



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

May 2021 | Issue #11

All Aboard!



Last Chance Paralympic Qualifiers Set for May

We're back!

Para Taekwondo's long-awaited return to international competition hits full swing this month as the **final Paralympic Qualification tournaments** are set to take place.

While some federations have already returned to competition – including the Russian national championships in March – it's been over a calendar year since the last time Para Taekwondo athletes have had the opportunity to test their mettle against the world's top athletes.

No one expected such an abrupt halt to Paralympic qualification after athletes from Pan America, Oceania, and Africa fought their way to their Paralympic tickets in Spring 2020. Instead, athletes from Europe and Asia have had to wait patiently – and train intently – for their own opportunity to do the same.

Now is their chance!

Europe Kicks Things Off

European athletes will have the first crack at claiming a coveted spot at this summer's Paralympic Games. 26 athletes from 15 countries are set to battle this weekend at the European Paralympic Qualification tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

With little margin for error, some of the sport's biggest names will compete in Sofia.

World champion **Matt Bush** (Great Britain) will look to punch his ticket to Tokyo in the men's over 75 kg division. But he'll first have to get by fighters like 2019 world championship bronze medalist **Hasim Celik** (Germany), who is hoping to join his brother **Fatih Celik** (Turkey), who has already qualified.

Three-time world champion **Aynur Mammadova** (Azerbaijan) is set to contend for a medal in Tokyo, so long as she doesn't trip up in Sofia.

Other world championship medalists looking to qualify at the last chance event include **Matti Sairanen** (Finland) and **Royal Fataliyeva** (Azerbaijan). Notably not on the list is 2019 world championship silver medalist **Marija Micev** (Serbia), as Serbia did not send any athletes to the tournament.

For live coverage of the event on 9 May, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fraEOm1p2F8&list=PLNZ4ldstTfNuFXrKjYMdtvFYJd2R0oFS&index=3>.

Asia is Next

The final piece to Para Taekwondo's Paralympic puzzle will be added at the Asian Paralympic Qualification tournament in Amman, Jordan on 23 May.

With registrations still open, there are many questions left to be answered.

Who will rise to the occasion?

Unlike in Europe, no former world championship medalists are registered for the tournament. With no clear-cut favourites, which fighters will seize the moment?

Will another superstar new athlete emerge from Asia?

Before the 2019 world championships no one knew the name of **Yujie Li** (China). She went on to claim the world title and won three more tournaments that year, including the Asian Championship. Will another 'Yujie Li' arrive in Jordan?

Will South Korea manage to qualify any fighters?

After Korea failed to qualify a single fighter through the rankings, will anyone from the birthplace of taekwondo step up to prevent a national shame? Best placed is No. 15-ranked **Jeonhun Joo** in the up to 75 kg division.

For more information on live coverage, be sure to follow the World Para Taekwondo Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldParaTaekwondo>.



Update Paralympic Playbooks Released



Final Editions to Be Released in June

The IPC released the latest updates in its series of Playbooks that outline the rules that must be followed by athletes, coaches, and Paralympic partners when they travel to Tokyo for the 2020 Paralympic Games. The updated Playbooks cover questions about travel requirements (two negative COVID tests required before traveling to Tokyo), testing requirements (daily tests for athletes), and vaccine information (vaccines are NOT required).

Developed jointly by the IOC, the IPC, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, and the All-Partners Task Force, which includes the WHO, Government of Japan, and Tokyo municipal government, all athletes and teams traveling to Japan this summer are encouraged to read the relevant Playbook.

The final, most detailed, Playbooks will be released in June.

- **Playbook for Athletes & Officials** - <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/IOC/Olympic-Games/Tokyo-2020/Playbooks/The-Playbook-Athletes-and-Officials-April-2021.pdf>
- **Playbook for Broadcasters** - <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/IOC/Olympic-Games/Tokyo-2020/Playbooks/The-Playbook-Broadcasters-April-2021.pdf>
- **Playbook for International Federations** - <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/IOC/Olympic-Games/Tokyo-2020/Playbooks/The-Playbook-International-Federations-April-2021.pdf>
- **Playbook for Marketing Partners** - <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/IOC/Olympic-Games/Tokyo-2020/Playbooks/The-Playbook-Marketing-Partners-April-2021.pdf>
- **Playbook for Press** - <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Document%20Library/IOC/Olympic-Games/Tokyo-2020/Playbooks/The-Playbook-Press-April-2021.pdf>

For more information on the Playbooks, please read the press release here: <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/version-2-of-tokyo-2020-playbooks-released>.

