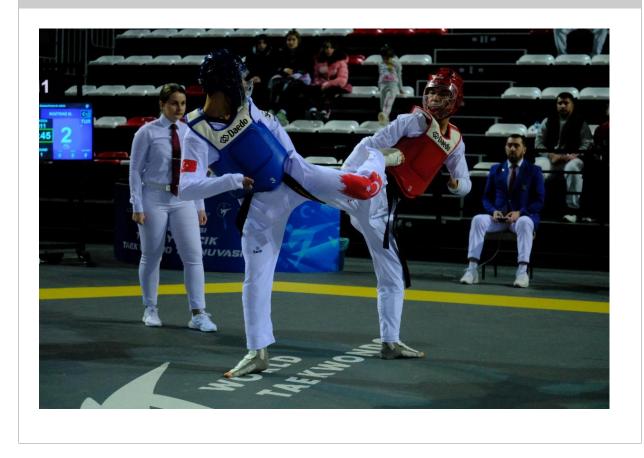


# World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

February 2025 | Issue #53

# 2025 12th Turkish Open Para Taekwondo



The 2025 edition of the Turkish Open Para Taekwondo took place in the Antalya Sport Salonu, Antalya, Turkiye on February 8, 2025.

This was the first time that the event had been awarded a G2 status for Para Taekwondo, it was also the first time that Para Taekwondo Poomsae was included.

## Kyorugi

The starting field for Kyourgi included several Paralympic medalists and Paralympians. But there was also many up and coming athletes participating. This was the first time that the best of 3 rounds competition system was used in Para Taekwondo and the athletes appreciated to compete under the same rules as their Olympic counterparts.

In the Men K44 -58kg Joel Martin Villalobos (ESP) claimed the gold after and exiting final against neutral athlete Askhat Akmatov. The bronzes went to Bakbergen Gibratzhan (KAZ) and Yusuf Eren Ay (TUR), two fairly unknown names on the international stage.

Women K44 -47kg saw Claudia Romero (MEX) at the top of the podium following her dissapointing performance in Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. She bested newcomer from the Mexican team, Lupita Saucedo Rojas, in the final. The bronzes were earned by Busra Emire (TUR) and Paralympian Lia Chachibaya (GEO)

Mahmut Bozteke (TUR), the reigning World and Paralympic Champion showed that he is still the best in the division and took the gold in the Men K44 -63kg event beating Uzbekistan's Kudratjon Haydarov in the final. Bronzes were earned by newcomer Muhammadsodik Usmonov (UZB) and neutral athlete Daniil Sidorov.

Georgia topped the podium in the Women K44 -52kg category where Ana Japaridze, Paris 2024 Bronze medalist deafeted Elsa Suisei Koyama Tamayo (MEX) in the final. Elsa had in the semi-final defeated reigning World Champion and team mate Jessica Garcia Quijano. The bronze medals went to Mexico and Meryem Betul Cavdar, the Turkish Paris 2024 bronze medalist.

A new name emerged to top the podium in the Men K44 -70kg category with Turkish fighter Yusuf Yunacti defeating team mate and Paralympic Silver medalist Fatih Celic in the final. Bronzes were awarded to Kudratulla Sunnatov (UZB) and the Georgian machine Giorgi Nikoladze.

With all big names missing in the Women K44 -57kg category the medals were up for grabs. Neutral Athlete Mariia Fisenko took the gold after defeating Kamola Juraeva (UZB) in the final. Bronzes went to Karima Melikuzieva (UZB) and Damla Nur Hanife (TUR).

Also in the Men K44 -80kg the big names were missing when it came down to the medal matches. Kudrat Muhammadiev (UZB) defeated his team mate Javokhir Alikulov in the final to earn the gold. Bronzes were awarded to newcomers Adem Arda Ozkul (TUR) and Orkhan Jafarov (AZE).

In the Women K44 -65kg Christina Gkentzou (GRE) won a close final against Mariam Salimgreeva (KAZ). Bronze medals were awarded to Roziyakhon Ergasheva (UZB) and Partycja Zewar (POL).

