



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

August 2023 | Issue #38

Stage is all set for Veracruz 2023 Worlds



Paralympic, World champions to take centre stage



Fierce fights and highly-anticipated rivalries are on the cards as the sport's biggest stars are set to take to the mat for the Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Championships making it one of the best ever fields

It's less than a month to go for the much-awaited 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships and the excitement is building up among the teams, players and especially the host nation.

Veracruz, the Port city in Mexico is all set to welcome around 300 athletes from over 50 countries in what is going to be one of the strongest fields ever at the Veracruz edition of Worlds set to take place from September 21 to 24, 2023.

The crème de la crème of Para Taekwondo, including reigning Paralympic and World medallists, have registered for the championships with fierce fights and highly-anticipated rivalries are expected to take centre stage.

The home team will be led by world number one **Juan Diego Garcia Lopez** (K44 Men - 70kg) who is looking to pick up another World Championships title after his second place finish at the 2021 World Para Taekwondo Championships.

Garcia Lopez will be joined by world number one **Claudia Romero** (K44 Women - 47kg) and world number two **Jessica Garcia Quijano** who would be looking for her first World Champion title.

Led by Paralympic medallists **Mahmut Bozteke**, the world no. one in K44 Men -63kg, and **Meryem Çavdar**, top ranked in K44 Women - 52kg, Turkiye have registered a star-studded team and are expected to have a strong presence at the medals.

Among the top Para Taekwondoists who have registered were – Israel's reigning world champion in men's K44 -58kg **Asaf Yasur**, USA's world number one and Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist **Evan Medell**, Chinese Taipei's Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games silver medallist **Chien Chiang Chen**.

Brazil, one of the top medal contenders, have also registered a strong team for Veracruz 2023 which include Tokyo 2020 gold medallist **Nathan Torquato** with Paralympic silver medallist **Debora Menezes** and **Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes**, Paralympic bronze medallist, in their ranks too.

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** (K44 Women -47kg) who has won her last six tournaments, and reigning world champion **Hamed Haghshenas** (K44 Men +80kg).

Mongolia will have names like five-time World Para Taekwondo champion **Bolor-Erdene Ganbat** (K44 Men - 63kg) and **Enkthuya Khurelbaatar** (K44 Women -47kg) - a former World Champion and Paralympian in their side.

Apart from a strong Kyorugi show, the Para Poomsae competitions are expected to be one of the highlights of the Veracruz 2023 Worlds. Names like Honduras with 2017 champion **Guillermo Erazo Schauer** has registered for the P20 Men's division.

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

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

Emotional victory for Zakia in Rotterdam



The first European Para Championships will remain special for many athletes, who recorded their first ever gold medals, including the refugee athlete from Afghanistan, in Rotterdam

Almost two years after creating history, when she became the first women athlete from Afghanistan to compete at the Paralympics in Tokyo since Athens 2004, **Zakia Khudadadi** has come a long way.

She has endured a long and difficult journey that included fleeing from Afghanistan to finding a new home in France and now winning her first ever gold medal at the European Para Championships 2023 Rotterdam as a refugee team athlete.

"I'm so happy. For me, the feeling is like a Paralympic medal because it's the first gold medal I've won. My feeling is like a star," said an ecstatic Khudadadi who came from behind to win the gold medal bout against Turkiye's **Nurcihan Ekinci** during extra time.

Like Khudadadi, there were also several others in the three-day Para Taekwondo event who made the heads turn in Rotterdam.

Azerbaijan's **Abulfaz Abuzarli** pulled off the biggest result of his career when he won three thrilling fights en route the European Championships gold in K44 M-80kg. In the final, Abuzarli overcame a strong challenge from Serbian **Nikola Spajic** 10-9 with a final second score. This was also Spajic's first major final in his career.

Abuzarli's fellow fighter **Imamaddin Khalilov**, world no. 2, ensured another gold for Azerbaijan with a clinical performance K44 M-70kg. Khalilov registered two easy wins before getting the better of **Fatih Celik** of Turkiye 32-3. Khalilov's domination throughout was clearly an indication of his improved form and technique.

Similarly, Serbian **Jelena Rasic** won her first ever gold medal by a narrow margin in K44 W +65kg. But the gold will be more meaningful as she shocked Great Britain's Paralympic medallist **Amy Truesdale** 9-6 in the final match.

To read the full story, please visit [here](#).



WT officials attends Test event for Paris 2024



Paris 2024 Paralympics, Chakir Chelbat said: "We had several fruitful meetings with the Paris 2024 Organising Committee and a lot of work has been done so far, and a lot of work is still ongoing. Paris 2024 are doing their best to be ready in time!"

