



## World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

April 2025 | Issue #55

2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships





The 2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships was held alongside the 2025 European Taekwondo Poomsae Championships in Tallinn, Estonia on April 16-17, 2025. This was the second time that the events been held together and the format is proving successful.

Following last year's first ever stand alone World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships the interest for Para Taekwondo Poomsae has grown immensely. The Championships in Tallinn offered competition in sport classes for athletes with an intellectual impairment (P21, P22, P23), athletes with a motor impairment (P31, P32, P33, P34 and P35), athletes using assistive devices (P51, P52, P53) and athletes with short stature (P72).

A total of 14 countries took part in the Championships, several for the first time. Out of the 77 athletes registered for the event 44 athletes required to go through Athlete Classification, keeping the International Classifiers very busy in the days leading up to the competition.

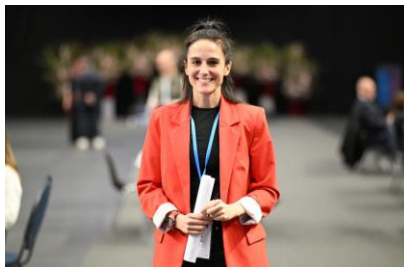
The 2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships showed that there is a growing demand for competitions in Para Taekwondo Poomsae.

The most competitive categories were the sport classes for athletes with an Intellectual Impairment. These divisions were competed in on day 1 (April 16). The Gold medal in the Men P21 Senior went to Peter Sellwood (GBR). In the Men P22 Senior Stipe Baric (CRO) came out on top after facing his team mate Roko Boduljak in the final. Nikolas Milanos (GRE) took the gold in the Men P23 Seinor category.

On the women's side Summer Waheed (GBR) took gold in the Women P21 Senior category and her team mate Iona Craig (GBR) earned the gold in the Women P23 Senior category. Croatian Daniela Topic took gold in the Women P22 Senior category. The first day of competition also saw competitions in the P72 sport class. In the Male P72 Senior

division the gold went to Oliver Hlavinka (HUN) and on the women's side Sweden's Felicia Leventin earned the gold in the Women P72 Senior category.

Day 2 (April 17) saw competitions in the Sport Classes athletes with a motor impairment and athletes using assistive devices. In accordance with World Taekwondo Rules categories require at least two athletes from two countries in order to officially recognize a medal. In the most competitive division of the day, the Men P33 Senior category Jordi Aznar Oliveras (ESP) claimed the gold. In the Women P34 Senior category Eleni Nestora (GRE) bested Jane Bedford (GBR) in the final to claim gold. In Women P31 Senior Croatian Invona Budiscak earned the gold. World Champion Arndt Mallepre (GER) won the final against Borja Arroyo Ramos (ESP) for the gold.



Ms. Paula Ramirez, the appointed TD for the event said:

*"Around 80 for athletes gathered in Estonia in April to participate in the 2nd European Para Poomsae Championship. The competition took place on a track over two days, while the European Taekwondo Poomsae Championships were held.*

