



# World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

April 2021 | Issue #10

## Another International Sporting Event Adds Para Taekwondo

### Para Taekwondo Added to the Virtus Americas Games 2022 in Sao Paulo, Brazil



The list of prestigious international multi-sport events that Para Taekwondo athletes can compete in continues to grow as the Virtus Americas Games added Para Taekwondo to its list of sports at the 2022 edition in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The Virtus Games are a leader in sport for athletes with an intellectual impairment. Para Poomsae athletes in the P21 and P22 Sport Classes will have the opportunity to test their abilities against the world's top athletes in those disciplines.

Like the Parapan Am Games are to the Paralympics, the Virtus Americas Games are to the Virtus Global Games. The next Virtus Global Games will take place in Vichy, France in June 2023.

Alongside the Virtus Americas Games, other continental championships will take place in Europe (Krakow, Poland in July 2022) and Asia / Oceania (Brisbane, Australia in November 2022). For the moment, Para Taekwondo has yet to be added to those events.

Hosted at the Brazilian Paralympic Centre in Sao Paulo from September 18 - 23, 2022, the event will see athletes from at least 16 nations compete in events like Athletics, Basketball, Futsal, Table Tennis, and Swimming. Organisers hope that hosting the multi-sport, multi-nation event will increase membership in intellectually impaired sport.

Expect registrations to open next year. Until then, you can have your Poomsae athletes assessed for eligibility. Please use the following links for more information.

For more information on athlete eligibility, please click [here](#).

## Register for Bipartite Commission Invitations for the 2020 One Paralympic Games!

**SDMS NEWS**

**2 December 2020**  
**Summer Season 2021 opened!**  
The licensing programme 2021 is now opened! Please note that the fees have been re-calculated according to the calculation methodology as described in the previous communications. All invoices have been prepared and are ready for download. The annual letter has been sent out to all NPCs.

**1 July 2020**  
**Winter Season 2020/21**  
The IPC Licensing Programme for IPC Winter Sports has started, and all winter sports are now open for licensing.

**1 July 2019**  
**SDMS API**  
Do you have a national database for your NPC in place? You are tired of entering all athletes in SDMS again? Then your database developer might make use of the new SDMS API version just published today. Send your developer [the SDMS API](#)

**LOGIN**

Username   
Password   
  
[I forgot my password](#)

**How do I get an account?**  
Accounts are only granted to National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), IPC Classifiers, and the IPC management team. As NPC, please use the NPC account activation form to be found below. Otherwise, please contact the IPC directly.  
[NPC Account Request Form](#)

In a sign of Para Taekwondo's imminent Paralympic introduction, the final piece of the Tokyo 2020 qualification process is ready to launch – the Bipartite Commission Invitations (BCIs).

### What are Bipartite Commission Invitations (BCIs)?

Awarded after consultation between World Taekwondo and the International Paralympic Committee, BCIs are designed "to ensure participation of top athletes who may not have had the opportunity to formally qualify through other methods due to extraordinary circumstances".

### How are BCIs awarded?

BCIs can be awarded based on several criteria (from IPC) which include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring representation of athletes with high needs;
- Ensuring medal events will have sufficient representation for viability; and/or
- To offer greater representation by gender.

### Who is eligible to apply for BCIs?

***Any athlete that has not yet qualified for the 2020 One Paralympic Games, meets the eligibility requirements, and wishes to participate in the 2020 One Paralympic Games must apply for a Bipartite Commission Invitation.***

Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements by 2 August. Minimum Qualification Standards apply, which include:

- Holding a WT Global Athlete License for 2021

- Being internationally classified in:
  - A 'Confirmed' Sport Class Status (K44 or K43), OR
  - A 'Fixed Review Date' Sport Class Status with a review date after 31-December-2021
- Holding either:
  - A Taekwondo Dan issued by WT/Kukkiwon, OR
  - A MNA-recognised 5-1 Geup
- Being at least 16 years old by 31-December-2021
- Having competed in at least one international, sanctioned competition between 1-January-2018 and 6-June-2021
- Appearing on the World Para Taekwondo Ranking.

#### **How many BCIs will be awarded?**

Para Taekwondo has been awarded at least three BCIs, to be awarded in divisions where no Japanese athlete was entered.

Japan will select athletes in the men's up to 61 kg, men's up to 75 kg, and women's over 58 kg divisions.

This means the one BCI will be awarded to each of the men's over 75 kg, women's under 49 kg, and women's under 58 kg divisions.

BCIs will also be awarded when no athlete qualified via the World Ranking allocation or the Continental Championship route, such as in the men's over 75 kg and women's under 58 kg tournaments in Oceania.