World Para Taekwondo Taekwondo officials attended the Test event for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games that took place on August 14 and 15, 2023.

The officials had several meetings with the Paris 2024 Organising Committee to discuss on the preparations and competition.

World Taekwondo Technical delegate to

"We are really blessed that Para Taekwondo in Paris 2024 will be held in one of the most beautiful arenas in the world - the Grand Palais, a magnificent site at the heart of Paris. I am very humbled and proud to be part of the history."

"Thank you to the leadership for your trust. We are looking forward to deliver together with our great team a very successful Para Taekwondo event."

The Para Taekwondo competition, which will feature 10 Kyorugi K44 events, 5 men's and 5 women's, is set to take place between the 29th of August and the 31st of August at the Grand Palais.

This iconic Parisian venue has a long history as a prestigious showcase for many different sporting and artistic events, and is currently undergoing work and will reopen in 2024 to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in August 2024.



Paris hosts first Grand Prix of season



Paris, the capital of France, hosted the first Para Taekwondo Grand Prix of the season, just one year ahead of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games and it was a grand success.

Not just did the Para Taekwondoists get a flavour of the city ahead of the Games but they made a strong point of their form ahead of the all-important World Championships and regional championships.

A total of 111 athletes from 30 countries, including Paralympic stars, and one Refugee Team as well as Individual Neutral Athletes

(AIN) competed in the one-day event which was refereed by 71 officials.

Athletes competed across 10 K44 weight categories – five men and five women. The medallists of the W-47kg and W-65kg were lucky enough to be presented their medals by International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons.

While thrilling fights ruled the show in Paris, there were several surprising results with many winning their first Grand Prix gold medals.

Biggest upset

In K44 Men - 63 kg, the event witnessed the biggest upset when world number 1 **Mahmut Bozteke** from Turkiye was eliminated in the quarter-finals opening the doors for eventual champion Italy's **Antonino Bossolo**. **Bozteke** lost to Mexico's **Victor manuel Palacios Tadeo** 7-9.

Bossolo meanwhile overcame Paralympic champion **Nathan Torquato** in the semi-finals, before defeating **Bolor-erdene Ganbat** for his first Para GP gold and avenged his defeat to the Mongolian in the World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge last week.

Croatia's **Ivan Mikulic** continued his good form after registering a gold medal at the European Para Championships. Mikulic defeated world no. 1 **Evan Medell** from USA for his first GP gold.

Turkiye had winners in **Ali Can Ozcan** and **Fatih Celik** who emerged victorious in K44 M - 58kg and M - 70 kg, respectively.

Korea's **Joo Jeonghun** also earned his first GP gold in K44 M -80kg and should make a jump in the world rankings.

Gold for Gjessing

In women's event, Denmark's **Lisa Gjessing** claimed her first gold Para GP gold medal overcoming top ranked Beth Munro in K44 W -65kg, on the other hand Great Britain's Amy Truesdale received a boost ahead of the Worlds beating rival and Paralympic champion **Guljonoy Naimova** in K44 W +65kg finals.

Brazil shone with two gold medals thanks to the efforts of **Silvana Mayara Cardoso** (K44 W -57kg) and **Maria Eduarda Machado Stumpf**, who emerged the surprise winner in K44 W -52kg.

The fourth ranked Machado Stumpf, who defeated Mongolia's **Surenjav Ulambayar** in the final, had shocked **Meryem Betul Cavdar** in the semi-finals.

Parsons impressed with development of Para Taekwondo

Parsons was in attendance to watch the world's best Para Taekwondo athletes compete in the finals of the Paris 2023 World Para Taekwondo Grand-Prix.

Speaking at the Grand Prix, President Parsons said: "It's amazing to be here, with just one year to go until the Paralympic Games. The feeling of anticipation is strong, but we still have a lot of work to do. These Games are going to be spectacular. Paralympic sport is stronger than ever before. We have a combination of incredible venues here, very close to iconic landmarks. Spectators will be back, so the atmosphere will be great and the sport itself will be excellent. I can't wait for these Games to happen."

Parsons also commented on the development of Para Taekwondo and the sport's Paralympic debut in Tokyo.

"Since Taekwondo was bidding to enter the Paralympic Games as a sport, I was already impressed with the level of the sport and the commitment of the International Federation to provide the best infrastructure for the sport. This is not only to get to the Paralympic Games but to evolve as well. It was an incredible debut in Tokyo. I was present for two of the competition days and I was absolutely impressed.