Asian Para Youth Games



Bahrain, 27 November - 8 December 2021

In a growing list of major international multi-sport events where Para Taekwondoists can compete, a Para Taekwondo competition will be held at the **Youth Asian Para Games** in Bahrain from 27 November to 8 December.

An early look at up-and-coming stars that could shine in Paris at the 2024 Paralympic Games, our Para Taekwondoists will be part of 800 youth (under-20) taking part in the event alongside athletes from sports like athletics, badminton, boccia, goalball, powerlifting, swimming, table tennis, and wheelchair basketball. The Taekwondo event will take place at Isa Sports City – Hall C.

It is the first time Bahrain will host such a large, multi-sport event.

“The Games are an important steppingstone for young Asian para-athletes on their sporting journey”, said APC President Majid Rashed in a press release. *“This journey has had so much disruption over the past year but these Games give us all hope and something to aim for so that they are back on track for Paris 2024 and beyond.”*

For more information, please visit the Asian Paralympic Committee website at: <https://asianparalympic.org/>.
(NOTE: At the time of print, the website is currently down.)

World Para Taekwondo Launches #WPT25 Social Media Campaign



Campaign Highlights the Top 25 Moments in Para Taekwondo History

World Para Taekwondo launched its latest social media campaign last month - **#WPT25** – that highlights the 25 Greatest Moments in Para Taekwondo history.

Launched on 20 April, the campaign’s kick-off post reached more than 20,000 people, becoming WPT’s seventh most popular post of all time.

Looking back at some of the sport’s biggest moments, fiercest rivalries, and hard-fought administrative victories, the series provides a fond look back at some of the sport’s biggest moments ahead of its greatest triumph yet – the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Moments #25 - #20 featured:

- #25 – World Taekwondo Creates Para Taekwondo (2006)**
- #24 – First World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan (2009)**
- #23 – Second World Championships in Moscow, Russia (2010)**
- #22 – First Pan American Championships in Monterrey, Mexico (2010)**
- #21 – First European Championships in Moscow, Russia (2011)**
- #20 – Third World Championships in Santa Cruz, Aruba (2012)**

To keep up with the series, be sure to visit and ‘like’ the World Para Taekwondo Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WorldParaTaekwondo>.



Para Taekwondo Competition Calendar



- European Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games G1 - May 9 - Sofia, Bulgaria
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level I required for all coaches)
- WTO Online Poomsae Open - May 15-23, 2021
- Asian Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games G1 - May 23 - Amman, Jordan
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level I required for all coaches)
- Asian Para Taekwondo Open Championships G4/G2 - June 15 - Beirut, Lebanon
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- Africa Para Taekwondo Open Championships G4/G2 - May 29-30 - Niamey, Niger
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games - September 2-4 -Tokyo, Japan
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- Wuxi 2021 World Para Taekwondo Championships - October 21-22 - Wuxi, China
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- Oceania Para Taekwondo Open Championships - November 18 - Papeete, French Polynesia
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- World Taekwondo President's Cup - Asia - November 18 - Nablus, Palestine
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)
- 2021 Asian Youth Para Games - November 28 - December 7 - Bahrain

- 2021 World Taekwondo Grand Prix Final G10 - December - TBA

UPCOMING COURSES REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!



Here's a quick 'shout out' to all those coaches and federations that **sent in clips of their training sessions**. They look wonderful! Be sure to keep sending those videos to para-tkd@worldtaekwondo.org.

Now is the time to get your coaches and classifiers certified!

You will not be allowed to coach in international, World Taekwondo-sanctioned events if you do not have your certification!

Currently, 336 coaches from 168 countries have completed the Level I certification.

There are 174 coaches from 96 countries that have received Level II certification.

With 210 registered MNAs in World Taekwondo, **there are still 42 MNAs that must get their coaches certified. Let's get on it!**

At the same time, to facilitate the process of new athletes being internationally classified, it is important for your MNA to certify its own national classifiers.