The Men K44 +80kg final was won by neutral athlete Aliaskhab Ramazanov after his opponent, Asadbek Toshtemirov (UZB), withdrew due to injury. Bronzes went to Turkish legend Mehmet Sami Sarac and Kazakhstan's Alisher Garipollayev.









#### Poomsae

With nearly half the starting field being classified at the event the competition was a great step forward for Para Taekwondo Poomsae. Sport Classes that has previously not seen many athletes filled up, especially the P72 (short stature)

medal events.

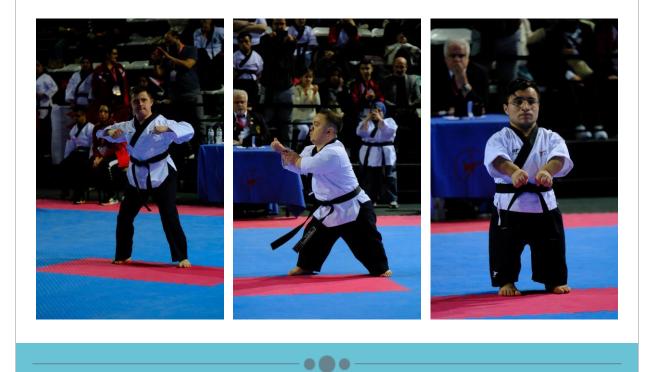
World Taekwondo has now submitted the application for Para Taekwondo Poomsae for athletes with an intellctual impairment (P21 & P22 Sport Classes) to be inlcuded on the medal event program for the LA28 Paralympic Games. Someting that contributed to the unusally high participation numbers in these divisions.

Neutral athlete and pioneer in the Men P21 Senior division Kirill Arutiunov earned the bronze deafeating Croatian Viktor Frane Gligo in the final. Bronzes were earned by Mateo Skara (CRO) and Vasileios Avramikas (GRE).

In the Women P21 Senior Karla Lukac from Croatia earned the gold and Yasmeen Fekri (BRN) took the silver.

In the most competitive division of the event, the Men P22 Senior category, Nasser Hubail (BRN) won the final over the expericenced Kristijan Burusic from Croatia. The bronzes were earned by Ali Husain (BRN) and Roko Boduljak (CRO).

In the biggest women's category, the Women P22 Senior, home athlete Fatima Kveser defeated Daniela Topic (CRO) in the final to earn the gold. Bronzes went to Noora Zainal (BRN) and Adriana Beresova (SVK).



2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships

**MSAE CHAMPIONSHIPS FAEKWOND** CHAMPIONSHIPS



The European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships 2025 in Tallinn, Estonia will be the second time that the European Taekwondo Union holds the Championships combined Taekwondo Poomsae and Para Taekwondo Poomsae.

This strategy has proven to help grow the number of entries and participants in the event as well as raising the recognition of Para Taekwondo Poomsae

The event will feature competitions in Male and Female senior categories in the P20 (intellectual

impairment), P30 (Motor impairment), P50 (assistive divises) and P70 (Short Stature) Sport Classes.

With World Taekwondo's application for the LA28 Paralympic Games medal event program including Para Taekwondo Poomsae for athletes with an intellectual impairment (P21, P22 Sport Classes) extra light has been shone on Para Taekwondo Poomsae further raising the recognition of the sport and shining light on the athletes' performances.

Registrations are currently open in the GMS and will close on April 2, 2025.

#### Register here.

Make sure that your team is registered in time for the 2025 European Para Taekwondo Poomsae Championships.

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Para Taekwondo Poomsae Ad-Hoc Committee

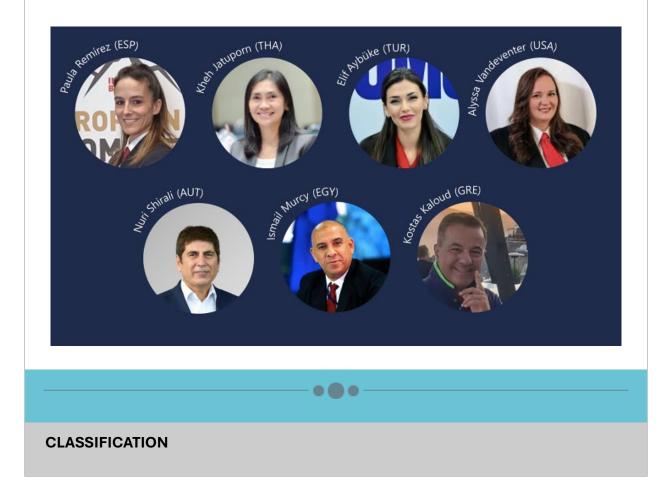
In December 2024 WT appointed a Para Taekwondo Poomsae Ad-Hoc Committee with the aim to review, develop and upate the World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Competition Rules.

