



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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Final preparation in focus in Chuncheon ahead of Paralympics



Exciting contests to take centrestage before Paris '24



Thrilling contests are set to take place in Chuncheon, Korea as around 120 athletes will be in action during the one-day event, the final event before Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Some of the world's best Kyorugi players are set to display their readiness for the Paralympic Games when the Chuncheon 2024 World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge takes place on 5 July 2024.

This will be the final event ahead of Paris 2024 and thus will serve as an important preparation for the athletes who have already attained their qualification through world rankings and qualification events.

The Para Taekwondo competition will take place from August 29 to 31 at the Grand Palais in Paris with 120 athletes to fight for glory in 10 medal events.

The men's field looks strong so does the women's with thrilling contests on the cards at the Songam Sports Town Air Dome, Chuncheon, Korea.

Reigning Paralympic champions **Juan Diego Garcia Lopez** from Mexico and **Nathan Torquato** of Brazil will be aiming to show their fine form ahead of the Games.

For Garcia Lopez, however, it seems to a tough challenge with in-form stars like Azerbaijan's world champion **Imamaddin Khalilov** in the Men K44 -70kg line-up. The Mexican has been out of action late last year owing to injury.

For Torquato, the road also looks challenging too with Italian world champion **Antonino Bossolo** and Asian Para Games winner **Bolor-Erdene Ganbat** waiting to grab the Men K44 -63kg honours.

Among others who would be in spotlight were world champion **Asadbek Toshtemirov** and Korea's **Jeonghun Joo** (Men K44 -80kg).

The highlight will be Refugee Team player **Hadi Hassanzada** who is still keeping his hopes alive to qualify for his first Games.

In the women's events, Great Britain's Paralympic and World stars **Amy Truesdale** and **Beth Munro** would be eager to stamp their authority in Women K44 -65kg and +65kg events, respectively.

Truesdale, the reigning world champion, is expected to face a strong competition with the likes of Paralympic champion **Guljonoy Naimova** from Uzbekistan ready to be on the mat.

Mexico will have their stars **Jessica Garcia Quijano**, the reigning world champion in Women K44 -52kg, and the top ranked **Claudia Romero** (Women K44 -47kg) in their ranks and should be among the top finishers.

Others who would be looking to have a good preparation ahead of the Paralympics are Uzbekistan's world champion **Ziyodakhon Isakova** and Asian Para Games winner **Khwansuda Phuangkitcha** of Thailand (Women K44 -47kg).

Egypt's **Salma Ali Abd Al Moneem Hassan**, who won her nation's first Grand Prix gold in Veracruz last year and Mongolia's Asian Para Games medallist **Surenjav Ulambayar** (both Women K44 – 52kg) would be also eager to be on the podium.

Paris 2024: Bipartite slots for 12 nations



The World Taekwondo has announced that 12 Bipartite slots were allocated to nations including four first timers in seven Para Taekwondo categories for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Among the nations to get the Paralympic slot for the first time were Saudi Arabia (Men K44-63kg), Ivory Coast (Men K44 -70kg), Georgia (Women K44 -47kg), Greece (Women K44-65kg), Iraq (Men K44+80kg), and Central African Republic (Women K44 +65kg).

Other nations who claimed the Bipartite slots were Afghanistan and Nepal (Men K44 -58kg), Aruba and Costa Rica (Men K44 -80kg), Morocco (Women K44 -47kg) and USA (Women K44 -52kg).

With these slots, 52 nations have qualified for the Paris 2024 Paralympics, which will be the second time the sport will make its appearance at the Games.

As many as 120 athletes will compete at the 10 Para Taekwondo events at Grand Palais that begin on August 29.

Paris 2024 promises to be spectacular: Para Taekwondo committee chairman Dildar



The excitement is building up with less than two months to go for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Not just the athletes, it is a proud moment for the entire Para Taekwondo fraternity with its Committee members expressing their thoughts and excitement ahead of the Games.

World Para Taekwondo Committee chairman **Usman Dildar** shared his excitement with little more than 50 days remaining until the Paris Paralympic Games.

“This milestone marks a significant moment for our athletes, who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, resilience, and passion in their journey to the highest level of Para Taekwondo competition,” said Dildar.

“Our sport continues to grow, showcasing not only athletic excellence but also the spirit of inclusivity and perseverance. The upcoming Games in Paris promise to be a spectacular event, highlighting the incredible talents and stories of our competitors from around the globe.

“We are immensely proud of each athlete and official achievements and their unwavering commitment to excellence. As we count down these final days, we

encourage our entire community to rally behind our athletes, celebrating their hard work and eagerly anticipating the inspiring performances that lie ahead.

“Together, let us make Paris 2024 a landmark celebration of Para Taekwondo.

“Para Ti Para me Para Taekwondo (For you For Me For Taekwondo)”

Paralympics is a big milestone for Para Taekwondo: Technical Delegate Chelbat

Para Taekwondo Committee member and Technical Delegate for Paris 2024, Chakir Chelbat feels that Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will be a powerful step forward for the sport.

“It’s a very proud moment for all of us to be part of the Paris 2024 Games. Para Taekwondo in Paris 2024 will be a big milestone for the sport and the Movement.

“Definitely the sport has developed over the past few years. It was evident in the recent past – competitions, numbers and interest, the sport has definitely evolved. And in a few weeks’ time, we are going to witness the explosion and evolution of the sport in Paris, which will help the sport further grow for Los Angeles 2028.”

