



PARIS 2024



YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS

MEDIA KIT

PARIS 2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 8



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Mike Sneesby Nine Chief Executive Officer

One of the greatest things about being an Official Partner of Paralympics Australia is the opportunity to build our nation's connection with what is now one of the world's most respected sporting competitions.

Australians understand the Paralympics are so much more than an elite sporting event. They are a rare chance to be part of something that can change lives.

For Nine, it's humbling to play a part in Paralympics Australia's bold ambitions: *to help create a world-leading and equitable sport system; to deliver remarkable Para-athletic performances; and to create a more inclusive society.*

We know they are big aspirations, and aspirations we plan to advance across our free-to-air television and 9Now, Stan Sport, our audio footprint, and publishing and digital platforms, as we provide Australia with its most extensive coverage of the Paralympic Games ever seen.

I'm incredibly proud that Nine's Paralympic and Olympic total media programming will reach 98 per cent of Australia, delivering 360-degree coverage through one unified content ecosystem. The Nine team will draw on decades of professionalism and expertise to tell the stories of our Paralympians like never before.

From the spectacular Opening Ceremony in Paris to the moment the baton is passed on to Los Angeles on September 8, Nine will showcase the Australian Paralympic Team as it shows what courage, resilience and talent really mean. It will position the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games as one of Australia's defining sporting events and help shape culture.

I can't wait for you to join us.

“ A rare chance to be part of something that can change lives ”



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YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



Kate McLoughlin

Chef de Mission, Australian Paralympic Team - Paris 2024

The growth and transformation of the Paralympic movement since the first Games in Rome in 1960 has been extraordinary. Paris 2024 is shaping up to be a fascinating next chapter in that incredible story and we couldn't feel any more confident knowing that, for the first time, the magic of the Paralympics will be shared with millions of Australians through Nine.

Nine's extensive suite of platforms and assets, powered by the best media professionals in the business, promises to deliver coverage unprecedented in depth, scope and quality. The power of Paralympic stories is unique in the world of sport and seemingly tailor-made for media with the skill and commitment to harness the true spirit of the narrative. There's simply no one better to do that than Nine.

There's plenty of material to work with. The Para-athletes representing Australia at Paris 2024 are among the very best in the world. The standard of Paralympic sport globally has improved exponentially in recent years. It's extremely competitive, and our athletes have worked extremely hard to become Australian Paralympians and earn the right to compete at the pinnacle event in the world for athletes with a disability.

Alongside these exceptional sporting stories are deeply emotive personal stories. Every athlete at the Paralympics has, in one way or another, experienced life events and hardship many of us can only imagine. ***The human character is immensely strong, and no one embodies that strength quite like Paralympians.***

This is a crucial moment for the Australian Paralympic Team, athletes with an impairment and the 20 per cent of Australians who live with a disability. It's a time when stereotypes and preconceptions can be proven wrong, leading to genuine improvement in the lives of so many people and our country as a whole.

My colleagues and I at Paralympics Australia are thrilled to embark on a media partnership with Nine that we believe will genuinely "*change the game*" and place Nine as world leaders in Paralympic sport coverage. We look forward to working with all of you to share the amazing stories of our athletes and movement with as many Australians as possible at Paris 2024.



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Brent Williams

Nine's Director of Sport, Olympics & Paralympics

There are moments in sport that transcend the field of play or even the athletes themselves. An unquantifiable spirit derived from sportsmanship, courage and inspiration. Nowhere are these moments more evident than the Paralympic Games.

Each of these elite athletes are living their sporting dream and every single one of them has a story to tell. With over 300 hours of Paralympics coverage set to screen across the 9Network and 9Now, we look forward to broadcasting this historic global event and sharing these incredible stories with all of Australia.

The evolution of the Paralympic movement has been meteoric – from its inception as the Stoke Mandeville Games to the first official Paralympic Games in 1960 with over 400 athletes competing. Fast forward 64 years and over 4,000 athletes will live out their Paralympic dream in Paris with grandstands full of spectators and a global TV audience running into the billions.

We hope this continued growth in prominence will inspire a sports-loving nation to get behind our athletes as they plan not just to compete but to conquer the world's best in their chosen discipline, and encourage the 20 per cent of Australians living with a disability to get involved in sport.

