



## **UPDATE - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Today Barry Couzner, World ParaVolley President, welcomed the ITOs to Hangzhou and to what is a milestone in the history of the sport. It is indeed the first time such a competition is held at a world level and it's aim is to give athletes more opportunities to compete at a high level.

This event could not have been possible without the support of Mr Cailiang Lu, Director of the Goalball Development Centre, who is providing not only the facility but also the manpower and financial investment behind the organisation for this event.

### **General Meeting**

Barry Couzner welcomed all to this unique event and emphasized the fact that without the teams, this event could not take place.

The World Super 6 tournament is truly a historic event for World ParaVolley in that it is not only the first tournament of this kind, it is also the first event in the Goalball Centre and that there is prize money allocated to the top three teams. It is also the first time Molten volleyballs are being used as the official competition balls since the sponsorship agreement was signed.

This event will also see the implementation of a new rules regarding lifting – indeed “lifting will be permitted in the back zone when playing the ball in a defensive action if the contact is made when the ball is not entirely higher than the top of the net”.

With regard to the classification, 10 players were classified for this tournament according to the new rules (7 D, 3 MD and 3 players to observe in action).

There is a big emphasis on the promotion of this tournament and the national TV channel CCTV1 will cover the first game of the event – CHN v RUS tomorrow at 9.00 am local time.

World ParaVolley is hoping to build on this and make it a more regular tournament for both men and women.

## **Opening Ceremony – 19.30 - Official opening**

The opening ceremony was as grandiose as could be expected from the Chinese hosts, from traditional music to modern singing, not forgetting traditional dancing as well. The ceremony could be partly transmitted live via Periscope and we hope to be able to stream some games live in the coming days. Stay tuned!