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## World Para Taekwondo Newsletter

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### Star-studded line-up for Veracruz 2023 Worlds



#### Countdown to World C'ships begin as registration opens

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

A galaxy of stars including reigning World and Paralympic champions will be part of the Veracruz 2023 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships as registrations have opened for the much-anticipated event set to take place this September.

Israel became the first team to register for the World Para Taekwondo Championships, with reigning world champion in men's K44 -58kg **Asaf Yasur** leading their charge.

United States followed the suit registering with their top fighter, world number one and Tokyo 2020 bronze medallist **Evan Medell**.

Meanwhile, Chinese Taipei will have Bahrain 2021 Asian Youth Para Games silver medallist **Chien Chiang Chen** eyeing Worlds glory at Veracruz.

Brazil, one of the top medal contenders, have registered a star-filled team for this edition of the Worlds. The Parapan American nation's campaign will be spearheaded by Tokyo 2020 gold medallist **Nathan Torquato** with Paralympic silver medallist **Debora Menezes** and **Silvana Mayara Cardoso Fernandes**, Paralympic bronze medallist, also in their ranks.

Central Africa Republic also have registered in the early-bird registration that opened on 14 June 2023 and will be open until July 19, 2023 17:00 CET.

Apart from Kyorugi stars, the first registrations for the Para Poomsae competitions have also come in from Honduras with 2017 champion **Guillermo Erazo Schauer** registering in the P20 Men's division. It was followed by Niger and Rwanda who have also registered their teams.

The regular registration will open on July 20, 2023 17:01 CET until September 6, 2023 17:00 CET.

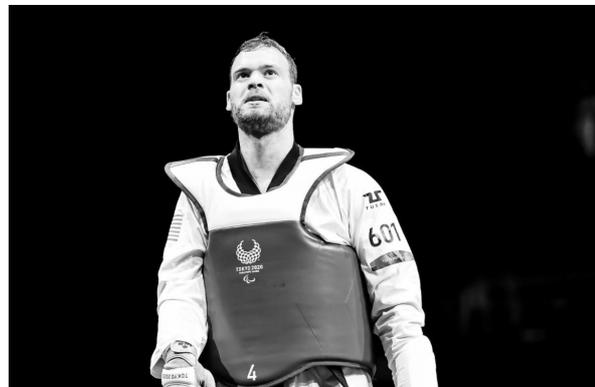
The excitement has just begun, and we are awaiting more fighters to register in the coming time, making the Veracruz 2023 Worlds Para Taekwondo Championships one of the biggest ever World Championships.

This edition of the World Championships is going to be special as Para Poomsae athletes will return to the Worlds for the first time post Pandemic.

If you haven't yet registered, here is the link:

<https://worldtkd.simplycompete.com/.../11ee09f9-ca70.../1>

Before the World Championships, athletes will have a chance to warm-up at the Veracruz 2023 Grand Prix set to take place on 19 September.



## Top fighters get ready for European Open C'ships



*Iranian Hurricane, Pourrahnama, will be among the top names ready to start the season at the European Para Open C'ships which will have 148 athletes from 30+1 nations. It's already a busy year with the continental Games and the World Championships lined-up ahead.*

And the coming days are going to be super busy for Para Taekwondo fighters as the competition in Europe and Oceania are set to begin!

The 2023 European Para Taekwondo Open Championships (G2) are set to begin in a few days' time in Montargis, France, on June 30, 2023.

The event, open to athletes from all over the world, will be held in connection with Solidarity Para Taekwondo Open (G1) following in the start of July.

As many as 148 athletes from 30+1 countries have registered with several stars returning to action.

Among those, a long awaited comeback from four-time world champion and Paralympic silver medallist **Mehdi Pourrahnama** from Iran.

Pourrahanama – the Iranian Hurricane – had made the headlines with a 3-0 win over Paralympic champion Juan Diego Garcia Lopez (MEX) to become the 2021 World Champion, handing the latter his second loss in three years.

It would be interesting to watch what the Iranian star has in his repertoire on his return to international competition.

