

**NED**

## Pieter Joon

I was involved in all competitions as International Federation Founding President from 1981 till 2001. Between 1980 and 1994 I acted as Chairman and Technical Official.

I had originally seen the standing game in Toronto in 1976 and wished to learn more. In 1979 I was invited by the Standing Volleyball Nations to a pre-1980 Paralympic Event in Haarlem, The Netherlands. As a Technical Committee member for the Paralympics in Arnhem I saw the possibility to introduce both standing and the sitting as official disciplines in the Paralympic 1980 program.

In the beginning the greatest influence on me, the athletes and the sport was the rigid medical classifications systems of the 4 International Federations (Les Autres, ISOD, ISMGF, CP-ISRA). Volleyball was originally OPEN for all disability types. We were then surprised when attending championships by the IF designated classifier, who was accredited as an ISOD or ISMGF classifier, but had no specialism in Volleyball. For the development of the standing game this was disastrous. In each competition a different classifier would exclude many players. There was no consistency. This was the main reason we chose to create a Stand-Alone Organisation, starting with volleyball classifiers and allowing coaches and players to have a voice. Unfortunately, the participating Nations in Standing displayed strongly different views and as a result the initial development of the discipline was greatly hampered.

In 1979 I offered the standing game the first International Tournament recognised by ISMG, ISOD and Les Autres. In 1980 I introduced the use of Volleyball officials to the programme.

Awards received:

National

1998 - Royal Decoration from Queen of the Netherlands,  
2003 Member of Merit of National Sports Organisations for Disabled.

International

2001 - Honorary President World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled,  
2020 World ParaVolley 'Sitting Volleyball Recognition Award'

