



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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Top 15 moments in pictures!

The year 2024 was about creating history, setting benchmarks and records, making memories and taking the pride of being part of the Paralympic Movement. The **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games** was the highlight of the year and Para Taekwondoins performed just like we had expected - spectacular and captivating - matching the grandeur of the iconic Grand Palais that staged the Para Taekwondo event.



TOP MOMENT 1: **Zakia Khudadadi** became the first Refugee Paralympic Team athlete to win a medal at Paralympic Games after she took the bronze medal in Women K44 -47kg. Khudadadi, the 2023 European champion, pulled off a 9-1 win against Turkiye's **Nurcihan Ekin** in the repechage round. For her interview, read [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 2: Nepal won their historic first ever medal in any Olympic or Paralympic Games when **Palesha Goverdhan** won her W K44 -57kg bronze medal match at the Grand Palais.



TOP MOMENT 3: France achieved a first at home, winning their first Para Taekwondo medal in front of a raucous crowd at Grand Palais, when teenage sensation **Djelika Diallo** claimed the silver medal in the women's K44 –65kg category. She lost to Brazil's **Ana Carolina Silva de Moura** in the gold medal match.



TOP MOMENT 4: Imamaddin Khalilov, the current World Para Champion, won Azerbaijan's first ever Para Taekwondo medal in Paralympics with a comfortable 15-2 win against Türkiye's **Fatih Celik** in Men K44 -70kg.



TOP MOMENT 5: Para Taekwondo legend **Lisa Kjaer** had her last dance at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games at Grand Palais settling for a bronze in Women K44 - 65kg. The Danish athlete had an illustrious career with multiple World and European and Tokyo 2020 Paralympics gold.



TOP MOMENT 6: "I'm Paralympic champion. I've made history," said **Amy Truesdale** as she celebrated her first Paralympic gold with a somersault on the mat. The British player surprised defending Para champion from Uzbekistan **Guljony Naimova** 8-2 in Women K44 +65kg at the Grand Palais in Paris.



TOP MOMENT 7: It was an emotional moment for **Surenjav Ulambayar** as she claimed Mongolia's first Paralympic gold in the sport, defeating a spirited **Zahra Rahimi** from Iran 5-2 in K44 Women -52kg.



TOP MOMENT 8: Israel picked up their first Paralympic gold medal in Para Taekwondo when their top player **Asaf Yasur** lived up to his promise and defeated Türkiye's top player **Ali Can Ozcan** 19-12 in K44 Men -58kg gold medal match. For details, read [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 9: Morocco became the first African nation to win a medal in women's Para Taekwondo event when **Rajae Akermach** claimed the bronze in K44 Women +65kg event.



TOP MOMENT 10: Great Britain's **Bradley Brockies** lived up to the expectations demonstrating amazing skills to win the P21 Senior Male gold medal at the 1st World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships. Morocco topped the medals standings with three gold medals followed by Croatia and Great Britain with two gold medals each. For details, read [here](#)



TOP MOMENT 11: Senegal's **Idrissa Keita** might have lost the bronze medal match in Men K44 +80kg but stole the heart of the cheering crowd at the iconic Grand Palais. Keita became the first athlete from Senegal to compete in Para Taekwondo events. To know his incredible story, read [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 12: Wildcard entrant **Christina Gkentzou** of Greece settled for the bronze at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Her journey to the Paralympics was incredible having coming out of nowhere to win the K44 Women -65kg gold medal in Chuncheon, Korea. For details, read [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 13: Leonor Angélica Espinoza Carranza of Peru who won her second Paralympic gold medal in Paris 2024 with her triumph in the K44 -47kg category was awarded the Female Para Taekwondo Athlete of the Year. **Imamaddin Khalilov** of Azerbaijan capped off a successful 2024 by being crowned Paralympic champion in the K44 -70kg in Paris, and earned the Male Para Taekwondo Athlete of the Year award. For details, read [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 14: The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Top30 IRs Training Camp was organized with great success by the European Taekwondo Union (ETU), under the auspices of both the Municipality of Santorini and the South Aegean Region, in full cooperation with executives of World Para Taekwondo (WPT) in Santorini, Greece. For details, check [here](#).



