



# World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

March 2021 | Issue #9

## Back to Business!



With the slow rollout of COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, there is cautious optimism that the international sports calendar can return to some sort of new normal; which means for World Para Taekwondo – it's back to business!

Highlighted by the two biggest events in Para Taekwondo history – the sport's introduction to the **Paralympic Games** in September and the biggest **World Championships** yet in October – the Para Taekwondo calendar is falling into place.

The first order of business is to determine which athletes from Europe and Asia will claim the remaining Paralympic spots. The all-or-nothing **Paralympic Qualification tournaments** are set for 9 May in Sofia, Bulgaria (Europe) and 16 May in Amman, Jordan (Asia).

Keeping in mind that the ongoing pandemic could still play havoc on the holding of international sporting events, Para Taekwondo's **Continental Open championships** are also set to return in 2021, offering athletes the first chance to collect rankings points for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, France.

Currently, three such tournaments are scheduled. The European and Pan Am Open events have yet to be confirmed.

- African Open Championships – May 29-30 – Niamey, Niger
- Asian Open Championships – June 15 – Beirut, Lebanon
- Oceania Open Championships – November 19 – Papeete, French Polynesia

There are other major events in 2021 to take note of as well, including the return of the **President's Cup (Asia)** on 17 June in Nablus, Palestine, and the introduction of Para Taekwondo to the **Asian Youth Para**

**Games**, held in Bahrain from December 1-10. Other events could still be added.

In preparation for Para Taekwondo's "return to play", athletes, coaches, classifiers, referees, and administrators are encouraged to make sure that they are registered, classified, and have up-to-date trainings and certifications. For more on how to do this, see the sections below.

So, while it may take some time before things return to 'business as usual', at least athletes and coaches can get back to the business of training and competing. We can't wait to see you again soon!

## Getting Your New Athletes Classified

World Taekwondo Classification System

Welcome to the World Taekwondo Classification System

**NEWS / UPDATES**

The World Taekwondo Classification System ("WTCS") is designed to support and facilitate the information management of Para Taekwondo athletes. We highly appreciate your assistance in keeping the data as up to date and accurate as possible. We welcome feedback on your experiences with using the system and with the processes implemented within it.

The application provides the following tools:

- Athletes registration in Para Taekwondo
- Full classification management
- Competition Calendar
- Internal and external classification master lists

**LOGIN**

Username

Password

[I forgot my password](#)

**How do I get an account**

Accounts are only granted to members, classifiers, and the management team of World Taekwondo. As member nation, please use the account activation form to be found below. Otherwise, please contact WT directly.

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5th Fl., Kikun Bldg 15 Hyejeon-ro, Songpa-gu, Seoul, 03044 Korea - please also visit our website at [www.worldtaekwondo.org](http://www.worldtaekwondo.org)  
For technical support, please contact Chief Hancock at [para.tkd@worldtaekwondo.org](mailto:para.tkd@worldtaekwondo.org)

Based on our best estimates, World Para Taekwondo believes that there are now over 2,200 Para Taekwondo practitioners worldwide. Yet only 900 are registered in the Global Membership System (GMS).

Let's get registering! <https://worldtkd.simplycompete.com/>

To help you get your athletes going ahead of WPT's return to international competitions, here's a handy guide on how to get your athletes registered with the new World Taekwondo Classification System (WTCS).

### Step One – Register

- Designate only one person from your MNA to work with the WTCS.
- Have that person fill out the WTCS Account Request Form, found here: <https://db.ipc-services.org/wtcs/app/login>.
- Email the completed WTCS Account Request Form to [para-tkd@worldtaekwondo.org](mailto:para-tkd@worldtaekwondo.org).
- A username and password will be emailed to your MNA's contact person.

### Step Two – Apply

- All forms must be filled out electronically (no handwriting – except date / signatures), and in English.
- Be sure the athlete has a World Taekwondo License Number (GAL).
- Download the Medical Diagnostic Form (MDF) here: [https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArCSmGBuzIK7hboOu8FrXZEg\\_I9xOg?e=Ly1AoN](https://1drv.ms/w/s!ArCSmGBuzIK7hboOu8FrXZEg_I9xOg?e=Ly1AoN)
- Fill out the MDF Form by collecting all relevant documentation, photos, signatures, etc.
- Upload the MDF Form, photos, and any other necessary documents - all in PDF format - to your MNA's WTCS Account.
- In the event of an incomplete form, the Head of Classification will contact the MNA with details.

