



## World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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### WT announces new Standing Committees



**Usman Dildar named Para Taekwondo Committee chair**



*Dildar succeeded Chelbat as Para Taekwondo Committee Chair while Argoubi named Vice Chair; Moawad retains her position in Classification Committee with Szarka as second-in-command*  
 The World Taekwondo announced its new Standing Committees for the term 2023-2025 - Para Taekwondo Committee and the Classification Committee with new Chair, Vice Chair and members appointed last month.

While Mr. Usman Dildar, the former Vice Chair, was appointed as the Chair of the Para Taekwondo Committee, Hadwah Moawad was retained as in-charge of the six-member Classification Committee.

The World Taekwondo, this time as part of their ongoing drive for better governance, conducted an open application process for the Standing Committees and received an overwhelming response, with a total of 484 submissions for the 91 available positions.

The level of interest and expertise exhibited by all the applicants was truly impressive, making the selection process a challenging task. Some members from the previous Committees cycle have also been retained for their outstanding services to World Taekwondo.

Dildar, who took over the charges from Mr. Chakir Chelbat, extended a warm welcome to the committee members and said: "We are delighted to announce and extend a warm welcome to the newest additions to our esteemed World Para Taekwondo committee. These talented individuals bring with them a great wealth of experience, passion, dedication, commitment and a diverse perspectives that will undoubtedly enrich World Para Taekwondo endeavours.

"Joining us on this exciting journey are our members. Their expertise in Poomsae, Referee, games and event management from five different continent will be invaluable in shaping our future initiatives.

"Together, we look forward to making a positive impact and achieving even greater heights. Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to our new committee members."

While the Para Taekwondo Committee has four new members, the Classification Committee has three new names to work towards the growth of the sport.

The Para Taekwondo Committees (Para Taekwondo & Classification) appointed in 2019 have been working to further expand Para Taekwondo with additional sport classes for Visually impaired, short stature, wheelchair, and deaf to be introduced in 2021. The Committees have also identified education as the main factor for growth of Para Taekwondo and are making available several Para Taekwondo specific programs starting in 2020.

#### **Para Taekwondo Committee Members with Positions**

##### **Applicant's Name Position**

Usman Dildar - Chair  
 Mohammed Argoubi - Vice Chair  
 Chakir Chelbat - Member  
 Linda S.S. Pace (New) - Member  
 Luisa Villar Galvez (New) - Member  
 Placide Bagabo (New) - Member  
 Yu-Chi (Karen) Huang (New) - Member

#### **Classification Committee Members with Positions**

##### **Applicant's Name Position**

Hadwah Moawad - Chair  
 Tunde Szarka (New) - Vice Chair  
 Mohammed Amine Khelladi - Member  
 Un Jin Park - Member  
 Juan Pedro Flores Velasco (New) - Member  
 Elisa Pilarski (New) - Member

## Para Taekwondo Committee



Usman Dildar - Chair



Mohammed Argoubi - Vice Chair



Chakir Chelbat - Member



Luisa Villar Galvez - Member



Linda S.S. Pace - Member



Yu-Chi (Karen) Huang - Member



Placide Bagabo - Member

## Classification Committee



Hadwah Moawad - Chair



Tunde Szarka - Vice Chair



Mohammed Amine Khelladi -  
Member



Juan Pedro Flores Velasco -  
Member



Un Jin Park - Member



Elisa Pilarski - Member

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## Paralympic stars return to competition in style





*Paralympic and world champions in focus as a busy season kicked off in Montargis, France that witnessed thrilling fights and compelling comebacks*

A busy Para Taekwondo season kicked off with competitions in Europe and Oceania held over the last few weeks.

Paralympic and world champions were in focus as the European Para Taekwondo Open Championships in Montargis, France, opened the competitive weeks that witnessed thrilling fights, compelling comebacks, and surprises.

Iranian Hurricane and Tokyo 2020 silver medallist, **Mahdi Pourrahnama**, returned to international competitions in the G-2 event with a bronze in

Men K44 -70kg as did **Matt Bush**, Great Britain's first male Para Taekwondo world champion, shining with a silver in Men K44 +80kg.

Led by Paralympic bronze medallist **Mahmut Bozteke**'s gold medal show in men's K44 -63kg, Turkey put up a dominant show in the competition also to take gold in Men K44 -58kg and Women - 52kg and -57kg events.