Currently, 52 classifiers from 30 countries have completed World Taekwondo's Classifier Training Level I. Of these, 35 are technical classifiers and 17 are medical classifiers.

If you have any questions about the trainings or registration, please contact the World Para Taekwondo office ASAP.

9th Para Taekwondo ONLINE International Coach Certification Course [Level II]
(English)

- Course: 17-19 May (19:00-22:00 GMT+9). Registration **Deadline: 12 May 23:59 GMT+9**

14th Para Taekwondo ONLINE International Coach Certification Course [Level I]
(English)

- Course: 26-28 May (11:00-14:00 GMT-5). Registration **Deadline: 21 May 23:59 GMT-5**

10th Para Taekwondo ONLINE International Coach Certification Course [Level II]
(English)

- Course: 9-11 June (11:00-14:00 GMT-5). Registration **Deadline: 4 June 23:59 GMT-5**

[Click to Register for Para Taekwondo Courses](#)

Para Taekwondo Around the World

Asia:

Japan's Awatari Hosts Programme to Boost Para Taekwondo's Popularity

Japan's Kenta Awatari has taken to the internet to spread the Para Taekwondo message ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. Hoping to be named as one of Japan's three athletes set aside for the host nation, Awatari has been hosting online Para Taekwondo sessions since January, sponsored by Habilis Japan (an organisation that supports youth with disabilities). In fact, the demand has been so high that he's had to introduce new sessions. Most recently, the budding internet star partnered with teammate and 2019 World Championship bronze medalist Shoka Ota for a Q&A session on Para Taekwondo, sponsored by Softbank.



To check out his session with Ota, please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87J_NgTbtHI.



Europe:

Denmark's Gjessing the New Face of Sport24 Sportswear

If you happen to be in Denmark these days there's a good chance you'll run into the face of Danish superstar Lisa Gjessing. The four-time world champion is the star of a new ad campaign for Sport24 sportswear - meaning you'll find her on billboards and TV ads throughout the country. With 24 stores throughout Denmark, Sport24 is a national leader in elite sportswear. Gjessing missed out on her fifth world title in 2019 due to injury, but remains the last of Para Taekwondo's original stars to have never been beaten. The world No. 1 remains one of the biggest medal threats in Tokyo this summer.

To view the TV ad, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=434365404648708>.

To read her profile on Sport24, visit <https://www.sport24.dk/blog/podcast/lisa-kjaer-gjessing-fra-kraeftforlob-amputation-til-elite-taekwondo>.

France's Kong Stars in French Olympic / Paralympic Team Commercial

The French Olympic and Paralympic Committees released a video highlighting Team France to mark 100 days until the 2020 Olympic Games begin. Featured prominently in the video is four-time world champion Bopha Kong. Already qualified for Tokyo 2020, the video shows Kong training and notably features one of his spectacular flying kicks – directly before cutting to the Olympic and Paralympic teams walking together in the culmination of the clip. Just three years before France is set to host its own Olympic and Paralympic Games, the video proves Kong is one of France's biggest stars. The one-minute video highlights the unity between the teams:



“Whatever our discipline. Whatever our differences. For the first time – we are one. Olympic and Paralympic – our unity is our strength. We are a single and united team. We are Team France.”, reads the commercial.

To see Kong star in the commercial, watch the clip on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-eYLrE9Kg>.



Britain's Truesdale Featured in Segment by Trendy Youth News Site 'Joe'

British legend Amy Truesdale was highlighted by the chic 'Joe' website last month, in partnership with the National Lottery. 'Joe' joined Truesdale for a training session and learned just how difficult it can be to train with a world No. 1 and former world champion. The segment covers Truesdale's career, all-you-can-eat Chinese buffets, and her chances at Tokyo 2020, where she is one of the sport's biggest medal favourites. Truesdale is one of over 1,100 British athletes to receive funding from the National Lottery, through its 'Good Causes' programming. Truesdale is one of the sport's most sought-after interviews, having recently been profiled by both the BBC and Paralympics GB.