"The positive aspect is that the International Federation is not relying solely on their success in Tokyo. Competitions of the highest possible standard are taking place around the world. Their delivery of services to the athletes and the development programs are also incredible. We are very impressed with the short period that we have been working with World Taekwondo."



Mongolia, Uzbekistan top medals in first

World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge

An amazing show was put on display as the first ever Gangwon Chuncheon 2023 World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge was held as part of the 2024 World Taekwondo Cultural Festival in Chuncheon, South Korea.

Athletes across eight weight categories, K44 Men -58kg, K44 Men -63kg, K44 Men -70kg, K44 Women -47kg, K44 Women -65kg, K44 M-80kg, K44 M+80kg and K44 W+65kg took to the mat on August 21 and 22, 2023, with Mongolia and Uzbekistan clinching two gold medals at the Chuncheon Sangam Sports Town & Outdoor Special Area.

Tyemirbyek Khauybet brought the first gold for Mongolia win a win over **Xiao Xiang** in K44 Men -58kg, while reigning world champion **Bolor-erdene Ganbat** got the better of Italy's **Antonino Bossolo**.

Later, Uzbekistan's **Kudrat Muhammadiev** defeated Kazakhstan's **Zhanbolat Kaziyev** in the K44 M-80kg final for the gold medal.

In the K44 M+80kg, **Asadbek Anvarov** made it two gold for Uzbekistan defeating Korea's **Teahun Kim** in the finals.

The other winners from Day One were Azerbaijan's **Imamaddin Khalilov** (K44 Men -70kg), **Khwansuda Phuangkitcha** of Thailand (K44 Women -47kg) and **Elena Savinskaya**, competing as an individual neutral athlete in K44 Women - 65 kg.

Commenting on the event, Para Taekwondo Committee chairperson **Usman Dildar** said: "It was a great initiative by World Taekwondo to have to this event in Asian region which attracted many athletes from all over the world to compete and especially the G4 ranking helped many athletes in getting some ranking points toward Paralympic qualifications.

"We are looking forward to the next years event in Korea and I am sure will attract hundreds of para athletes globally."

The World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge will take place again next year during the Gangwon Chuncheon 2024 World Taekwondo Cultural Festival in July which will also include the World Taekwondo Demonstration Championships and World Taekwondo Octagon Diamond Games.

Calendar



2023

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

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

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

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

- 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)

- 2023 Taiyuan World Para Taekwondo Grand Prix (G6)- Oct. 9 - Taiyuan, China

(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](#).

Around the World



Taekwondo (FMTKD) congratulated the coaches for their dedication in preparing the players for the Veracruz 2023 World Championships starting September 21.

America:

Para Poomsae camp for Mexico athletes

With less than a month to go for the Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Championships, Team Mexico successfully completed its Para Poomsae camp in Mexico City.

The Federación Mexicana de

This is the first time that Mexico will host these Championships and the home team are leaving no stone unturned in their preparation for the all-awaited event which will also feature Para Poomsae events.

Mexico's Kyorugi players are already producing good results in the recent competitions, showing their readiness for the upcoming event at home.

Pan America:

Santiago 2023 Pan Am & Parapan Am medals unveiled

The organisers of the Santiago 2023 Pan American and Para Pan American Games revealed the medals for the forthcoming event scheduled for November 2023.

The unveiling of the medals, featuring copper extracted from northern Chile, took place in the middle of the desert, 80 kilometres away from the city of Calama in north Chile.

It will be the second time the medals of the Pan American Games will include Chilean copper, with a percentage used in the bronze medals at Toronto 2015.

"This was truly a very important milestone for us. The medals symbolically reflect the achievement of objectives, achieving very good results, in some cases records, but it is also very important that it reflect our identity," said Jaime Pizarro, president of Santiago 2023 and Chilean Minister of Sport.

The 2986 medals that will be distributed during the Games are crafted 100% by Chilean workers and artisans.



23 July.

"The Rings and Agitos are a symbolic reminder that Brisbane has become an Olympic and Paralympic city of the world, alongside LA, Paris, London and so many others," said Andrew Liveris, Brisbane 2032 President.

Brisbane 2032 will be the first time the Paralympic and Olympic Games have been held in Australia since Sydney 2000. At that edition of the Paralympics, the host country stole the show, winning 149 medals including 63 golds.

Oceania:

Celebrating 9 years to Brisbane 2032 Games

More than 30 communities across Queensland, Australia, have celebrated as the large-scale Paralympic Agitos and Olympic Rings arrived in Brisbane to mark nine years to go to the Summer Games.

The Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games will take place between 24 August and 5 September 2032, following the Olympic Games which will open on

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