: Visual Disability; ID: Intellectual Disability.

In Table 2, the medalists are presented by sport: in Para Athletics, Cristián Valenzuela in the men's 5000 m class - T11 event, at SPG London 2012. At the SPG Tokyo 2020, Alberto Abarza in Para Swimming, in the men's class S2 100 m Backstroke, 50 m Backstroke and 200 m Freestyle events, won 3 medals, one gold and two

silver, respectively. In Para Athletics, Francisca Mardones, in the women's Shot Put F54 event, won a gold medal. In Para Archery, Mariana Zúñiga won the silver medal, and in Para Canoeing, Katherinne Wollermann won a bronze medal.

Table 2

Absolute values of medals won, types of medals, modalities, types of disability and gender of Chilean participation in SPG between 1992 - 2020.

Sports	Gender	Disability	Medals			Total Medals
			Gold	Silver	Bronze	
Paraathletics	M	VD	1	-	-	1
	F	PD	1	-	-	1
ParaCanoeing	F	PD	-	-	1	1
Paraswimming	M	PD	1	2	-	3
Parachery	F	PD	-	1	-	1

M: Male tests; F: Female tests; VD: Visual disability; PD: Physical disability.

DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was: (i) to characterize Chile's participation trajectory during the Summer and Winter Paralympic Games (SPG – WPG) between the years 1992-2022 in terms of the number of participating athletes, medals won, modalities that won medals; and, (ii) to describe the public policy proposals that supported the development of Chilean participation in SPG and WPG according to the national historical-political context.

From its first participation in SPG in 1992 until the last one in Tokyo 2020, the number of participants of the Chilean delegations in SPG was stable until 2008 and in the WPG between 2002 and 2018. The delegations in the last editions increased the number of participants, equalizing in turn the number of athletes by gender, all this possibly due to the work carried out by the different entities committed to increasing physical activity in PwD. In Chile, concern for PwD has existed since 1947 on the part of civil organizations, with the Sociedad Pro Ayuda del Niño Lisiado (Society for Helping Crippled Children). For Jaime Arriagada (2014), rehabilitation is the basic concern of the aforementioned society, as well as the provision of medical care, education and instruction, all in accordance with its technical and economic

possibilities, seeking the inclusion of people in society. On December 8, 1978, the first Chilean Telethon began, which lasted 27 hours, under the motto "Let's Achieve the Miracle." The owners of radio stations, newspapers and magazines provided free spaces so that they could collaboratively motivate the community to join the television marathon to try to unite all the Chilean people around this charity work. At this event, the amount of 2.5 million dollars was raised for actions of the institution (Telethon, 2022). At the 1992 Barcelona SPG, Chile made its debut on the international stage, at a time when 48% of the countries recognized by the UN participated in the SPG (World Health Organization [WHO], 2022). On this occasion, the debut occurred with two athletes, Víctor Valderrama and Gabriel Vallejos Contreras in the Para Powerlifting and Para Swimming modalities, respectively.

At the national level, Law 19,284 was enacted, which establishes the standards for full social integration of PwD, contributing to the emergence of the National Disability Registry, an institution whose objective was to gather and store the information of the population with disabilities at the national level (Ministry of Planning and Cooperation, 1994). Consequently, in 1995, the Chilean Olympic Committee recognized the Chilean Paralympic Federation as

the entity in charge of supervising the sport practiced by PwD at a competitive level. This meant an increase in international participation, gradually raising the level of Paralympic sport (Ministry of Planning and Cooperation, 1994).

For Víctor Valderrama, the first president of the Chilean Paralympic Federation (FEPACHI) and athlete, the task was to coordinate the Paralympic event of the SPG Atlanta 1996; the first participants of Barcelona 1992, Víctor and Gabriel repeated their performance, this being the first competition in which Chile was presented with federated athletes (Paralympic Committee of Chile, [COPACHI], 2022).