In Men K44 up to 80kg, it was South Korea's Paralympic bronze medallist **Joo Jeonghun** who enthralled everyone with his technique and took the gold.

Great Britain showed strength in the women's categories, thanks to the efforts of Paralympic stars **Beth Munro** and **Amy Truesdale** who topped the podiums in the Women K44 up to 65kg and over 65kg finals, respectively.

But it was Iran's emerging star **Maryam Abdollahpour** who left an impression clinching the top prize in Women K44 -47kg.

Above all this, the tournament witnessed its breakout moment when **Sophie Caverzan** took the second place in Women K44 -57kg event.

If there were fights to remember, there were shocking moments too as Israel's former World Champion **Asaf Yasur** lost to **Ivan Torres** of Mexico in the Men K44 -58kg quarter-finals.

## Triple gold for Lopez, Ganbat in Oceania

Familiar names emerged winners at the competitions in Oceania - 2023 Oceania Para Open Championships – G4/G2, WT President's Cup Para - Oceania 2023 - G2 and Para - Australian Open 2023 – G1 that were held back-to-back in Brisbane.

Paralympic and World champions Mexico's **Juan diego Garcia Lopez** (Men K44 up to 70kg) and Mongolia's **Bolor-erdene Ganbat** (Men K44 - 63kg) stamped dominance with triple gold in the three championships in Oceania.

Others who emerged champions in all three events were: Kazakhstan's **Alisher Garipollayev** (Men K44 +80kg) and India's **Aruna** (Women K44 -47kg), in a big boost to their preparation for the all-important 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships in Veracruz, Mexico.

In the WT President's Cup Para - Oceania 2023 - G2 event, in fact Mongolia put up an amazing show with three of their Para Taekwondoins clinching gold medals. Besides Ganbat, **Tyemirbyek Khailyet** (Men K44 -58kg) and **Surenjav Ulambayar** (Women K44 -52kg) reigned supreme.

However, in an upset result China's **Li Yujie** defeated Paralympic champion from Denmark **Lisa Gjessing** for the Women K44 - 65kg gold at the WT President's Cup,

But Gjessing avenged the defeat coming back to beat the Chinese in the PARA - Australian Open 2023 - G1 event.







## One of strongest fields ever for Veracruz 2023



In what is going to be one of the strongest fields ever, 150 athletes from over 30 countries across four continents have already registered for the much-awaited Veracruz 2023 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships which are just two months away .

One of the biggest personalities in Para Taekwondo, Aruba's **Elliott Loonstra** and refugee Paralympian **Parfait Hakizimana** were the latest to join the list of stars registered for forthcoming Championships, to be competed at the World Trade Center,

Veracruz.

Meanwhile, top Asian nation Iran have registered their top players for the championships.

Among the top names in their ranks are: Paralympic silver medallist and five-time world champion **Mehdi Pourrahnama** (Men K44 -70kg), promising **Maryam Abdollahpour Deroei** (Women K44 -47kg) who has won her last six tournaments, and reigning world champion **Hamed Haghshenas** (Men K44 +80kg).

Mongolia have also registered their star-studded teams with 5-time World Para Taekwondo champion **Bolor-Erdene Ganbat** (Men K44 -63kg) and **Enkthuya Khurelbaatar** (Women K44 -47kg) - a former World Champion and Paralympian in their side.

From Pan American region, Team Argentina are going to be there with Paralympic bronze medallist **Juan Eduardo Samorano** in their ranks.

The regular registrations end on September 6, 2023 at 17:00 CET.

Hurry! Register [here](#) if you haven't yet.





## Upcoming World Para Taekwondo Promoted Events

Prior to the Worlds, the Para Taekwondoins will have a chance to fine-tune their skills at events in France and South Korea.

Paris, France is gearing up to host the first Grand Prix of the season with over 100 Para Taekwondoins getting ready to dazzle audience with their speed and skills next month.

The G6-grade event, scheduled to take place at the Palais des sport Marcel Cerdan on August 30, will feature Kyorugi-K44 competitions.

For the Asian athletes, there was some happy news. The World Para Taekwondo has added a new event to its calendar - Gangwon Chuncheon 2023 World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge set to take place on August 22.

The G4 event, whose registration ends on **August 9**, already has around 50 athletes to compete at Song-am Sports Town and Outdoor Special Arena, Chuncheon, Korea.