TOP MOMENT 15: Legendary actor **Jackie Chan** kicked off the Para Taekwondo competition at the Paralympic Games in Paris tapping the Coup the Baton on the floor.

2024: An extraordinary year of growth, development and achievement

Message from Para Taekwondo Committee Chair

Usman Dildar



In 2024, World Para Taekwondo community celebrated an extraordinary year of growth, development and achievements under my leadership. The year began with successful continental qualification tournaments across all five continents, setting the stage for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Following this, the selection process for international referees ensured that the **top 30 referees were chosen**, culminating in a final referee camp held in Santorini, Greece.

This camp was hailed as the best ever, featuring rigorous physical training, insightful lectures, and team-building exercises that fostered unparalleled camaraderie and professionalism among participants.

The **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games** showcased the outstanding capabilities of these referees, who executed their roles with flawless precision, achieving zero mistakes and setting a new benchmark for officiating excellence on the global stage.

Additionally, 2024 saw numerous coach education initiatives, including online seminars and in-person courses. These efforts focused on enhancing coaches ability to work effectively with athletes of various impairments, thereby promoting inclusivity and excellence in training.

To conclude the year, the **1st World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships** took place in Bahrain, marking another milestone for the sport. The event was a resounding success, further solidifying the global presence and impact of Para Taekwondo.

Looking ahead to 2025, I would like to express my excitement about the introduction of amended competition rules, the integration of international referee courses, and enhanced coach education programs. These initiatives aim to create a more inclusive and diverse education system, ensuring continued growth and success for World Para Taekwondo.

I wish all our Taekwondo family a very happy holidays.



2024: A historic year for World Taekwondo and Para Taekwondo

Message from World Taekwondo Classification Committee Chair Hadwah Matloub Moawad



As the Chairman of World Taekwondo's Classification Committee, I am proud to reflect on a momentous year for our sport. The inclusion of World Taekwondo in the **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games** marked yet another historic milestone, showcasing the progress and global impact of Para Taekwondo.

This year has been incredibly dynamic, beginning with **continental qualification** events leading up to the Paralympic Games. In 2024, we not only successfully

qualified numerous Para athletes but also achieved a significant milestone in the **qualification of International Classifiers**. **A total of 11** (5 female and 6 male), including 6 medical and 5 technical classifiers, from different continents (including 3 from Africa, 1 from Asia, 6 from Europe, and 1 from Oceania). Their contribution has been instrumental in ensuring the fairness and integrity of the classification process.

Post-Paralympic Games, we engaged in a series of strategic meetings, training courses, and classification opportunities. I had the honor of representing World Taekwondo at the **IPC annual meeting** held in **Bonn, Germany**, alongside my colleague, Mr. Olof Hansson, Para Taekwondo Director. The discussions focused on the steps toward implementing the “2025 Classification Code” and the “International Standards.” This pivotal initiative underlines our commitment to maintaining alignment with international classification standards.

Another highlight was the **Asian Regional Training Program** held in **Tokyo, Japan**, a collaborative initiative with the IPC. This program provided valuable training for Classifiers in the region, certifying 2 male and 2 female trainee classifiers.

The culmination of 2024's classification efforts was truly remarkable. For the first time, **P20 and P30 International Classification courses** were conducted, led by experienced international classifiers and educators. These courses took place in conjunction with the inaugural **World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championship in Bahrain**, which witnessed the largest number of classified Para athletes (96 in total -37 female and 59 male) participating in a single competition during this year. This groundbreaking event featured diverse sport classes, including **P20, P30, P50, and P70**.

Looking ahead, our focus for 2025 is clear. Achievable goals, plans, and strategies are in place to amend World Taekwondo Classification rules in compliance with the new IPC Classification Code. We also aim to enhance athlete and coach awareness through multi-lingual programs, and evidence-based classification and research ensuring continued progress in best practice classification.