From 72 athletes competing in six medal events in Tokyo 2020, 120 athletes are gearing up to fight for glory in 10 medal events in Paris.

Chelbat spoke of the preparations for the Games adding the organisers are doing a great job.



"The preparations for the Games have been going great with regular meetings being held with the Paris 2024. We also have had a site visit in the past and had detailed meeting with the organisers. In Tokyo due to the Pandemic without the crowd, the Paralympic feeling was missing which will be compensated now at when the athletes compete at the iconic Grand Palais."

"We are eagerly looking ahead to the Games."

'Classifiers dedication and expertise are pivotal'



Chair of Para Classification Committee **Hadwah Matloub Moawad** extended her heartfelt gratitude to all classifiers worldwide as 50 days to go milestone for Paris 2024 Paralympics closes in.

"Your (The classifiers') dedication and expertise have been pivotal in creating pathways for our athletes to achieve their dreams," Moawad said.

"Your tireless efforts has ensured fair and equitable competition, upholding the integrity of our sport.

"Together, we celebrate their achievements and looking forward to an inspiring Paralympic Games in Paris," she added.

My biggest goal is to become Paralympic champion, says Amy Truesdale





Great Britain's Para Taekwondo star **Amy Truesdale** is on a mission to win her first Paralympic gold medal at Paris 2024 after finishing with a bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Paralympics GB announced their Para Taekwondo squad for Paris 2024 on 18 June. Truesdale will travel to the French capital with Tokyo 2020 silver medallist **Beth Munro** and **Matt Bush**, who missed out on competing in Japan due to an injury.

"I am delighted to be selected for my second Paralympic Games," Truesdale was quoted as saying to International Paralympic Committee. "I

am going into the Games in a very good position and am looking forward to showcasing Para Taekwondo to the world."

Ticket to the Paralympics

Truesdale is looking to take the spotlight in Paris after facing disappointment at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, where Para Taekwondo made its Paralympic debut.

Truesdale, who came into Tokyo 2020 as a gold medal favourite, finished with a bronze medal in the women's +58kg K44 after losing to Uzbekistan's **Guljonoy Naimova** in the semi-final.

"Winning bronze in Tokyo was the hardest thing I've been through. It was very difficult and I was very disappointed," Truesdale recalled.

"I was No. 1 in the world, and I was world champion, and I got gold in the Tokyo test event. But on this day, it was the worst performance that I'd ever done."

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, which open on 28 August, will feature up to 120 taekwondo fighters competing in 10 medal events. The sport, which made its Paralympic debut at Tokyo 2020, will be staged at the Grand Palais.

"The best part (about Paris 2024) is that we are going to have more spectators, which is going to be amazing. We are going to get a lot more support," she said when asked for her expectations.

Last year, she won her third title at the World Para Taekwondo Championships in Veracruz, Mexico, as she prepares for her second Paralympic Games.

"My biggest goal is to become Paralympic champion at Paris 2024"

Change starts with sport

Truesdale, who was born without a left arm, took up Taekwondo more than 25 years ago. Her parents encouraged her to take up martial arts for self-defense.

"It's been a very long journey. Before I was a Paralympic athlete, I used to fight with able-bodied Taekwondo (athletes), so it was a big transition, transferring over to be a Para athlete. There are different styles of Taekwondo, different disciplines.

"So it has been a very long journey. But it has been amazing."

Since switching to Para Taekwondo in 2009, Truesdale has paved the way for many athletes competing in the sport. She won her maiden world title in 2014, a year before the sport programme for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics was announced.

Life-changing experience

She won the world title again in 2017 before capturing her third title in Mexico last year.

"I feel sport has given me the opportunity to be more disciplined within myself. It has given me the opportunity to travel the world, meet some amazing and inspiring people, so I think it has been life-changing being part of sport."

With less than 60 days to go until Paris 2024, Truesdale is aiming to bring home the Paralympic gold medal, the only medal missing from her collection.

"I have every medal but haven't got that one that I want yet," Truesdale said. "In order to be a Paralympic champion, you need determination, you need to be adaptable and you need to be able to take feedback well."

Calendar



2024

- World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge, Chuncheon, Korea, July 5, 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

Para Taekwondo director in MEI's Panel discussion



World Taekwondo participated in the MEI (Major Events International) Summit held in Lausanne at the Olympic Museum on June 17-20, 2024.

On June 19, 2024, Para Taekwondo Director Olof Hansson was part of a panel discussion on Advancing Para Sports- Striving for Equivalency.

Others in the panel were officials from Union Cycliste Internationale and Virtus Sport.

Major Events International is a Management Consultancy who, for over 15 years, have specialised in helping all organisations succeed in the global sports events market: from commercial companies, rights holders,

government agencies to host organisations.

Naimova, Torquato feature in IPC's Sport Week

Last month, the International Paralympic Committee's Sport Week for the upcoming Paralympic Games focused on Para Taekwondo.

While the sport's biggest stars were highlighted through articles during the week, we witnessed Uzbekistan's Paralympic star Guljonoy Naimova going Live on their Instagram handle.

Brazil's Nathan Torquato's, also the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic champion, incredible journey featured in Paralympic's YouTube video #GameChangers.



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