Wide World of Sports' commitment to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games starts well before the cauldron is lit on August 28, with regular appearances and content pieces being created by Paralympic legends and emerging superstars across all of our platforms.

The buildup will culminate with our "Beyond The Dream" documentary series highlighting two incredible stories, that of Australian Paralympic Captain and three-time gold medallist Curtis McGrath, and a behind-the-scenes look at The Steelers, the Aussie wheelchair rugby team, as they embark on their mission to win gold.

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games promises to deliver unmissable moments and unforgettable memories and we look forward to sharing it all with the whole of Australia.





Liana Dubois Nine's Chief Marketing Officer

Welcome to a celebration of athleticism, determination, and unity: the Paralympic Games. As Australia's Media Company, Nine is immensely proud to bring the extraordinary tales of Paralympians into the homes and hearts of millions. Our commitment to the Paralympics extends beyond mere broadcast; it embodies our core belief in the transformative power of sport to influence societies and uplift spirits.

The Paralympics hold a special place in the sporting calendar, not only as a pinnacle of high-performance sport but also as a vibrant platform that challenges perceptions about disability. At Nine, we are dedicated to showcasing these incredible athletes for their immense capabilities, their resilience, and the rigorous effort they invest. It's about telling stories that resonate, inspire and bring people together.

For our audience, the Paralympics offer a unique narrative of triumph and extraordinary human spirit, making every competition not just a sporting event but a personal story of overcoming adversity. These stories align with our ethos of broadcasting content that matters, content that moves people, that shapes culture, and fosters a community of understanding and respect.

As a marketing platform, the Paralympics provide an unparalleled opportunity. They allow brands to align with values of inclusivity, courage, and excellence. The global stage of the Paralympics offers a distinctive and impactful way for brands to connect with diverse audiences in a meaningful way. By integrating with the Paralympic movement, brands can demonstrate their commitment to these values, resonating deeply with consumers and creating lasting impressions.

We at Nine are thrilled to continue our support and coverage of the Paralympics, championing these athletes' achievements and sharing their stories with the world. Join us in celebrating strength, diversity, and the unyielding human spirit at this year's Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

“ It's about telling stories that resonate, inspire and bring people together ”



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Dylan Alcott AO

9Network Host of Paris 2024 Paralympic Games



Four-time Paralympic Gold Medallist in Wheelchair Tennis & Wheelchair Basketball

As Australians, we have such an incredible sporting culture. Growing up, all I wanted to do was play sport just like any other kid. But I found myself being the manager, the time keeper, umpire, and generally not involved due to my disability. At school I struggled with being different. I used to get bullied about my disability and I hated myself simply because of the way I was born and circumstances outside of my control.

Discovering Paralympic sport genuinely saved my life.

I remember my first ever tennis tournament, and it was the first time I had ever found my community. My tribe. I felt included, I met people similar to me, and it gave me a purpose and a dream to be an Aussie Paralympian. There are nearly 4.5 million Australians with a disability and we deserve to see ourselves broadcast. With the power of broadcast when Nine showcases the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, on the main channel and our supporting streams, our community, as well as our wider Australian population, will get that chance.

Despite almost 20 per cent of Australians having a visible or non-visible disability, only one per cent are represented in mainstream media, leaving a large portion of the Australian population feeling unseen and unacknowledged. But when the widest reaching media outlet in the nation, Nine Entertainment, is willing to give a platform such as Channel 9 and 9Now for the Paralympics in Paris, it furthers the reality that our sporting disciplines deserve to become mainstream.

This isn't just about our sporting disciplines on show. The Paralympics is much bigger than that because it changes cultures, it changes perceptions, and it changes communities. I don't think people understand how powerful that is, not just for our community, but for able-bodied people to learn as well.

This is exactly what it means to our Australian Paralympic team, who collectively will feel they are conquering much more than just their Paralympic event. We as a nation now have to join them on the journey and shout from the rooftops about their incredible feats against the rest of the world. With free-to-air coverage on Nine's Wide World of Sports, there is a window into homes across the nation every day, reaching millions of Australians, viewers who will be pushing forward into the Australia we want to live in tomorrow. Watch because the sport you'll see is elite. Watch because you'll be entertained. But also watch because you will learn a thing or two about disability along the way, making a more inclusive society for all of us.