Víctor Valderrama and Gabriel Vallejos Contreras were present at the SPG Sydney 2000, these athletes were joined by two new members, Víctor Gonelli in the men's Shot Put class - F56 event, along with Juan Carlos Garrido in Para Powerlifting in the men's event (International Paralympic Committee [IPC], 2021; COPACHI, 2022).

At the end of 2000, FEPACHI obtained legal status, changing the national Paralympic panorama and with the new president, Edgardo Retamal Pereira (Cortés & Pérez, 2013). In January 2001, in Chile, the Sports Law No. 19,712 in its Article 1 (Ministry of the Interior. Undersecretary of the Interior, 2001), defines sport as "that form of physical activity that uses human motor skills as a means of integral development of people, any educational-physical manifestation, general or special, carried out through mass participation, oriented to social integration, community development, care or recovery of health and recreation". From this political framework, the National Sports Institute (IND) was created to promote, develop and achieve achievements in sport and physical activity, which encourage adherence and values of the population's sports ethics. Among the objectives of the IND is also to

develop sport for PwD by formulating a strategic plan for this population (MINDEP, 2021b)

After the structural change in FEPACHI and the enactment of Law No. 19,712, Chile debuted in the WPG in Salt Lake City 2002, 26 years after the first edition in Sweden 1976 with athletes Tomás del Villar and Patricio Morandé, the first South Americans to participate in a WPG. In order to participate in the WPG Salt Lake City 2002, FEPACHI received 15 million pesos for the development of athletes at the national level, the same budget from the Olympic athletes federations (IPC, 2021; COPACHI, 2022; Webborn & Van de Vliet, 2012)

In 2010, the "Social Inclusion Law" No. 20,422 was enacted, which establishes the rules on equal opportunities and social inclusion of PwD, whose objective is to ensure the right to equal opportunities for them, in order to obtain their full social inclusion, ensuring the enjoyment of their rights and the elimination of any form of discrimination based on their disability. (IPC, 2021; COPACHI, 2022; Ministry of Planning, 2010).

In 2013, the Confederación Deportiva Comité Paralímpico de Chile [COPACHI] was legally established. The new organization received this name because the Sports Law did not recognize the existence of a Paralympic Committee (COPACHI, 2022). In the same year, the MINDEP was created through Law No. 20,686 (MINDEP, 2021b), defined as the highest collaboration body of the President of the Republic in matters related to national sports policy. The most relevant modification of the new legal framework is the recognition of the existence of a Paralympic Committee and the Paralympic Federations, in addition to granting the same rights as conventional athletes to Paralympic athletes in terms of all types of benefits and obligations (MINDEP, 2021b).

With this national political scenario, an increase in the number of athletes included in Paralympic competitions began to be noticed, with London 2012 being the example, where the Chilean delegation was presented with 7 athletes, surpassing the performances of Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008 where 4 national representatives participated. It was at the Paralympic event held in Beijing where Chile had its first female presence with the athlete Macarena Quero, who participated in swimming in the women's class - S10 event (IPC, 2021; COPACHI, 2022).

In 2016, Law 20,978 was enacted, which recognizes adapted and Paralympic sport

(MINDEP, 2016). New statutes were created and the Chilean Paralympic Committee was established on December 11 of the same year, a legal successor entity of the sports confederation, but already with the status of a Committee on par with the COCH. The federations that form this committee are those that govern the Paralympic branch according to international mandate at a national level, which is why the wheelchair basketball federations and the sports federation for people with visual disabilities are the constituents of this sports organization, with Mr. Ricardo Elizalde in charge (MINDEP, 2016) (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Timeline of events or occurrences that were relevant to the development of the Paralympic Movement in Chile.



