



World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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Countdown begins for Parapan Am Games!



Fighters make the most of last opportunity

Fighters impressed with skills and courage to make the most of the last chance and grabbed 25 qualifying spots for their respective NPCs in the much-anticipated Santiago 2023 Parapan American Games .

The countdown for the Santiago 2023 Parapan American Games has begun with thrilling fights, breakthrough moments highlighting the qualification event for the continental championships held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on March 22, 2023.

As many as 25 fighters grabbed the spots for their respective NPCs for one of the biggest events of the year - the Parapan American Games - winning their fights in style. All of them will join top ranked para-athletes including Paralympic and world champions who already made the cut owing to their world rankings.

At Santiago 2023, these 25 fighters are expected to join the likes of top ranked fighters that include Brazil's world no. 1 and Paralympic champion **Nathan Torquato** in men's -63kg, Mexico's Paralympic and Parapan Games champion **Juan Diego Garcia Lopez** (men's -70kg), Brazil's top ranked and Paralympic medallists **Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes** (women's -57kg) and **Debora Menezes** (women's +65kg).

The highlight of the qualifiers was the impressive comeback for Venezuela's **Orlando Figueroa** (men's -63kg) and Mexico's **Francisco Pedroza** (men's +80kg) besides Cuba's **Lilisbet Rodriguez Rivero** who continued to shine in the women's -47kg K44 event.

Rivero, who had shocked Peru's Paralympic champion **Angelica Espinoza** in a Pan Am Series last year, would be hoping to continue the winning run into the Santiago 2023 and World Championships.

A total of fighters from 12 nations took part in the qualification event, which also witnessed around 14 new fighters getting their international classification.

In the medals table, Brazil led the way with 11 medals that had four golds, followed by Mexico and Cuba with two gold medals each.

The medallists who have earned spots for their respective NPCs at Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games are:

Men K44 -58kg: Leandro Agustin Fernandez (ARG), D'andrade Claudio (VEN), Do Nascimento De Oliveira Cicero (BRA)

Men K44 -63kg: Orlando Figueroa (VEN), Marco Antonio Mayor Rodriguez (CUB), Palacios Tadeo Victor Manuel (MEX)

Men K44 -70kg: Suarez Walker Michael Ernesto (CUB), Coelho Alves Junior - Carlos Geraldo (BRA), Cano Arrechavala Ehecatl Zaid (MEX)

Men K44 -80kg: Claro Lopes De Oliveira (BRA), Felix Sabates (USA),

Men K44 +80kg: Francisco Pedroza (MEX), Lucas Moraes Vicente (BRA), Julio Armando Figuereo Asencio (DOM)

Women K44 -47kg: Lilisbet Rodriguez Rivero (CUB), Teresinha De Jesus Correia Dos Santos (BRA), Miriam Aparecida Pio (BRA)

Women K44 -52kg: Maria Eduarda Machado Stumpf (BRA), Elisabeth Geraldo Figuereo (DOM)

Women K44 -57kg: Elsa Suisei Koyama Tamayo (MEX), Larissa Lohane Lopes Alves (BRA)

Women K44 -65kg: Leylianne Samara Ramos Dos Santos (BRA), Yerly Yurani Martinez Ortiz (COL)

Women K44 +65kg: Camila Macedo Dos Santos (BRA), Laura Puntriano (PER)

Focus shifts to Pan Am Series II

A day after some electrifying performances at the qualifier for Santiago 2023, fighters return to the mat for the Pan Am Series II Para Taekwondo event.

While some promising names including Claudio D'Andrade, who got his big breakthrough with a gold, aimed for the maximum 10 world ranking points, local stars including Tokyo 2020 medallists **Nathan Torquato** and **Debora Mendes** too made the most of the opportunity to prepare themselves for major events like the World Championships. As many as 10 gold medallists were decided in the event held on March 24, 2023.

In women's events, Mexico's top ranked fighters **Claudia Romero** (women's -47kg) stopped **Lilisbet Rodriguez's** amazing run beating her 5-1 on point difference.