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Ellie Cole

9Network Host of Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Australia's Most Decorated Female Paralympian

The Paralympic Games, despite their relatively short history, have made an extraordinary impact. Since their inception in 1960, when pioneers like Daphne Ceeney and Kevin Coombs first wore the green and gold in Rome, the Games have been more than a showcase of athleticism. They have been a statement of empowerment and a catalyst for change, reaching far beyond the field of play to challenge perceptions and inspire generations.

I will always be a proud Paralympian. My memories as a Paralympic athlete began in Beijing 2008 and continued through London 2012, Rio 2016, and Tokyo 2020. Each Games brought its own unique set of challenges and lessons, shaping not only my athletic career but also my understanding of the power of sport.

Throughout my career, I met countless athletes with disabilities who had been overlooked, underestimated, or dismissed. The Paralympic Games gave us the opportunity to show the world that we are powerful symbols of what can be achieved through determination and grit.

When I retired from my Paralympic career in Tokyo 2020, I reflected on its profound significance. Tokyo was a momentous Games, where Para-athletes finally achieved pay parity with our Olympic counterparts in the form of medal bonuses.

It was also the Games where young children across Australia with disabilities could see role models who looked like them, leaving the rest of the nation inspired. Those Games were easily the proudest days of my life. Our Paralympic Team values of being “*Loyal, Proud and Fierce*” were something all Australians looked to as we competed in the middle of a pandemic, and will look to once again when our athletes compete in Paris.

Now, as the host of our Paralympics coverage in Paris, I am honoured to continue this journey with my team. This role allows me to share the incredible stories of our athletes, highlighting their journeys and the impact of the Paralympic movement.

The Games in Paris represent a new chapter, where our athletes will once again challenge perceptions and inspire change. I am looking forward to introducing our athletes to a brand-new audience and watching the nation fall in love with our Australian Paralympic Team.





YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS

It is hard to capture the spirit of the Paralympics in a word. But that spirit will be showcased in all its jaw-dropping glory in Nine's coverage of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. We will bring audiences the stories and heroic achievements of the world's Paralympians as they strive for gold in Paris from August 28 for 11 mind-blowing days.

We'll be there as Australia's Para-sports stars stake their place in sporting history. The entire nation will cheer them on, thanks to Nine's unparalleled Paralympic coverage across television, streaming, digital publishing and audio.

Since their inception in 1948 as an event for servicemen injured in World War II, and known then as the Stoke Mandeville Games after the town where a specialist spinal unit had been set up to treat them, the Paralympics have been special. They have shown what is possible. And in those few short decades, they have grown into a world-class sporting competition.

Just 16 athletes competed at the first Stoke Mandeville Games, with only a single event on the program: Archery. Then, in 1960 in Rome, the Games had their first outing as the Paralympic Games and featured 400 athletes.

At Paris 2024, an estimated 4,400 Para-athletes will test their physical and mental limits across 23 disciplines and 549 events. What rated an occasional newspaper mention and haphazard coverage 50 years ago will command a global viewing audience of more than four billion people.

“ Australia's Para-Sports stars stake their place in sporting history ”



Australia's 150-strong contingent will feature one of the greatest wheelchair rugby players in history, **Ryley Batt**, in his sixth Paralympic Games for the Steelers, while in the pool our charge for gold is headed up by **Alexa Leary, Ahmed Kelly and Rowan Crothers**.

The team is bolstered by world champions **Dylan Littlehales** (Para-canoe), **James Turner** (400m), Tokyo 2020 gold medallists **Madison de Rozario** (wheelchair racing) and **Vanessa Low** (long jump), making it one of our strongest ever Paralympic contingents.

It's a far cry from the 1960 Rome Games, where Australia had just one female competitor, Daphne Ceeney – who went on to win 14 medals in five different sports across three Paralympic Games!

The 9Network coverage of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games starts with the spectacular Opening Ceremony, a monumental parade of 184 delegations in the largest square in Paris, the celebrated Place de la Concorde, and the iconic Champs-Élysées. We'll be there as the Paralympic Flame, lit in Stoke Mandeville in England and carried by 1,000 torchbearers, ignites the cauldron of the Paralympic Games.