### Step Three – Await Decision

- The completed application is then sent to an Evaluation Group who assesses the athlete's eligibility and provides comments to the Head of Classification.

- Either the Evaluation Group or the Head of Classification could ask your MNA for more information on the athlete.
- For all MDF's submitted, The Head of Classification will provide feedback on eligible impairment and whether or not the athlete is believed to meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria (MIC).

#### **Step Four – Train!**

- Once your athlete has been accepted, it's time to get ready for international events.
- Read World Taekwondo's 'Guidelines and Protocols for Safe Return to Competitions and Training During COVID-19' by clicking here: [shorturl.at/djwT0](https://shorturl.at/djwT0)
- Be sure to register for all tournaments you plan to attend!
- Train! Train! Train!
- All new athletes will meet with a Classification Panel in-person at their first event. The athlete will then be placed in the appropriate Sport Class based on this evaluation.

We're looking forward to seeing you and your athletes at an international tournament near you in the very near future. Happy training everyone!

## **Paralympic Playbooks**



Last month, the IPC released a series of “playbooks” outlining the rules that must be followed by athletes, coaches, and Paralympic partners as they travel to Tokyo for the 2020 Paralympic Games. 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, anyone planning to travel to Japan this summer is encouraged to read these playbooks and contact your Member National Association if you have any questions.

Please note that the Playbooks will be further updated in April, providing more details based on feedback from partners, ongoing discussions, and the current status of the pandemic.

- **Playbook for International Federations** - <https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20%20International%20Federations%20new.pdf>
- **Playbook for Press** - [https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20-%20Press\\_new.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20-%20Press_new.pdf)
- **Playbook for Broadcasters** - [https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20-%20Broadcasters\\_new.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20-%20Broadcasters_new.pdf)
- **Playbook for Athletes & Officials** - <https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/The%20Playbook%20-%20Athletes%20and%20Officials.pdf>

## Para Taekwondo Competition Calendar



- European Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games - May 9- Sofia, Bulgaria
- Asian Qualification Tournament for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games - May 16- Amman, Jordan
- Africa Para Taekwondo Open Championships - May 29-30 - Niamey, Niger
- Asian Para Taekwondo Open Championships - June 15 - Beirut, Lebanon
- Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games - September 2-4 -Tokyo, Japan
- Wuxi 2021 World Para Taekwondo Championships - October 21-22 - Wuxi, China
- Oceania Para Taekwondo Open Championships - November 18 - Papeete, French Polynesia
- World Taekwondo President's Cup - Asia - November 18 - Nablus, Palestine
- 2021 Asian Youth Para Games - December 1-10 - Bahrain

## UPCOMING COURSES REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!



With still a few weeks before the competition season gets up and running, now is the right

time to get your certification. These are the courses currently open for registration.

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

### **8th Para Taekwondo National Classifier ONLINE Certification Course [Level I]** (English)

- Course:13-14 March. Registration **Deadline: 7 MAR, 11:59:PM (GMT+10:00 Australia/Sydney)**

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

## **Ad-Hoc PT Poomsae Committee Adds New Members**

The Ad Hoc Para Taekwondo Poomsae Committee has added two new members. Mr. Min Hak Seo has been appointed Committee Chair and Mr. Hafez Mahdavi has also been named to the committee. The Ad-Hoc Para Taekwondo Poomsae Committee was established to standardise and review competition rules for all Poomsae Sport Classes. We look forward to seeing the results of the Committee's work to continue the development of the discipline of Para Taekwondo Poomsae.



Min Hak Seo  
Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo  
Poomsae Committee  
Chair



Said A Khelwatty  
Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo  
Poomsae Committee  
Vice-Chair



Nadezhada Petrova  
Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo Poomsae  
Committee  
Member



Luciano Mazzeo  
Ad-hoc Para Taekwondo  
Poomsae Committee  
Member



Hafez Mahdavi  
Ad-Hoc Para Taekwondo  
Poomsae Committee  
Member



## **Para Taekwondo Around the World**

**Asia:**

### **Iranian Athletes Hold Prep Camp in Kish Island**

Iran's former world champions Mehdi Pourahnama and Asghar Aziziaghdam are in the lush resort town of Kish

Island as they prepare to take their shots at Paralympic glory this summer. Already in their fifth training camp, the two stars have morning and afternoon sessions from 26 February to 15 March. Aziziaghdam is a two-time world champion, while Pourahnama has four world titles and is a favourite to win gold in Tokyo.