However, **Mendes** had to settle for the silver going down 6-0 to Mexico's **Vargas Fernanda** in women's +65kg. Definitely, Mendes has to work on her technique and tactic going into the Parapan Am Games.

Para Taekwondo Committee chairman **Chakir Chelbat** was happy with the successful organization of both the events at Rio de Janeiro. "We are happy to witness a high-level competition at the qualifiers and the Pan Am Series II. The local organizers, Pan American Taekwondo Union, and Brazilian Federation have put in a lot of efforts in all the areas to make the event a success and we are very happy with the outcome. There were also several players who were classified at the event. We look forward to a great Parapan Am Games in November," said Chelbat, who was also present as World Taekwondo technical delegate at the events.

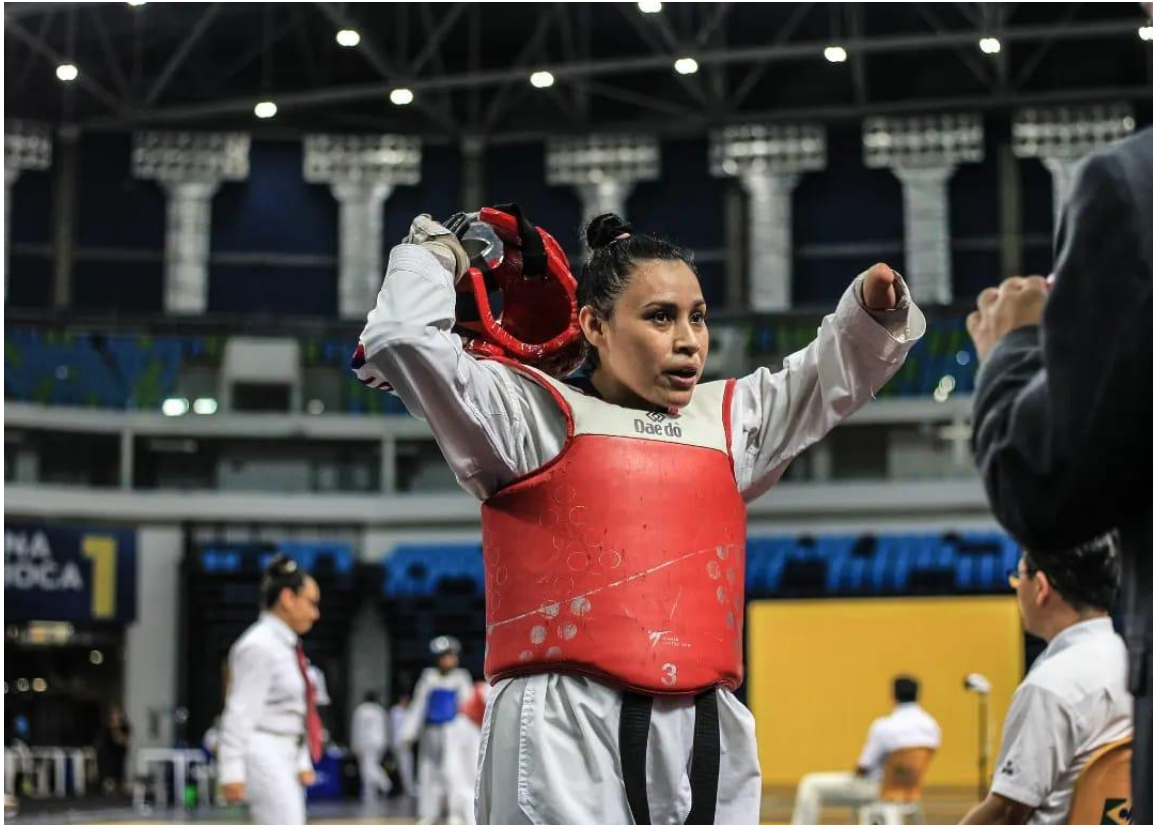
Chelbat also acknowledged the 'amazing job' done by the classifiers Achanti and Manuel during both the events.

President of the Brazilian Taekwondo Federation Alberto Maciel Junior too shared his happiness on the successfully-organised qualifying events for the Santiago 2023 Pan American and Para Pan American Games and the Pan-Am Series II.