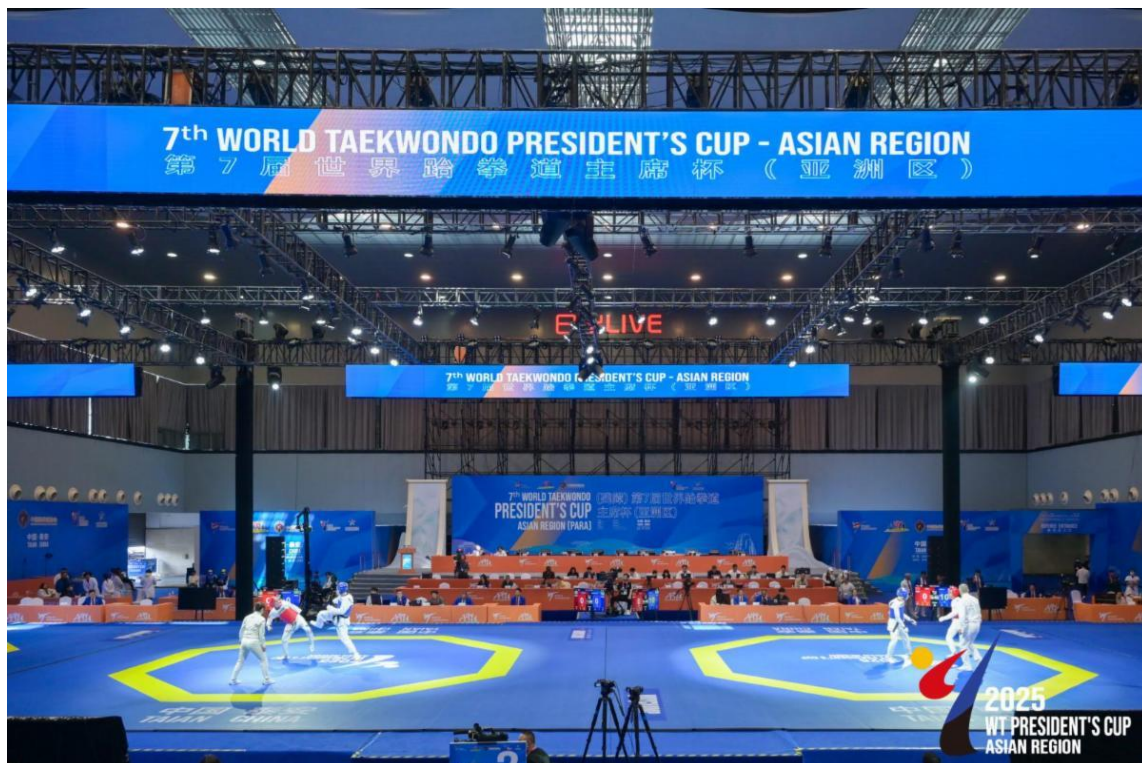
*The turnout increased from significantly from 2023, especially in the P20 sports classes, a trend we expect to continue in the coming years. All athletes showed their support for the for Para athletes, and you could see that Para Taekwondo Poomsae enjoys good health and growth in Europe, especially the emerging Para Taekwondo Poomsae.*

*The next big event for Para Taekwondo Poomsae will be the world championship, where European athletes will face the rest of the world."*



7th WT President's Cup Asia





The 7th WT President's Cup Asia that was held in Taian, China on April 25, 2025 was the first G3 World Para Taekwondo Ranking event of 2025, and the ranking points at stake attracted a big starting field with 118 athletes from 16 countries registered.

The quality of the competitions held a very high level. Asia Taekwondo Union President, Prof. Kyu Seok Lee said *"Watching these dedicated athletes compete with such determination, I am inspired by how they have overcome their personal challenges to perform so admirably. I firmly believe that, just as they have triumphed in this competition, they will also achieve their goals in both their professional lives and personal endeavors."*

The winners consisted of both well established athletes and some newcomers. The World Taekwondo appointed Technical Delegate, Ms. Jatuporn Hemwonno, reported that the best-of-three competition system provided matches that were fun and exciting where athletes showcased their skills fully and equally.

In the Women K44 -47kg category Claudia Romero (MEX) claimed the gold after a final against newcomer Kiziarkhon Isomiddinova (UZB). The bronzes were earned by Lia Chachibaia (GEO) and Bursra Emire (TUR).

The medal podium in the Men K44 -58kg consisted of Paralympic Bronze medallist Xiang Wen Xiao (TPE) earning gold in a final against Korea's Pyeonggang Lee. The bronzes went to Paralympic Bronze medallist Sabir Zeynalov (AZE) and Paralympic Silver medalist Ali Can Ozcan (TUR).

A new talented athlete, Karomatoy Rustamova (UZB) claimed the gold in the Women K44 -52kg category after defeating reigning world champion Jessica Garcia in the Semi-final and Paralympic bronze medallist Ana Japaridze (GEO) in the final. The bronze medals went to Meryem Betul Cavdar (TUR) and Jessica Garcia (MEX).

There was no stopping the Paralympic Champion Mahmut Bozteke (TUR) from claiming the gold in the Men K44 -63kg category in Taian. He went through the tournament winning all matches 2-0. Silver went to Zukhriddin Tokhirov (UZB) and the bronzes to Baurzhan Kusherbayev (KAZ) and Kudratjon Haydarov (UZB).