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“ Paris 2024 on Nine: Australia Belongs Here ”



Ahmed Kelly
Para-Swimming

We will transport our audiences to the beating heart of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games: the magnificent Invalides for Paralympic archery events, the brutalist Bercy Arena for the highly anticipated wheelchair basketball, Roland-Garros for the wheelchair tennis, the breathtaking, UNESCO-listed Chateau de Versailles for Para-equestrian events. And to the blind football competition unfolding at the foot of the soaring Eiffel Tower.

Paris, the City of Lights, will be an open door for Australia’s passionate sports fans no matter where they live. They’ll be immersed in the 2024 Paralympics as they happen, on demand, and across every device and platform.

With a commitment to promote the values of the Paralympic movement – *determination, equality, inspiration and courage* – Nine’s unrivalled cross-platform coverage will ensure the Paris Paralympics motivate, excite and celebrate our incredible Paralympians and the next generation of Paralympic fans as we look toward Brisbane 2032. Paris 2024 on Nine: Australia belongs here.



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YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



9Network and 9Now The most comprehensive broadcast of a Paralympic Games ever screened in Australia.

Utilising the globally renowned Wide World of Sports production team, the 9Network will screen the Paralympics across two curated linear channels, Channel 9 and 9Gem, and feature more than 20 dedicated high-definition live streams on 9Now, making the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games the most comprehensive ever screened.

Across the 9Network, there will be over 300 hours of the Paralympics, with more main-channel coverage than ever within 14 hours of live coverage a day on Channel 9 and 9Gem, from the Opening Ceremony on August 28 to the Closing Ceremony on September 8.

With 20 streams in full high definition, 9Now will screen every event plus replays and highlights, as well as going behind the scenes. Stan Sport will also screen the Paralympics.

Viewers will be guided through the competition by some of Australia's most celebrated Paralympians and Olympians and Nine's accomplished television hosting team.





Vanessa Low
Para-Athletics

Ellie Cole, James Bracey, Kurt Fearnley & Todd Woodbridge

5.00pm - 10.30pm AEST

As Paris wakes up and competition begins, prime-time coverage will be helmed by Australia's most decorated female Paralympian, Ellie Cole, alongside James Bracey, Todd Woodbridge and one of the world's greatest Para-Athletes, Kurt Fearnley.

Dylan Alcott & Sylvia Jeffreys

10.30pm - 2.30am AEST

They will then pass the baton to Paralympic gold medallist and former Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott and Nine's Sylvia Jeffreys, live at the Mob Hotel in Paris – which will be the home away from home for the Australian Paralympic Team.

Blake Cochrane & Roz Kelly

2.30am - 6.00am AEST

The day's action will be rounded out with Paralympic gold medal swimmer Blake Cochrane alongside Nine's Roz Kelly.

Our superstar lineup of commentators and experts will reveal what it takes to excel on the world's biggest sporting stage. The lineup includes Paralympian gold medallists **Annabelle Williams, Ryan Scott, Troy Sachs, Kelly Cartwright, Katrina Webb and Tim Matthews**; silver medallist **John Maclean, Christie Dawes and Para-triathlete Kate Naess**.

Alongside them will be Olympian **Sam Willoughby**, who acquired tetraplegia after suffering a career-ending injury in 2016; **Cate Campbell**, commentating on the swimming; and **Jess Fox**, who will commentate during Para-Canoe events.

A total of 22 Para-sports are scheduled, with 4,400 athletes competing across 549 medal events. Viewers will not miss any event featuring an Australian, with 9Now providing 24/7 coverage.



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The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will screen on the 9Network and 9Now live and free, and on Stan Sport, from August 28 to September 8.

Beyond the Dream

On the path to Paris 2024, the Beyond The Dream documentary series continues, going beyond the headlines with unprecedented access to discover the untold stories of some of the world's greatest athletes.

Beyond the Dream: Forged in Steel

Available from Monday August 19 on 9Now

Nine has full access to the inspirational Aussie wheelchair rugby team as they look to avenge Tokyo and get back on top of the world. We chronicle the incredible backstories that make Paralympic sport and this team so compelling to watch.

Beyond the Dream: Curtis McGrath

Monday, August 26, at 8.45pm AEST

Australian Paralympian and three-time gold medallist Curtis McGrath opens his door to Nine to share his personal story, his family and friends for the first time, as well as his preparations in the lead-up to the Paris 2024 Paralympics.