As we close 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire classification team and the global Taekwondo family for their dedication and hard work. Wishing everyone a peaceful end to the year and an inspiring start to 2025. Let us continue striving for excellence and innovation in Para Taekwondo Classification.





Calendar



2025

- **12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo (G2), Antalya, Turkey**

February 8, 2025

- **British International Open 2025 Para Taekwondo (G1), Manchester, Great Britain**

March 23, 2025

- **WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Asia (G3), Taian, China**

April 25, 2025

- **2025 Rio Open Para Taekwondo (G1), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

May 15, 2024

- **World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge (G4), Chuncheon, Korea**

DATE To be confirmed

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **2025 European Youth Para Games (G2), Istanbul, Turkey (Europe only)**

July 25-27, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Oceania (G3), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 14, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G1), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 15, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 16, 2025

- **5th Asian Youth Para Games (G2) (Asia only)**

TBC

- **2nd World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed

- **11th World Para Taekwondo Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed



Around the World

Paris 2024 medallist Gkentzou awarded in Greece



The Greek Sports Journalists Association awarded the nation's top athletes - Olympians and Paralympians - at an award function recently.

Greek Para Taekwondo athlete **Christina Gkentzou**, who claimed the K44 Women -65kg bronze in her first Paralympics in Paris, was felicitated alongside Para swimmer **Alexandra**

Stamatopoulou, the gold medallist at Paris 2024.

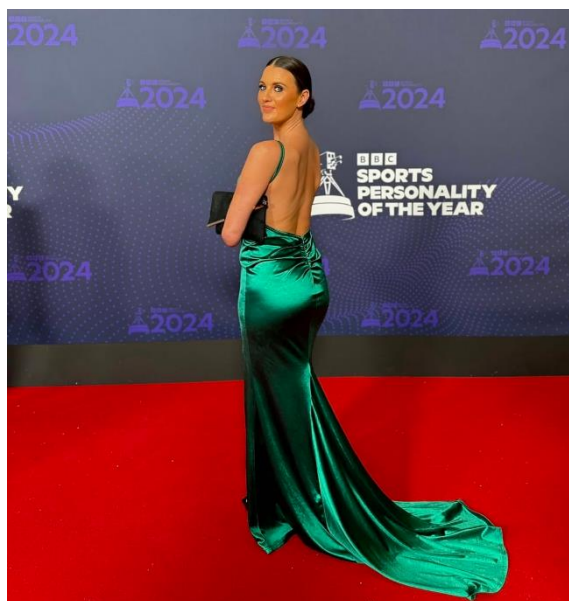
“Award ceremony of @psat_gr with my two favorite athletes 🤍 ✨

“I am very happy that I was able to live these unforgettable experiences in a year, meet special people and have the honor at the end of the year to be in the triad of the best athletes of 2024. Thanks for everything!” said Gkentzou on her *Instagram* handle.

Truesdale attends BBC Sports Personality of Year

Seasoned Para Taekwondo star and Paris 2024 champion **Amy Truesdale** attended the BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards.

The BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award is the main award of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year ceremony, which takes place each December.



Devised by Paul Fox in 1954, the awards, this year, celebrated an incredible 12 months of sporting action, including Great Britain's success at the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, and England men's run to the final of Euro 2024.

Truesdale claimed her first Paralympic gold medal when she defeated Uzbekistan's **Guljonoy Naimova** to win the K44 Women +65kg gold medal at the Grand Palais in Paris.

Para Taekwondo stars shine in Uzbek National C'ship



Uzbekistan successfully hosted its National Championships in Para Taekwondo recently, and some of the top athletes including regional Games medalists and Grand Prix winners returned victorious in their respective categories.

Among the notable athletes were Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games bronze medallist **Asadbek Anvarov** who

claimed the gold in Men K44 +80kg.

Uzbekistan has been producing champions in Para Taekwondo with **Guljonoy Naimova** (K44 Men +65kg) and **Asadbek Toshtemirov** (K44 Men +80kg) triumphing in Paralympic Games in the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Games.

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