Paralympic Gold medallist and home favorite Yujie Li (CHN) did not disappoint and claimed gold in the Women K44 -57kg category after defeating world champion Silvana Mayara Cardoso (BRA) in the final. The bronze medals went to Maria Eduarda Machado (BRA) who recently moved up a division from -52kg and Paris 2024 Silver medallist Gamze Gurdal (TUR).

Dong Ho Lee (KOR) made a successful move up from Men K44 -63kg up to M-70kg category and claimed the gold medal after Paris 2025 Champion from Azerbaijan Imamaddin Khalilov withdrew. Bronze medals were awarded to Kudratulla Sunnatov (UZB) and Shunsuke Kudo (JPN).

Women K44 -65kg saw a repeat of the final from the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games with Ana Carolina Silva (BRA) defeating Djelika Diallo (FRA). The bronze medals were claimed by Secil Er (TUR) and Yinan Yao (CHN).

The most competitive division of the day, the Men K44 -80kg, was won by Kudrat Muhammadiyev (UZB). The 20-year old Uzbek defeated Paris 2024 Silver Medallist Luis Najera (MEX) in the final. Kazakh legend Nurlan Dombayev and Philippines Allain Keanu Ganapin claimed the bronze medals.

The Women K44 +65kg saw Mexico's Fernanda Vargas defeat Brazilian veteran Debora Menezes in the final. The bronze medals were awarded to Karomat Kosimova (UZB) and Melis Turk (TUR).



**Classification Update**

## **Another successful Para Taekwondo P20 International Classification Course concluded!**



Led by Dr. Hadwah Moawad, Head of Classification, the course brought together 4 psychologists (3 females & 1 male) and 5 International Technical Classifiers (2 females & 3 males) for a comprehensive course.

Special thanks to Dr. Mohammed Hadi Hadizadeh and Ms. Tunde Szarka for expertly delivering the course. And our sincere gratitude for the continuous support of ETU President Mr. Sakis Pragalos and Secretary General Mr. Antonio Barbarino, your commitment to Para Taekwondo continues to drive our success forward.

## **Record Month for Para Taekwondo Classification: 53 Athletes Classified Across Two Major Events**

The Para Taekwondo Classification team is proud to report a remarkable achievement this month, with 53 athletes successfully classified across two major international events.

At the European Para Poomsae Championships in Tallinn, Estonia, a total of 39 athletes were classified, including 26 P20, 11 P30, and 2 P70 athletes. Meanwhile, the Asian President's Cup in Taian, China saw the classification of 14 K40 athletes.

This milestone reflects the growing reach and professionalism of Para Taekwondo classification worldwide.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated classifiers around the world whose expertise and commitment made this success possible.





## Calendar



**2025**

- **World Para Taekwondo Classifier Course Level 1 (Online)**

May 3-4, 2025

- **World Para Taekwondo International Classifier Course Level 2, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

May 24-26, 2025

- **2025 Rio Open Para Taekwondo (G2), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

May 28, 2024

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **Solidarity Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G1), Montargis, France**

July 4, 2025

- **World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge (G4), Chuncheon, Korea**

July 11, 2025

- **2025 European Youth Para Games (G2), Istanbul, Turkey (Europe only)**

July 25-27, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **Asia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G4), Kuching, Malaysia (Asia only)**

July 30-31, 2025

- **WT President's Cup Para Taekwondo Oceania (G3), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 14, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Poomsae Open (G2), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 15, 2025

- **Australia Para Taekwondo Open (G2), Gold Coast, Australia**

August 16, 2025

- **2025 World Ability Sport Games (G2), Jakarta, Indonesia**

September 15-16, 2025 Kyorugi

September 18, 2025 Poomsae

- **2nd World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed

- **11th World Para Taekwondo Championships (G14), Location TBD**

DATE to be confirmed

- **5th Asian Youth Para Games (G2) Dubai, UAE (Asia only)**

December 7-14, 2025 (TKD competition TBC)



**Around the World**



## Paris 2024 Paralympic Games - viewership

(April 3, 2025) Para Taekwondo's viewership numbers at the Paralympic Games Paris 2024 soared by a huge 70%, according to data released today by the [International Paralympic Committee \(IPC\)](#).



Following a successful Paralympic debut at Tokyo 2020, Para Taekwondo's medal events increased from six to 10 and athlete quota from 72 to 120 at Paris 2024 in a major milestone for the development of the sport.