Chris Bond
Wheelchair-Rugby



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1 TEAM, DREAM

Watch it, Read it, Hear it

As well as coverage on Channel 9, 9Gem and 9Now, Nine will bring the breathtaking images, stories and sounds of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games to listeners on its talk radio stations – 2GB, 3AW, 4BC and 6PR – and across its suite of mastheads and online publishing platforms, plus Stan Sport.

RADIO

Nine Radio will provide extensive coverage of the Games on programs and news services with a dedicated Paralympics Interactive Studio. Staffed with reporters covering all the action on programming across the entire network spanning Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, there will be the ability to launch into live commentary when required.

There will be Paralympic updates each hour 24/7 throughout the Games as well as a daily countdown in news bulletins around the country in the weeks leading up to the Opening Ceremony. There will also be Paralympic episodes of the Road to Paris podcasts hosted by Mathew Thompson.



DIGITAL PUBLISHING

With Nine’s digital publishing assets and mastheads reaching more than 16 million readers, the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games will be comprehensively covered like no previous Paralympics.

Our websites nine.com.au, wwos.com.au, and the Pedestrian Group will build on Nine’s broadcast of the Paralympics, while Australia’s most respected titles, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and The Australian Financial Review, as well as Brisbane Times and WAToday, will provide world-class editorial and breaking news from Paris.

Nine’s top journalists will be on the ground, behind the scenes and at the Mob Hotel (*with the Australian Paralympic Team*) to bring audiences the stories they won’t see anywhere else.

With reporters from Nine’s metro mastheads producing multiple stories from Paris every day, there will be a daily blog, articles and analysis of the key results and action, plus video highlights.



Australian Boccia Team

Front- **Jamieson Leeson** (Para-Athlete) **Daniel Michel** (Para-Athlete)
Back- **Ash Maddern** (Operator) **Jasmine Haydon** (Operator)



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Paris 2024 Paralympic Games by Numbers

4

the Values of the Paralympic Movement : Courage, Determination, Inspiration and Equality

549

Events at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

4400

Athletes expected to compete

1960

The year the event recognised as the first official Paralympic Games took place (*in Rome, Italy, featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries*)

8

the number of disability groups that Paralympians compete in: Intellectual impairment, vision impairment, coordination impairments (*3 subtypes- spasticity, ataxia, athetosis*), loss of limbs/limb deficiency, muscle weakness/ impaired muscle power, restricted joint movement, short stature and leg length difference.

3

Colours (*red, blue and green*) in the Paralympic symbol, the Agitos (*from the Latin "I move"*)

22

Sports that will feature at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

10

Competition days at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

16

The Number of Athletes who competed in 1948 in the first competition for wheelchair athletes, the Stoke Mandeville Games



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Paris 2024 Paralympic Games by Numbers

23

Medals won by Australia's most successful Paralympian, swimmer *Matthew Cowdrey*, 13 of them gold

13

The age of Australia's youngest medallist and gold medallist, *Maddison Elliott*

43

Kilos, the weight of some wheelchairs at the 1960 Paralympics

4.1 billion

The global audience for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics

1,5 & 14

The Number of Female Competitors in the Australian Paralympic Team in Rome 1960 (*Daphne Ceeney*); the number of sports she competed in (*athletics, swimming, archery, table tennis and fencing*) across three Games; and the number of medals she brought home

8

Kilos, the weight of racing wheelchairs today

2

The number of Paralympic sports that do not have an Olympic counterpart (*boccia & goalball*)

1976

The year wheelchair tennis was invented

COUNTLESS

Stories to tell

The Games in Brief

Paris 2024 will be the 17th Paralympic Games

While Paris is hosting the Olympic Games for the third time, this is the first time the city has hosted the Paralympic Games. But France was the location for the 1992 Paralympic Winter Games hosted jointly by Albertville and Tignes.

The first Paralympics were held in Rome in 1960. Apart from Tel Aviv in 1968 and Arnhem in 1980 (*as well as some events held at Stoke Mandeville in 1984*), they have always been held in the same country as the Olympics, although Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964 were the only two to feature the same host city until 1988.

Since Seoul 1988 (*and Albertville 1992 for the Paralympic Winter Games*), the Paralympic Games have been held immediately after the Olympics in the same city. It was by convention until Sydney 2000, with an agreement formalised between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) in 2001 that currently extends to Brisbane 2032.