Source: Author's elaboration

In addition to the structure of the legislative system and entities at the national level with the objective of managing and promoting Paralympic sport, it is necessary to mention the economic support for athletes, through the scholarship system that has existed since 2006

(Ministry of the General Secretariat of Government, 2005). The athletes who benefit from the High Performance Athlete Scholarship Program (PRODDAR), who acquire the right to use the sports infrastructure and facilities, in addition to the services of the High Performance Center (HPC), as well as the facilities and services

of other centers or venues that the IND has at its disposal (Lara, 2019; MINDEP, 2021a). With this, a new structure became effective in 2021, which includes five new benefits, some of which have been demanded for years by Paralympic athletes, for example, having social security and health. Regarding pension aid, this will correspond to an amount of up to 10% of the scholarship, while for health it will be up to 7% of the total aid delivered. In addition, emphasis was placed on access to the scholarship, improving the maternity protection system and making access to Paralympic sport more flexible. This new regulation will digitalize the application system for maternity, will allow assistance to the mother in case of serious illness of the son or daughter during his or her first year of life, with the possibility of extending it, for example, in case of a food allergy (COPACHI, 2022).

The performance of the Chilean scholarship recipients was reflected in the medal table, where Chile obtained a total of 6 medals and stood out in a historic forty-fifth position. In addition, it should be noted that of the 19 athletes who competed in Tokyo, a total of 13 will reach a Paralympic final (IPC, 2021; COPACHI, 2022). On August 19, 2021, COPACHI confirmed that, for the first time in history, the PGs would be broadcast on national television screens through TVN. In addition, it would be the first time that it would be broadcast on open signals in other countries in America, such as Brazil, Canada and the United States, an unprecedented event for Chile. As part of the measures adopted to promote the development of Paralympic sport, the broadcast of the Tokyo Paralympic Games was made formal by the Televisión Nacional de Chile channel, a management that has the sponsorship of the Ministry of Sport (MINDEP, 2021).

In order for Chilean parasport to spread, it was necessary to prepare the political environment, thus ensuring the financial

conditions for its development. According to the Spliss model, the financial pillar is presented as an important factor, which helps in the objective of subsidizing the entire sports structure (De Bosscher, 2018; De Bosscher et al., 2006, 2015; Pankowiak, 2015). Thus, having sufficient resources is presented as a necessary condition for the development of sport, along with the athletic careers of athletes with disabilities. Human and financial resources are an important part of sports policy, this is how countries that invest the most in high-performance sport can create greater opportunities for athletes, allowing them to train under ideal circumstances, collaborating with comprehensive sports development. Due to this, there are several examples of countries that have improved sports performance after increasing investment in elite sport (Patatas et al., 2021).

CONCLUSION

The Paralympic Movement in Chile is growing and developing at the sporting and managerial level, with various actions and programs that encourage and promote sports practice in PwD, which consolidate Chile's participation during the summer and winter PGs. A starting point for the popularization of Paralympic sport is to allocate time and resources to sports development in the Paralympic classes related to intellectual disabilities, team sports and winter PG disciplines, due to the low participation at present.

As a nation, Chile took its first important steps by enacting the first laws aimed at guaranteeing the rights of PwD, which enabled a process of evolution in the field of national and international Paralympic sport. For their part, the institutions that work with PwD were fundamental in the progress and care of the human rights of para athletes. Over time, the Chilean state has taken on a leading role, through

the creation and updating of laws that have greatly favored the development of public policies to help this sector of the population. It is important that the different associations and groups actively get involved in the generation of public policies focused on the real needs of para-athletes, in order to educate society and generate updated knowledge of the different factors that affect PwD. As Chile is an emerging country in the Paralympic field, we conclude that it is of vital importance to maintain updated and specific information related to the different stages of the para-sports career, from the origins of the disability itself, as well as the possible process of attraction to competitive sport, the joint work of the different groups, rehabilitation institutes, health, municipal, educational bodies and authorities in charge of decision-making on issues related to future public policies, who through serious and planned work together with PwD, allow Chile to position itself among the countries with the best sports development at the Paralympic level.

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