Together with PATU, Brazil now prepares for the Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games in November.



Bipartite slots for Continental Games



Application process to fill in the available slots for medal events for Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games and Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games is set to open soon.

If you thought you had missed the bus for the biggest events of the year - Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games and Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games - you might have been lucky as World Taekwondo is set to start Bipartite application process for Santiago 2023 Parapan American Games and Hangzhou 2023 Asian Para Games.

National Paralympic Committees and Member Nation Associations are requested to send athletes' applications to fill in the available slots for medal events.

With 21 slots available, the application process for at Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, scheduled for October 2023, will open on May 1, 2023 until May 31, 2023.

The classification opportunity for those para-athletes will take place in Korea on April 16, 2023.

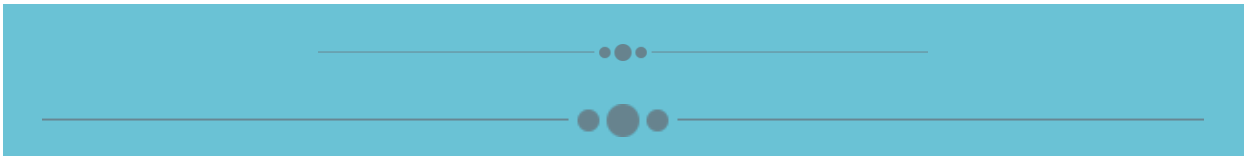
Meanwhile, the NPCs are invited to fill in the 14 spots (medal events) for Santiago 2023 Parapan Am Games with their athletes' application which opens on May 1, 2023 until June 30, 2023.

Further information on the application will be sent to all NPCs and MNAs in April 2023.

Available slots:

Parapan Am Games Medal event Invitations (athletes needed): M K44 -58kg 1, M K44 -63kg 1, M K44 -70kg 1, M K44 -80kg 1, M K44 +80kg 1, W K44 -47kg 1, W K44 -52kg 2, W K44 -57kg 3, W K44 -65kg 1, W K44 +65kg 2

Asian Para Games Medal event Invitations (athletes needed): M K44 -58kg 1, M K44 -63kg 1, M K44 -70kg 1, M K44 -80kg 1, M K44 +80kg 1, W K44 -47kg 1, W K44 -52kg 3, W K44 -57kg 3, W K44 -65kg 6, W K44 +65kg 3.



Education



Upcoming Courses

Interested in becoming a WT recognized coach?

For those who want to become a WT certified Level II coach, here's your chance!

Registrations are open for Level 2 Para Coach course from April 1-7, which will make the coaches eligible for participating in WT Recognized competitions in the capacity of a coach.

This certificate will allow one to be coach at G4 and above International Competitions.

Anyone who is a holder of active WT License; has level I Para Coach Certificate and is aged 18 years or older can apply for the Level II course.

Register [HERE](#)

Calendar



2023

(Provisional calendar subject to change)

- Virtus Global Games (TBC) - June 9-10 - Vichy, France

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

- 2023 European Para Taekwondo Open Championships (G2) - June 30 - Montargis, France

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

- 2023 Solidarity Center Para Taekwondo Open (G1) - July 1 - Montargis, France

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

- 2023 Oceania Para Taekwondo Open Championships (G4/G2) - July 7 - Brisbane, Australia

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

- 2023 WT President's Cup Oceania Para Taekwondo (G2) - July 8 - Brisbane, Australia

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

- 2023 Australia Para Taekwondo Open (G1) - July 9 - Brisbane, Australia

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

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

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

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

Around the World



Danish govt. ready to open doors to training halls for Ukrainian para-athletes

Ukrainian para taekwondo fighters including six-time world champion **Vika Marchuk**, who had fled their country after Russia's invasion in February 2022, have already found support in Denmark.

In the past, Danish Paralympic champion **Lisa Kjær Gjessing** has come out in support of para-

taekwondoists from Ukraine and has already set examples by helping Marchuk and 19 others to live and train in Aarhus.