Para Taekwondo was one of nine sports on the Paris 2024 programme which enjoyed record cumulative TV audiences, and the increase in its viewership numbers underlines the growing global popularity.

With competitions staged at the iconic Grand Palais, the world's best athletes delivered a thrilling showcase of Para Taekwondo.

Read the full story [HERE](#).

**2025 Asian Youth Para Games**





The Asian Paralympic Committee has announced Dubai as host city for the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games. The announcement comes after Tashkent was unable to go ahead with staging the Games that were originally scheduled for October 2025.

The 5th Asian Youth Para Games will take place in Dubai, UAE from December 7-14, 2025.

Stay tuned for further information on participation in the event.

Read the full story [HERE](#).

### **Gold for Sweden at the European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships**

Felicia Leventin not only became the first Para Taekwondo athlete to represent Sweden internationally but also the first Para Taekwondo athlete to earn a gold medal.

Felicia competes in the Women P72 Senior division and earned the gold medal at the 2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships held in Tallinn, Estonia on April 16-17, 2025 after defeating Vahide Hotun from Turkiye in the final.

She hails from Beakdusan Taekwondo Club in Åkarp, Sweden and began her Taekwondo journey over ten years ago with the determination to earn a black belt. She always dreamed of taking



part in international competition on the same terms as her team mates. With World Taekwondo's development of Para Taekwondo Poomsae that dream is now a reality.

Following her win Felicia extended a heartfelt thank you to her Coach and trainer Balli Lelinge. "Your presistence and your heart have been crucial for this journey." Felicia also thanked the Swedish national team and the Swedish Taekwondo Union for their support.



### **Kazakhstan holds National Championships**



The city of Shymkent, Kazakhstan was the host for the Para Taekwondo Cup of the Republic of Kazakhstan that took place from April 4-6, 2025. The competition drew a total of 54 athletes compted in Poomsae and Kyorugi at the event.

The tournament marked an important milestone of the development of Para Taekwondo in Kazakhstan, bringing together the best athletes from various regions. Based on the results from the competition the national team for the Republic of Kazakhstan was formed and will represent the country at upcoming international events recognized or promoted by World Taekwondo.

The competition served not only as a platform for athletic competition but also as an opportunity to indentify new talents and enhance the preparation level of the national team.



## Yemen ready to compete internationally



Zakarya Ali Al-Manhuri is the first Para Taekwondo athlete from Yemen. Zakarya is from the Yemeni Capital of Sanaa. He earned his black belt in 2021 under Master Khaled Maqbol Ghaleb while training at the Al Mostaqbai Club for Persons with a Disability.

Although Yemen has been in a state of civil war since 2014 Zakarya has found a way to keep up with his training and he is now aiming to represent Yemen and the Yemen Taekwondo Federation on the international stage. He would be the first Para Taekwondo athlete do so.

He is currently set to register for the upcoming Gangwon Chuncheon 2025 World Para Taekwondo Open Challenge G4 to be held in Chuncheon, Korea on July 11, 2025.

After registering he would have to obtain a visa, a task that is tricky for Yemen passport holders. With invitation letters from World Taekwondo as well as the event organizers it is our hope that we will see Zakarya compete in Chuncheon.

### **Taekwondo: Haven for autistic athletes**



**As April marks World Autism Awareness month, the inspiring story of Dave White shines a light on the transformative power of taekwondo and his unwavering commitment to supporting individuals with neurodiversity within the sport.**

Dave and his wife Mel are the driving force behind Ignite Taekwondo, a club with classes in Broughton and Winterton, North Lincolnshire. Together, they have cultivated a safe and welcoming environment where people of all abilities can not only practice and enjoy [taekwondo](#) but also become part of a supportive and friendly community.

Dave's dedication is deeply personal. Born autistic and non-verbal until the age of five, he credits taekwondo with playing a pivotal role in his life, giving him the confidence to thrive both on and off the mat. He even believes the sport "saved his life."

Years later, when Dave's son Ollie was diagnosed with [autism](#) at the age of four, Dave instinctively knew that martial arts held the key to helping him, just as it had for himself. This conviction led him to establish Ignite Taekwondo in their local area. From its inception, the club has prioritised inclusivity, ensuring that the unique needs of every member are met with a bespoke approach during classes.

Read the full story [HERE](#).



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