



**6 January 2026**

To: Virtus Members and Committees

Dear Virtus Family

As we begin 2026, can I wish every member of the Virtus family a very happy new year and a very successful year ahead.

After a record breaking 2025, Virtus' year begins very quickly with sanctioned tennis and ski competition in Australia and Italy before our first Virtus Championship of 2026 takes place in Kazakhstan in February. The newly elected Governing Board will also be meeting for the first time during this event, and I look forward to welcoming new colleagues as we plan and move forward together. I would once again like to thank the outgoing Governing Board members for their invaluable contribution to the Virtus movement over many years and look to build on the foundation created.

Later in the year we are excited to be hosting the inaugural Americas Regional Games in Peru – a milestone moment for the Virtus Americas Region – together with the next editions of the European Games (in Poland) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia/Oceania Games (in Thailand).

2026 will also be a very busy year away from competition. The Virtus Academy will soon learn the outcome of an extensive grant application to enhance the classification processes for athletes with an intellectual disability across multiple sports, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Day for People with an Intellectual Impairment will take place in July, and we'll be hosting a number of online meetings with the Virtus membership, eligibility officers and more throughout the year.

None of this comes easily and is only possible through the dedication and commitment of so many people. I am very proud to lead Virtus at a time when support and awareness of sport for people with an intellectual impairment globally has never been higher – though of course there is still so much more to do and I look forward to hearing your ideas, working with and seeing you all.

Best wishes once again for 2026 and I hope to see many of you at a Virtus competition soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Smith", is written over a white rectangular background.

Robyn Smith  
Virtus President