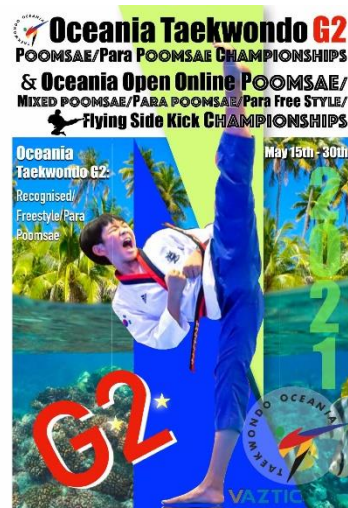
To watch her time with 'Joe', visit shorturl.at/mnAM2.
To watch her segment with Paralympics GB, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwfKhQXIR0M>.
To read her interview with the BBC, visit <https://www.bbc.com/sport/disability-sport/53728744>.

Oceania:

Oceania to Host Open Online Para Poomsae Championships

The Oceania Taekwondo Federation is pleased to announce the 2021 Oceania Para Poomsae Championships, held in conjunction with the Poomsae, National Teams Poomsae, and Mixed Poomsae Championships. The event will be held from 15-23 May and will also see Para Free Style and Flying Side Kick championships. The event is now in its second year, with organisers first hosting the online format due to COVID-19 quarantine restrictions in July 2020. Organisers are expecting over 100 athletes to participate.

For the complete draw list, check out the World Taekwondo Oceania page at <https://worldtaekwondoceania.org/>.



Pan Am:

Brazil's Para Taekwondo Team Profiled by State Media Outlet

The Brazilian Para Taekwondo team was recently profiled by Agencia Brasil – a state public news agency and one of the most important media outlets in the country. As part of a series covering Brazil's Paralympians, the agency spoke with Alan Nascimento – Brazil's national team coach. The detailed article outlines how each of Brazil's Paralympians qualified for the 2020 Paralympic Games, how they adapted training during quarantine, and what their return-to-play scenarios look like, including attending the Pan American championships in Cancun, Mexico, and the Asian championships in Beirut, Lebanon. Brazil has qualified three

athletes for Tokyo – Nathan Torquato (u61 kg), Silvana Cardoso (u58 kg), and world champion Debora Menezes (o58 kg) – and Nascimento believes all three have a chance to medal. To read more about the article, check it out on the Agencia Brasil website at shorturl.at/bgFGJ.

Mexico Hosts U-20 National Team Selection Camp

The Mexican national team held a selection camp for Taekwondoists under 20 years old last month in Aguascalientes, Mexico – host of the Third Para Taekwondo Pan American Championships in 2014. Mexico's top youth Para Taekwondoists joined their able-bodied counterparts who were competing for a spot at this summer's Junior Pan American Games in Cali, Colombia. The high-performance camp was attended by representatives of the Mexico Taekwondo Federation, the Mexico Para Taekwondo Federation, the Aguascalientes State Taekwondo Federation, and the Tepeyac Institute, who hosted the training. Mexico plans to hold a selection camp for its adult teams in Aguascalientes later this year and will host the Pan American championships in Cancun in June.



To see the video of the U-20 Mexican Para Taekwondoists, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2995649387321990>.

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Para
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Usman Dildar
Para
Taekwondo
Committee
Vice Chair
&
Games Chair

Para Taekwondo Classification Committee



Terrie Moore
Para Taekwondo
Classification
Committee
Chair



Joan Hacken
Para Taekwondo
Classification
Committee
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Classification
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Member



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Para Taekwondo Committee
Member



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Classification Committee
Member



Marck Harb
Para Taekwondo Committee
Member



Primoz Rus
Para Taekwondo
Classification
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Min Hak Seo
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Ad-hoc Para
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Taekwondo Poomsae
Committee
Member



Hafez Mahdavi
Ad-Hoc Para Taekwondo
Poomsae Committee
Member



World Para Taekwondo Staff



Olof Hansson
Director
Para Taekwondo

[Para Taekwondo Email Contact](#)

[Classification Email Contact](#)



Thomas Page
Assistant Manager
Para Taekwondo

[Para Taekwondo Email Contact](#)

[Classification Email Contact](#)

World Taekwondo | worldtaekwondo.org | para_tkd@worldtaekwondo.org

