



## World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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### Focus on Paris 2024 as new season begins



### Turkiye to field most number of fighters in Paralympics



*The sport's second appearance at the Paralympics promises high-quality action as 25 nations from four continents qualified. Turkiye to field maximum athletes of eight. Following an brilliant 2023 where athletes displayed incredible skills and technique to achieve the important ranking points in the pathway to Paralympic Games, the final countdown for Paris 2024 has begun.*

As we stepped into the New Year 2024, the qualification process has begun even as Para Taekwondoins have begun their final preparations even for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

which are just seven months away.

A total of 25 countries from four continents - Africa (1), Asia (9), Europe (10), Pan Am (5) – and one Affiliated Individual Nation have qualified for the Paris 2024, which will host the Para Taekwondo events for the second time in the history of the Games.

It should also be noted that Turkiye has qualified with the most number of athletes of eight, followed by Brazil, Mexico and Uzbekistan with five athletes each.

### **Top names qualify**

Among the top names in men's events included Turkiye's **Ali Can OZCAN** and Israel's **Asaf YASUR** (K44 men's -58kg), Turkiye's **Mahmut BOZTEKE** and Brazil's **Nathan TORQUATO**(K44 men's -63kg), Mexico's **Juan Diego GARCIA LOPEZ** (K44 men's - 70kg), Uzbekistan's **Asadbek TOSHEMIROV** (K44 men's - 80kg) among others.

The women's events will also have the top names including Mexico's **Claudia ROMERO** and Uzbekistan's **Ziyodakhon ISAKOVA** (K44 women's -47kg), Turkiye's **Meryem Betul CAVDAR** (K44 women's -52kg), Brazil's **Silvana Mayara CARDOSO FERNANDES** (K44 women's -57kg), Great Britain's **Beth MUNRO**, Brazil's **Ana Corolina SILVA DE MOURA** (K44 women's - 65kg) and Uzbekistan's **Guljonoy NAIMOVA** (K44 women's +65kg).

A total of 61 slots have been allocated through the World Para Taekwondo Paralympic rankings and host nation allocation methods.

There's more chances for the athletes to qualify as the process for the Continental Qualification pathway and the bi-partite invitation pathway to reach the games are yet to begin.

Here are the following countries who have qualified for Paris 2024:

**Africa (1)** - EGY  
**Asia (9)** - CHN, IRI, JPN, KAZ, KOR, MGL, THA, TPE, UZB  
**Europe (10)** - AZE, CRO, DEN, ESP, (FRA), GBR, ISR, ITA, SRB, TUR  
**Pan Am (5)** - ARG, BRA, MEX, PER, USA  
**AIN** - 1 athlete

## Continental qualification events open 2024



The 2024 season started with the continental qualification events to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

While registration for Africa Qualification Tournament has closed with countries including Niger, Kenya, Central African Rep., and D.R. Congo having registered, process for the Asian and European Qualification Tournament for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games are open!

The African Qualification Tournament is set to take place in Dakar ARENA, Dakar, Senegal on

on 9 February.

Meanwhile, the European tournament is set to take place in Sofia, Bulgaria on March 8, 2024. The Regular Registration Period End Date is 23 February 11:59 am CET.

The Asian tournament will be held at the Taishan International Convention and Exhibition Center, Tai'an city, China on 17th March 2024. The Regular Registration Period End Date for the event is 29 February 10 am CET.



## IPC President honoured with dan Taekwondo black belt



*IPC President Parsons visited the World Taekwondo headquarters while in Korea for the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games*

#InternationalParalympicCommittee (#IPC) President **Andrew Parsons** was awarded an honorary 9th dan Taekwondo black belt certificate by #WorldTaekwondo President **Chungwon Choue** at the federation's headquarters in Seoul.

World Taekwondo President Choue said: "We welcome President Andrew Parsons to the World Taekwondo headquarters for the first time. Through close cooperation between the World Taekwondo and IPC over the past

years, #Taekwondo was able to make a successful debut at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. We are very happy to present President Parsons with this honorary black belt."

Speaking at the ceremony, President Parsons, who visited the World Taekwondo headquarters while in Korea for the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, said:

"It is such an honour to receive this honorary 9th dan black belt; I know how important it is for the Taekwondo community. One thing that really touched me was that you mentioned this is not given to people who excelled in taekwondo activities. But people who have taekwondo in their heart, or they live through the Taekwondo values. And I believe in the Taekwondo values.

#ParaTaekwondo first featured at the #ParalympicGames at Tokyo 2020 and its successful debut saw the IPC increase the sport's medal events at the Games from 6 to 10 with an athlete quota increase from 72 to 120. In January last year, the IPC also confirmed Para Taekwondo's place at LA28 marking the third success Games the sport will feature in.

President Parsons joins the following individuals to have received this prestigious honour in the past: His Holiness Pope Francis, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, IOC Presidents Juan Antonio Samaranch, Jacques Rogge, and Thomas Bach, and former IPC President Sir Philip Craven. International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons was today awarded an honorary 9th dan Taekwondo black belt certificate by #WorldTaekwondo President Chungwon Choue at the federation's headquarters in Seoul.



**Message from Para Taekwondo Committee  
Chair on the new season**



"Happy New Year to all!

2023 had been a great year were we achieved several milestones and many aspired for.

As we step into 2024, The Paralympic year, there's new hopes, dreams and aspirations.

After a historic debut at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, we look forward to the new season and eagerly wait for the second appearance at the Games.

The continental qualification events are set to begin and it will be a brilliant chance for the athletes to grab continental slots and join others who have already qualified

through world ranking.

I wish all the very best to the athletes, coaches and referees as the countdown has begun and we are just seven month away to the Paralympic Games in Paris.



## Calendar



## 2024

- African Qualification for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (G1), Dakar, Senegal, Feb. 9, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Asia Region, Tehran, Iran, Feb. 20, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- European Qualification for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (G1), Sofia, Bulgaria, Mar. 8, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

### -REGISTRATIONS OPEN-

- Asian Qualification for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (G1), Tai'an City, China, March 17, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

### -REGISTRATIONS OPEN-

- Oceania Qualification for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (G1), Honiara, Solomon Islands, April 6, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- Pan Am Qualification for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games (G1), Dominican Rep., April 11, 2024

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- **Pan Am Para Taekwondo Open Championships (G4/G2), Rio de Janeiro, May 3, 2024**

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- **Asian Para Taekwondo Open Championships, Da Nang, Vietnam, May 26, 2024**

(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level II required for all coaches)

- **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, Paris, France, Aug. 29-31, 2024**

## Around the World

### Top Para athletes excited as ever to be at Paralympics

With the arrival of 2024, athletes have begun their final preparation for the all-important Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

These will be the second time the sport will feature at the Paralympics in Paris this August after its successful debut in Tokyo.

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medallist **Nathan Torquato** from Brazil is aiming to win his second medal in Paris.

Compatriot **Ana Carolina Moura**, a world champion, couldn't wait any longer to see everyone doing their best and sharing incredible moments in the Paralympic year.



Meanwhile, China's Asian Para Games bronze medallist **Li Yujie** hoped that she can realised her dreams of winning the Paralympic Games.

For Afghanistan's first Paralympic refugee athlete **Zakia Khudadadi**, 2023 was a great year with the gold medal at the European Championships in Rotterdam the major highlight.

She wants to continue winning for the peace and happiness of women of her country.

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