***Important: Unlike qualification through the rankings or Continental Qualification Tournaments, BCIs are awarded to individual athletes – NOT National Paralympic Committees (NPCs).***

#### **How to apply for BCIs?**

MNAs will have to make their application through the NPC. NPCs looking to submit applications for BCIs must apply through the IPC's Sport Data Management System. To do this, follow these steps:

- Log in to <https://www.paralympic.org/sdms>
  - NOTE: Only NPC 'Primary Users' may submit applications for athletes in sports not governed by the IPC, including Para Taekwondo.
- Click the 'IPC Online Entries System' tab on the main page or from the main menu
- Click on the 'Applications' icon
  - NOTE: You can register athletes for BCIs from any sport that is open for BCI registration - not only Para Taekwondo.
- Select your NPC and fill out your Athlete Registration Form. Select the athlete's sport class and add other necessary information, such as license number. Be sure to save to complete the registration.
- Select the event for which your athlete is applying for a BCI. Be sure to save to complete the event registration.
- Click 'Back to Grid' to open the overview table so that you can see all the athletes for which you have applied for a BCI. Repeat previous steps to apply for each athlete that wishes to apply for a BCI.
- You may add, edit, or delete athletes at any time while the registration window is open.
  - NOTE: You can not edit an athlete's personal information. You will have to delete the athlete and add again with the correct information.
- IMPORTANT: Be sure to register any athlete that wants to participate at the 2020 One Paralympic Games and is eligible. This is the final chance for non-qualified athletes to participate!

#### **When to apply for BCIs?**

***The application for BCIs for Para Taekwondo athletes opens on 10 May at 0:01 Central European Time and closes on 31 May at 23:59 Central European Time.***

#### **When will BCIs be awarded?**

## 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)
- Asian Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games G1 - May 23 - Amman, Jordan  
(International Para Taekwondo Coach Certification Level I 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)
- Asian Para Taekwondo Open Championships G4/G2 - June 15 - Beirut, Lebanon  
(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!**



## Message from the Para Taekwondo Committee Chairman *Chakir Chelbat*

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

Your athletes will not be allowed to compete in international, World Taekwondo-sanctioned events if your federation does not have a certified coach!

Already 306 coaches from 149 countries have completed the Level I certification.

There are 154 coaches from 84 countries that have received Level II certification.

There are 210 registered MNAs in World Taekwondo. This means that 61 MNAs will not be able to send athletes to World Taekwondo's international events until they have 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.

### **12th Para Taekwondo ONLINE International Coach Certification Course [Level I]** (English)

- Course: 20-22 April (18:00-21:00 CET). Registration **Deadline: 15 April 23:59 CET**

### **8th Para Taekwondo ONLINE International Coach Certification Course [Level II]** (English)

- Course: 27-29 April (18:00-21:00 CET). Registration **Deadline: 22 April 23:59 CET**

## Para Taekwondo Around the World

### Asia:

#### Japanese National Team Releases Training Video

Since being awarded the Paralympic Games in 2013, Japan has put significant resources into its Paralympic teams – and the results paid off in 2019 when Japan won its first two World Championships medals, two bronzes in Antalya, Turkey. Expectations are high for the Japanese team and the athletes are enjoying the limelight. The Japanese National Team recently released a video of the team preparing for the biggest tournament of their lives, where you can see world championship medalists Shunsuke Kudo and Shoko Ota. As Japan's flagbearer at the 2014 Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia, Ota is already a well-known name and is sure to be one of Japan's star athletes this summer. As host, Japan was awarded three qualification spots and will send athletes in the men's under 61 kg division, the men's under 75 kg division, and the women's over 58 kg division.



To view the video on YouTube, please click [here](#).



### Africa:

#### Rwanda's Niringiyimana Named Paralympic Games Substitute

Rwandan star Jean Claude Niringiyimana was named Africa's official substitute in the men's up to 61 kg division at this summer's Paralympic Games after finishing second at last year's African Paralympic Qualification tournament. The IPC named Niringiyimana the Allianz Athlete of the Month in April 2017 after he helped host Rwanda win six medals to finish second overall at the 2017 African Open championships. The top ranked fighter heading into the qualification tournament, he was upset in a highly entertaining 41-31 loss to Egypt's Mohammed Yasser in the final. Should Yasser not be able to compete this summer (and Egypt can not find an eligible replacement), Niringiyimana will be first in line as the replacement.

### Europe

#### Azerbaijan's Mammadova Wins Another National Award

Accolades keep pouring in for our Para Taekwondo stars and Azerbaijan's Aynur Mammadova was the latest to be recognised. The two-time world champion and four-time European champion was awarded an honorary decree by the Government of Azerbaijan for her successes on the international stage. The former No. 1 ranked fighter in the world was given the award by Adil Aliyev, the Chairman of the Youth and Sports Committee of the Azerbaijani government. Mammadova was named Azerbaijan's top Paralympic athlete in 2019 after picking up her fourth European title. However, a devastating 4-3 quarterfinal loss to Uzbekistan's Guljonoy Naimova at the 2019 World Championships means she missed out on qualifying for Tokyo 2020 through the rankings. One of the sport's first stars, No. 6-ranked Mammadova will now need to win at the all-or-nothing European Paralympic Qualification tournament in May if she hopes to represent Azerbaijan at this summer's Paralympic tournament.



