



Title

GSPD (Gruppo Sportivo Paralimpico Difesa) - The Defense Paralympic Project in support of the disabled personnel

Abstract

On 2014, the Italian Defence General Staff officially established the Gruppo Sportivo Paralimpico Difesa (GSPD - Defence Paralympic Sporting Group).

The project is dedicated to the Defence personnel who, during the service, suffered permanent and invalidating injuries or experienced traumatic events directly. Many of them continue to serve wearing the uniform and with their deeds and their stories represent a clear example of recovery through sports.

The GSPD is a military sporting club that:

1. promotes and encourages, in collaboration with the Italian Paralympic Committee (CIP), the Paralympic sport practice of disabled Defence personnel, in respect of individual attitudes and personal abilities, aiming to increase the process of recovery and rehabilitation and the social integration. GSPD promotes also an active lifestyle to people no longer in service due to unexpected disability;
2. offers its support to the Paralympic sport of excellence, also promoting the enrollment of “elite” athletes, in collaboration with the Italian Paralympic Committee;
3. organizes meetings finalized at increasing the cohesion and the sense of belonging to the group, monitoring their psychophysical condition and promoting the practice of adaptive sport activity;
4. creates a military and civil sports representative to compete in nationally and internationally competitions.

At the time of its establishment, 14 members composed the GSPD. In the last six years, GSPD has registered an exponential growth in the number of subscribers, attracting public opinion.

On 2021, GSPD is composed by 69 members

GSPD organizes sport meetings, which are very important moments for:

- aggregation and cohesion among the members and with all the staff who collaborate with them in different ways (Athletes, Coaches, Staff);
- sports promotion for the newcomers and consolidation of sport abilities for those who practice sports at a professional level;
- opportunity to meet psychologist Officers;
- assessment of sports preparation level and individual performances.

Practical Implications

Promote the development of paralympic competition

References

None

Figures and tables

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Conflict of interest

None

CV

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