In a recent development, the Danish government have now come out in support of the Ukrainian para-athletes following in the footsteps of the para taekwondo legend Gjessing. Jakob Engel-Schmidt, Minister of Culture, Moderates has said they are ready to open the doors to the Danish training halls for Ukrainian athletes.

“We are in dialogue with the Danish Sports Confederation and Team Denmark about how we can help the Ukrainian elite athletes with shelter and training facilities.”

“After all, she (Gjessing) is a role model to follow, and I got the impression that the world of sports has already welcomed the Ukrainian athletes. Denmark also has an incredibly well-developed sports and athletic infrastructure, says Jakob Engel-Schmidt.

For details, please click [HERE](#).



Africa:

Guinea promotes Para taekwondo

The National Paralympic and Sports Committee of Guinea (CNPSG) organized a festival at a high school of Matam to promote sports for people with disabilities.

Para taekwondo was among the six sports which was part of the festival which witnessed several upcoming talents showcasing their skills.

The demonstration of the sport was aimed at revolution of the sport of people with disabilities in Guinea.

With the 2023 African Para Taekwondo Open Championships looming, the NPC would be hoping to find young fighters to represent the nation.

For more information, click [HERE](#)

Asia:

Goverdhan grows stronger

Ever since **Palesha Goverdhan**'s historic appearance at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the Nepali taekwondoist has become an inspiration for many youngsters across the Asian region.

Goverdhan might have exited the Tokyo 2020 Games without a medal but she won the repechage match against **Brianna Salinaro** of USA (10-0) and **Marija Mičev** of Serbia (23-15). She picked up that experience to claim the gold medal at the Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games.

The 19-year-old from Kathmandu was recently awarded the Best Para-athlete of the Year award in the NSJF Bajaj Pulsar Sports Award.

Goverdhan, who has been training with coach Kabiraj Negi Lama in Nepal Taekwondo Association since 2016, also has a bronze medal from the 4th Asian Para Taekwondo Championship 2018 in Vietnam.

For more information, click [HERE](#)



held in February - March 2023.

Munro, the Liverpool-born, came out of nowhere in 2021 to win the European Paralympic Qualification tournament – her first international event – before becoming the first ever Brit to secure a Paralympic Taekwondo medal at Tokyo2020.

The 30-year-old former netball player has a masters degree in health psychology.

Europe:

Munro develops leadership skills

Great Britain's latest sensation **Beth Munro** has already enthralled the Taekwondo world with her impressive movements on the mat.

She went on to claiming the Paralympic silver medal and the European Championships title less than two years after picking up the sport.

She has now taken steps to enhance her leadership qualities by attending the Women Lead Sport Program which was

Para Poomsae gains momentum

The Para Poomsae movement received a major boost when the German Open Poomsae competition was held in Hamburg, Germany on February 25 and 26, 2023.

This was the first biggest Poomsae tournament, since the Pandemic, that also featured Para Poomsae event.



Invitations were sent to all classes of Para Taekwondo in accordance with the Para WT Classification Rule established in 2021. As many as 20 para taekwondoins across Europe, who were warmly welcomed by the president of the German Taekwondo Federation Stefan Klawiter at the opening ceremony, took part at the highest level of Poomsae competition.

German Taekwondo Federation (DTU) technical vice president Rainer Tobias, head para referee of DTU Dr. Clemens Hasselberg along with the para divisions director Arndt Mallepree later expressed their happiness on the outcome.

Mallepree said the DTU were looking forward to the European Championships in Para Poomsae and Para Kyorugi events.

We hope to see more para-athletes at the German Open Poomsae 2024.



58kg K44 event.

The 23-year-old would be looking to defend her Worlds title in women's -58kg when she competes in the World Para Taekwondo Championships 2023 before the Parapan Am Games in November 2023.

Pan Am:

Nike signs Brazilian star Fernandes

In a boost to her preparation for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, Brazilian para taekwondo star **Silvana Fernandes** was signed by Nike.

The signing will also add to the strength and grace of the fighter who would be looking to better the colour of her medal this time, in Paris. Fernandes was the bronze medallist at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in women's -

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