#### France's Para Taekwondo Team Meets With Japanese Ambassador



In a meeting of the next two Paralympic hosts, Japan's Ambassador to France, Mr. Junichi Ihara, visited the French INSPE Paralympic Centre in Paris to meet with the Paralympic Committee of French Sport and members of France's Para Taekwondo team. The Ambassador met with Committee President and Paralympic champion (Athletics) Marie Amelie Le Fur, France's four-time Para Taekwondo world champion Bopha Kong, and his coach Oury Sztantman. One of Para Taekwondo's earliest stars, Kong has medalled at all eight Para Taekwondo World Championships, winning his fourth gold medal in Antalya, Turkey in 2019.

## British World Champion Matt Bush Featured in BBC Profile

Great Britain's state broadcaster – the BBC – published a feature piece on Britain's reigning world champion Matt Bush last month. Titled 'Matt Bush: Meet Britain's first Para Taekwondo world champion'<sup>\*\*</sup>, the article details Bush's journey on the way to becoming a Para Taekwondo world champion. A star athlete in athletics, he was expecting to compete for Britain at the 2016 Paralympic Games in javelin and shot put before a shoulder injury ruled him out. After trying a few sports he discovered taekwondo and, as the article points out, it was trial by fire: "Within about three weeks, we were in Korea fighting against the No. 1 guy in my category – it was my first [taekwondo] fight ever." Just two years later he found himself on top of the world championship podium. Still, inconsistent results following that remarkable achievement meant he missed out on automatic Paralympic qualification through the rankings and is now one of the biggest names to watch at the European Paralympic Qualification tournament in May.



To read the full BBC article, please click [here](#).

*\*\*Amy Truesdale is Britain's first Para Taekwondo world champion, winning gold at home in London in 2017. Matt Bush is Britain's first male world champion - in either taekwondo or Para Taekwondo.*



## Russia 'Returns to Play' With National Championships

In a sign that competitions are readying to return, Russia hosted the National Para Taekwondo Championships in Nalchik last month. More than 80 fighters competed in both kyorugi and poomsae categories. In his first tournament, Ruslan Vakhitov topped three more experienced fighters in the up to 75 kg division, complicating the decision Russia will have to make as to whom to send to this summer's Paralympic Games. Also in the up to 75 kg division are No. 3-ranked Magomedzagir Isaldibirov and No. 4-ranked Vladimir Feofanov – both former European champions (Isaldibirov also has a world championship). Fighters from Russia will compete under the Paralympic banner at the Tokyo 2020 One Games as Russian athletes are forbidden from

competing for Russia as outlined by the World Anti-Doping Committee as punishment for Russia's state-sponsored doping scandal.

## Pan Am:

### Argentina's Para Taekwondo Team Featured on State Broadcaster

Argentina's Television Publico – South America's oldest public TV station – featured Argentina's Para Taekwondo team last month. The public broadcaster interviewed, Gabriel Taraburelli, the coordinator of the National Team, on how its athletes are preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Included in the segment is an interview with Juan Eduardo Samorano, who booked his spot at Tokyo 2020 One with a thrilling 16-14 comeback win over Cuba's Adrian Garcia Rodriguez at the Pan American Paralympic Qualification tournament last year. Already ranked No. 28 in the world after competing in just two ranked tournaments, the young fighter snatched gold at his very first tournament – the



To view the clip (in Spanish) on the Television Publico Facebook page, please click [here](#).



## Brazilian Paralympic Committee Releases Para Taekwondo Primer Video

In the lead-up to the Paralympic Games in Tokyo this summer, the Brazilian Paralympic Committee has released a video primer on Para Taekwondo. Rodrigo Ferla, the Technical Director of the Brazil Para Taekwondo Federation, explains the history of the sport, its rules, and accomplishments of Brazilian Para Taekwondo athletes. All three Brazilian fighters that have

qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games can be seen training in the video, including No. 5-ranked Nathan Torquato (men's up to 61 kg), No. 10-ranked Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes (women's up to 58 kg), and reigning world champion and No. 2-ranked Debora Menezes (women's over 58 kg).

To view the video on Facebook, please click [here](#).

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## Para Taekwondo Committee



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Committee  
Chair



Usman Dildar  
Para  
Taekwondo  
Committee  
Vice Chair  
&  
Games Chair



Amine Khelladi  
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Member



Sookyung Park  
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Member

Marck Harb

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Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Chair



Joan Hacken  
Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Vice Chair



David O'Sullivan  
Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Member



Judith Cameron  
Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Member

Primoz Rus





Para Taekwondo Committee  
Member



Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Member

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Poomsae Committee  
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Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo  
Poomsae Committee  
Vice-Chair



Nadezhada Petrova  
Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo Poomsae  
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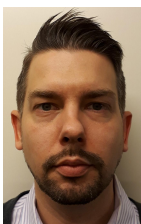
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