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## Familiar names emerge winners at Virtus Global Games Vichy 2023



An exciting contest was underway as 21 Para Poomsae athletes took to the mats in the CREPS-Centre Omnisports, eyeing glory at the Virtus Global Games Vichy France 2023 on June 9, 2023.

In the end, it was Colombia, Ecuador and United States who shared six gold medals, picking up two each with familiar names taking the centre stage in eight Para Taekwondo event categories.

Multiple-time world champion **Johrmay Rojas Cordoba** led the medal charge for Colombia with a gold in Senior Female P21 event, while 2019 world champion **Edison Joel Chiguano Aguilar** took the top position for Ecuador in Senior Male P21.

Among other winners were: Colombia's **Nicolas Velez Velasquez** (Senior Male P22), Peru's **Sandra Celis** (Senior Female P22) and USA's **Amanda Gregg** (Senior Female P23).

In junior events, **Joshua Wang** from USA (Junior Male P23), Ecuador's **Arlette Sofia Gonzalez Salinas** (Junior Female P21) and Italy's **Joel Delgadillo Zamora** (Junior Male P21) shone taking the first places.

The sport featuring at the Global Games held a lot of significance as this was the restart of Para Poomsae competition since the COVID Pandemic.

The Virtus Global Games also witnessed the new Para Poomsae rules being tested for the first time in Vichy for the P20 sport classes.

Twelve International Referees and one Technical Delegate were part of the Games while the training for the IRs under the new rules took place on June 8, 2023.

It should be noted that Para Taekwondo Poomsae will also be included on the Veracruz 2023 World Para Taekwondo Championships.



## Courses

- Para Taekwondo Classifier Course Level 2 - July 4-5, 2023 - Brisbane, Australia  
(registration deadline June 30, 2023)



## Calendar



## 2023

- 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)

### REGISTRATIONS OPEN

- 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

- 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)

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

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

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

## Around the World



### Pan America:

#### Mexican Team on competitive mode!

Are you getting ready for the competition season?

Team Mexico are geared up for the upcoming challenges.

In their preparations for the forthcoming Veracruz 2023 10th World Para Taekwondo Championships at home, the Mexican Para Taekwondo Team have

begun their competitive tour of Europe and Oceania.

On June 30, the team will compete at the European Open in Montargis, France, in G-2 category. This will be followed by the Oceania Open (G-2) in Brisbane, Australia, before they take part in the Australian Open (G-1) in the same city on July 9.

**The members of the team are:** Luis Mario Nájera (K44-80 kg), Victor Palacios (K44 -63 kg), Ivan Torres (K44 -58 kg), Daniela Martinez (K44 -65 kg), Koyama Switzerland (K44 -57 kg), Jessica Garcia (K44 -52 kg), Claudia Romero (K44 -47kg), Juan Diego Garcia (K44 -70 kg), Yahir Liborio Caves (K44 -63kg), Zaid Cano (K44 -70kg).

The team is accompanied by **coaches** - Jannet Alegria Pena and Maria Espinoza

### Asia:

#### Recognition for Ghising and her coach

**Shrijana Ghising's** phenomenal rise to glory in international Para Taekwondo competitions continued to make the headlines.

On the occasion of the Olympic Day, the Nepal Para Taekwondo player Ghising and her coach **Kabiraj Negi Lama** were honoured as Best Female Athlete and Best Coach at the recent National Olympic Committee Awards Ceremony 2023.

Ghising is currently preparing for September's World Para Taekwondo Championships in Veracruz followed by the 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China.

All eyes are on another historic medal!



### Europe:

#### Munro attends IPC Athletes' Forum

Great Britain's Paralympic star **Beth Munro** was one of the representatives at the 3rd IPC Athletes' Forum.



Munro, who clinched United Kingdom's first Taekwondo medal at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, was among the 60 athlete representatives from across the Paralympic Movement who took part in the discussion held in Icheon, Korea, from 25 to 27 June.

Hosted by the Korean Paralympic Committee (KPC) at their National Training Centre, the Forum brought together athlete representatives from National Paralympic Committees, International Federations,

Regional Organisations and International Organisations of Sport for the Disabled discussing on a variety of topics, including the impact of Para sports, leadership, anti-doping and classification.

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