The registration deadline for the event is **August 9, 2023**. Register link is [here](#).







## Classification courses in Montargis, Brisbane



The World Taekwondo strives to educate its classifier, coaches and athletes with new courses and events, strengthening its mission to promote the sport across the world.

Over the last month, several classification courses - held ahead of the championships in Oceania and Montargis, France - were part of its agenda that saw a good number of participants.

- **Online Level1 classification course (17-18 June)**

Twelve participants (seven of whom were from the Oceania region, four medical & three Technical and others were from Asia, Europe, and the PanAm region) that included five male and seven females.

- **Successful classifier Trainees practicum during the Taekwondo events in Montargis, France (30 June - 2 July)**

The course saw eight trainees - two males six females - four of them were from Europe and four from Asia.

- **Physical Level2 Classification course (4-5 July)**

The course had seven participants (four males and three females), six of them were from the Oceania region and one from Asia, in total four technical and three medical personnel.



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Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

## Calendar



## 2023

- 2023 European Para Championships (EPC Multisport event) (G2) - Aug. 13-16 - Rotterdam, Netherlands

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

- 2023 World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge (G4) - Aug. 21-22 - Chuncheon, Korea

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

### REGISTRATIONS OPEN (deadline August 9, 2023)

- 2023 Paris World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix (G6) - Aug. 30 - Paris, France

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

- 2023 8th Asian Para Taekwondo Open Championships (G2) - Sept. 10 - Beirut, Lebanon

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

### REGISTRATIONS OPEN (deadline August 18, 2023)

- Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix (G6) - Sept. 19, 2023 Veracruz, Mexico

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

Registration information to be circulated on August 9, 2023

- 2023 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships (G14) - Sept. 21-24 - Veracruz, Mexico

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

### REGISTRATIONS OPEN (deadline September 6, 2023)

*For the full, updated 2023 calendar, please click [HERE](#).*





## Europe:

### IPC President reunites with Zakia in Paris

International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons met with **Zakia Khudadadi** and **Hossain Rasouli**, the two Para athletes evacuated from Afghanistan ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, in Paris, during the Para Athletics World Championships.

Parsons said it was incredible to be reunited with the Para-athletes in Paris where they also talked about various aspects of the athletes' sporting career

including their new life in France.

"Although I've been receiving regular updates on the progress of Zakia and Hossain, there was nothing better than hearing from and meeting them in person. It was fantastic and very emotional to spend quality time with them.

"During the meeting we remembered the events surrounding their participation at Tokyo 2020, and what they have been doing since the Games. We also discussed how they are adapting to living in France, the challenges they are facing, and what help or support the IPC or the Paralympic Movement could provide them with so they can move on with their sport careers and personal lives.

"Thank you for your trust and friendship, Zakia and Hossain!"

## Africa:

### Celebrating friendship with Para Taekwondo event

To celebrate the 60 years friendship between South Korea and Rwanda, the Korean Ambassador's Cup was held in Kigali with Para Taekwondo competition held in various Kyorugi sport classes.

Several local clubs participated in the event that provided a chance to the young and senior Para Taekwondoists to exhibit their skills in a special platform hosted by Rwanda Taekwondo Federation and Embassy of Korea.



Fighters from Dream Taekwondo Club celebrated the occasion with three gold medals - Bizumuremyi JMV (Male K42 -61kg), Ishimwe Christian (Male K41 -61kg) and Nikwigize Jean de la croix (male K41 -58kg).

Meanwhile, Niringiyimana Jean Claude from Nyamata Taekwondo Club took the gold in Male K44 -61kg and Kiziba Club's Nyirabageni lea emerged the winner in Female K42 -61kg event.



## Pan America:

### Mexican team gear up for upcoming events

Eyeing glory in the upcoming international events, the Mexican National Para Taekwondo team continued their preparation at the National Development of Sports Talents and High Performance (CNAR).

The team, that has top names including their young Paralympic and Para Pan American Games champion **Juan Diego Garcia Lopez**, are aiming several medal-winning result at the upcoming events, which will also give them important points for qualification to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

While the team will be up in action in Paris 2023 Grand Prix, they are hoping to put up a great show at home - Grand Prix in Veracruz (September 19) and the most-anticipated World Championship in Veracruz (21-24 September).

We keenly wait to see how the team fare in front of home fans when Veracruz host the Worlds this September.

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