The commitee comprising four women and three men from seven different countries, has been working diligently to draft new regulations for Poomsae Para Taekwondo. The members bring diverse expertise, including seasoned referees and experienced coaches. They have held regular meetings to ensure comprehensive and inclusive guidelines.

These include new official competition formats designed to make the sport more attractive, exciting, and easier for spectators to follow. An octagonal mat as used in kyorugi, will be officially recognized also as a standard in poomsae. The scoring system will have a new a criteria called 'Adaptability based on the Sport Class', having an specific criteria scoring according to the impairment, ensuring fairer competition.

The amendment to the World Para Taekwondo Poomsae Competition Rules is expected to be passed by the WT Council and General Assembly this year marking a significant milestone in the development of Para Taekwondo Poomsae.

Some rules might be tried out in competition prior to the rule amendment. This will be notified in the outline for each event.





## 2025 Turkish Open Para Taekwondo

The first tournament of 2025 offering international classification was the Turkish Open held in the Antalya Sport Salonu, Antalya, Turkiye on February 8, 2025.

The Turkish Open has previously only catered for Para Taekwondo Kyorugi but for the first time Poomsae was also included in the Para Taekwondo competitions.

A dedicated team of 7 classifiers worked dilligently over two days to classifiy 53 athletes requireing athlete classification ahead of the competitions.

With World Taekwondo's application for the LA28 Paralympic Games for Para Taekwondo Poomsae there has been a noticable increase in Para Taekwondo Poomsae Athletes. This goes for all Sport Classes allthough the LA28 application only concerns athletes with an intellectual impairment.

### Spreading classification knowledge

Classification is a necessity in all Para sports as it is the basis for fair competition. However, classification can seems as complicated hindrance for competition if you do not know the requirements and procedures.

The WT Classification Committee is constantly working on new ways to get information about the Sport Classes, classification documentation and classification procedures out to the WT membership.

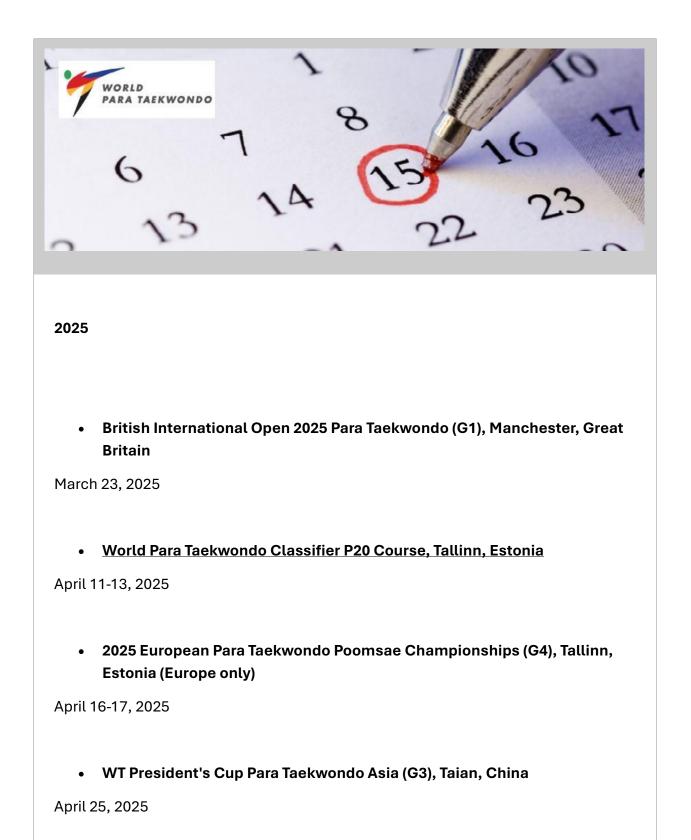
In order to make classification information more available two working groups have been instated, one "Awareness" group to develop education materials, short videos, guides and flyers for distribution and one "Social media" group that will analyze how the information can be best communicated through different social media platforms in order to reach and inform the membership and public in the most effective way.