For more information, check out the Iran Taekwondo Federation page [here](#).



“For the Paralympics, I am especially looking forward to feeling the atmosphere that the whole world unites around one thing – namely sports”, Gjessing told the news agency.

To read the full Danish Broadcasting Corporation article, click [here](#).

## Europe:

### Lisa Gjessing Named Denmark's #1 Paralympic Medal Hope

The Danish Broadcasting Corporation named four-time world champion and No. 1-ranked Lisa Gjessing as Denmark's top medal prospect at this summer's Paralympic Games. Gjessing headed up a list that also includes Peter Rosenmeier (table tennis), Kristel Walther and Daniel Wagner (athletics), and Amalie Vinther (swimming).

### Finland Taekwondo Federation President talks WT Trainings in Feature Article

The Finland Taekwondo Federation featured interviews with Finland Taekwondo Federation President Kari Sirviö, an experienced international referee that is shortlisted to officiate at Para Taekwondo's debut at the 2020 Paralympic Games, and Chakir Chelbat, the Para Taekwondo Committee Chair in its March issue. The 1200-word feature highlights the history of Para Taekwondo, World Taekwondo's new training programmes, and Finland's participation in the sport, including Paralympic-hopeful and world championship medalist Matti Sairanen. Sirviö, who refereed at the Tokyo 2020 Test Event and the African Paralympic Qualification tournament, recently completed Levels I and II of the coaches' training. Chelbat hopes to see more Finnish clubs participate in the future:

“Knowledge is power”, he told the Finnish Taekwondo Federation. “Study increases awareness in clubs.”

To read the full article, check out the Finland Taekwondo Federation's March newsletter [here](#).



### Italian Paralympic Legend Bebe Vio Muses Online About Picking Up Para Taekwondo - Goes Viral

Paragon of the Paralympic movement - Italian wheelchair fencer Bebe Vio - recently shared a post musing about picking up Para Taekwondo that has nearly 80,000 likes.

The 2016 Paralympic champion was already a celebrity when the IPC took her nickname as the title for its full-length documentary on the Paralympic movement - 'Rising Phoenix', which stars Vio.

“Taekwondo or Athletics – which is my best fit?” she asks as she tries out her new leg prostheses. “Try kicking”, her friend says. After a head-high kick, she adds “I can start taekwondo now!”

There's a world championship around the corner Bebe!

To view the Instagram post, click [here](#).



## Pan Am:

### Government of Peru Supports Pan Am Champ Espinosa Carranza

The Government of Peru recently spotlighted Angelica (Leonor) Espinosa Carranza, the lone fighter from the country to qualify for the 2020 Paralympic Games. Espinosa Carranza became a legend at home by winning Pan Am gold after being named the country's flagbearer when Peru hosted Para Taekwondo's debut at the 2019 Pan Am Games. The Peruvian government noted its support for the fighter through the Athlete Support Programme and the Let's Go with Tokyo programme of the Peruvian Institute of Sports. In addition to attending three tournaments ahead of the Paralympic Games, Espinosa Carranza will also attend training camps in Brazil and Mexico.



"The idea is to participate in all [the tournaments] because they would be before the Paralympic Games and this would [help] me in the ranking and [show] how I am in competitions after so many months [off]", Espinosa Carranza explained.

To read the full article on the Government of Peru website, click [here](#).



### Mexico's Para Taekwondo Stars Start Paralympic Training Camp

The Mexican Taekwondo Federation shared a video of its national teams' preparation for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the 2021 Pan American Junior Games in Cali, Colombia.

Mexico has qualified three fighters for the Paralympic Games – Daniela Andrea Martinez Marsical (over 58kg), Francisco Pedroza (over 75kg), and world champion Juan Diego Garcia Lopez (up to 75kg).

To see the video, check out the post by clicking [here](#).

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**Para Taekwondo  
Committee**

**Para Taekwondo  
Classification  
Committee**



Chakir Chelbat  
Para Taekwondo  
Committee  
Chair



Terrie Moore  
Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Chair



Usman Dildar  
Para  
Taekwondo  
Committee  
Vice Chair  
&  
Games Chair



Joan Hacken  
Para Taekwondo  
Classification Committee  
Vice Chair



Amine Khelladi  
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Member



David O'Sullivan  
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Marck Harb  
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