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The outcome of this work will be noticeable in the coming weeks and months.

Keep your eyes open!

Calendar



• World Para Taekwondo Classifier Course Level 1 (Online)

May 3-4, 2025

• <u>World Para Taekwondo International Classifier Course Level 2, Rio de</u> Janeiro, Brazil

May 11-13, 2025

• 2025 Rio Open Para Taekwondo (G1), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil May 15, 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 (G1), Gold Coast, Australia August 15, 2025

Australia Para Taekwondo Open (G1), Gold Coast, Australia

August 16, 2025

• 2025 World Ability Sport Games (G2), Jakarta, Indonesia

September 15-16, 2025 Kyorugi

September 18, 2025 Poomsae

• 5th Asian Youth Para Games (G2) (Asia only)

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• 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

### Around the World

### Lisa Kjaer inducted into the Danish Para Sport Hall of Fame

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Sunday February 23, 2025 the two first members of the Danish Para Sport Hall of Fame were inducted, Karl Vilhelm Nielsen and Para Taekwondo star Lisa Kjaer.

Kjaer was inducted for her achivements in Para Taekwondo (Tokyo 2020 Gold, Paris 2024 Bronze) as well as being an inspiration for all both on and off the mat.

Her openness around her personal journey

has made her a role model for all athltes with an impairment showing what can be achived with dedication and perseverance to reach your dreams and create new opportunities.

Read the full story <u>here</u>.

Para Taekwondo Poomsae Development in Spain



The Royal Spanish Taekwondo Federation has taken great strides towards making their national events inclusive. The federation's national team has been competing internationally for years. But that was in Para Taekwondo Kyorugi.

On February 22, 2025 the National Poomsae Championships were held in the Municiapal Sports Center Pavilion in Alicante. The event was a breakthrough in the country for Para Taekwondo Poomsae with 36 athletes participating in the WT recognized sport classes.

The Federation also experimented with a pair competition format for athletes with an intellectual impairment where the athlete performs together with an partner without an impairment.

Video from the competitions can be found here.



## A driving force in Greek Para Taekwondo



Kostas Kaloudis, a Member of the WT Para Taekwondo Committee, is the driving force for Para Taekwondo in Greece.

In Greece Para Taekwondo is taught in about 10 clubs and schools for persons with a disability that create

opportunities for people with an impairment. Kaloudis is hoping to double this number by the end of 2025.

He recently assumed the role as a Technical Adviser to the Federation of Persons with a disability and another goal that will come true in the coming weeks is the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Federation of Persons with a Disability and World Taekwondo Greece.

The result of this collaboration will be that in the upcoming 2025 Greek Championships for both Kyorugi and Pomsae will include categories for Para Taekwondo athletes.

G.M. Kostas Kaloudis (70 Dan / Black Belt) is also WT certified Para Taekwondo coach and teaches Taekwondo for persons with a disability both at his school and in two schools for Persons with a Disability.

He has students with Intellectual Impairment, Autism and Down Syndrome. Their training takes place twice a week and if they are interested in taking part in matches then they attend the third and fourth day of training

## Nigeria Para Taekwondo Coaching Seminar



The Nigeria Taekwondo Federation is re-starting their Para Taekwondo activities. The Federation has previously been active on the international stage. However, of the past coupple of years they have been inactive.

To restart the Para Taekwondo activities a national Para Taekwondo coaching seminar was held February 1, 2025 giving participants and overview of

Para Taekwondo and explaining the terminologies used as well as the eligible impairments and the pecurilarities of coaching athletes with an impairment.

The course was conducted by coach Abdul-Malik Mohammad and WT International Classifier Dr. Rasheed Amusa.

The course participants consisted of 11 coaches, 5 athletes and 4 administrators.

This is a great intiative by a Nigeria Taekwondo Federation and World Taekwondo would be happy to support similar initiatives in all its Member National Associations.

Sign up for the World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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