The Paralympics stem from the Stoke Mandeville Games, a 1948 sports contest conceived by Stoke Mandeville Hospital's Sir Ludwig Guttmann for British World War II veteran patients with spinal cord injuries. It was held on the same day as the London 1948 Olympics Opening Ceremony.

Stoke Mandeville, 60 kilometres north-west of London, is considered to be the birthplace of the Paralympic Games. The hospital's National Spinal Injuries Centre is, to this day, the world's leading specialist spinal unit. From Paris 2024, the Paralympic Flame will be lit in Stoke Mandeville, similar to the Olympic Flame's journey from Olympia, Greece to the host city.

Paris was confirmed as host of the 2024 Olympic Games and 2024 Paralympic Games at the IOC session that took place on September 13, 2017. On the same day Los Angeles was confirmed as host for the 2028 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.



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The Opening Ceremony takes place on August 28. While the Olympic Opening Ceremony will revolve around the River Seine, the Paralympic Opening Ceremony will involve a similar concept, focused on the Champs-Élysées and the Place de la Concorde.

On September 8, the Closing Ceremony will bring to an end 11 days of competition. Like the Olympic Closing Ceremony, it will be held at Stade de France in Saint-Denis.

Approximately 4,400 athletes are expected to compete for 549 gold medals across 22 sports. There are 271 gold medals for men, 235 for women and 43 mixed events.

Approximately 45.5 per cent of athletes are expected to be women, up from 25.5 per cent (988 of 3,871 athletes) at Sydney 2000.

All 22 sports at these Paralympics were part of Tokyo 2020, but Paris 2024 features 10 more medal events.

More than 150 nations are expected to take part, with Kosovo and Tuvalu among those anticipated to make their debut.

Macau and the Faroe Islands are the only two teams that will not also have an Olympic team.

A total of 19 venues will host events, 17 of which will also be used for the Olympics. The Para-Marathon and Para-Cycling road events will be centred on Saint-Denis in the northern suburbs of Paris.

The first gold medal is expected to come in Para-Cycling in the Women's C4-5 500m Time Trial on the afternoon of Day 1 – an event in which Australia may have three entrants – while the last gold medal on Day 11 comes in Para-Powerlifting in the Men's +107kg category.



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Competition Classifications at the Paralympics

With the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games featuring 549 events across 22 sports, there are numerous classifications within each sport to ensure fair competition between all athletes.

Athletes go through the classification process before taking part in a Paralympic competition, during which they are assessed and allocated a sport class by a panel of medical and technical experts in accordance with the degree and nature of their eligible impairments.

Paralympic classification is a functional classification system, in which all athletes who compete in the same category are sure to have similar functional abilities in terms of movement, coordination and balance. This is why athletes with different impairments may be allocated the same sport class and compete against one another.

The classifications are designated by a letter (for example, S for swimming) and a number. The lower the figure, the greater the impairment, though this is not always the case.



Blind Football

Outfield players must be classified **B1** (very low visual acuity and/or no light perception). However, to ensure fair competition, all outfield players must wear eye shades.

The goalkeeper can be fully sighted or partially sighted (**B2 or B3**).

B stands for Blind.

Boccia

Boccia is split into four classes.

BC1 and BC3 athletes may have assistance (*BC1 are typically dependent on a powered wheelchair, BC3 can use a ramp*),

While **BC2 and BC4** athletes compete independently.

BC stands for Boccia.

Goalball

To be eligible, athletes must have less than 10 per cent visual acuity. Each player must wear an opaque mask as well as an eye patch to ensure fair competition. Athletes are divided into three categories (*B = Blind*):

B1: No light perception or inability to recognise a shape.

B2: Visual acuity not exceeding 1/30th after correction or visual field not exceeding 5 degrees.

B3: Visual acuity not exceeding 1/10th after correction or visual field not exceeding 20 degrees.

Para-Archery

Open class (*recurve bows*):

Archers shoot from a standing position at a distance of 70m at a 122cm target made up of 10 concentric circles, scoring from 10 points down to 1 point from the centre outwards.

Open class (*compound bows, for archers with little strength in the arms*):

Archers shoot from a sitting position at a distance of 50m at an 80cm five-ring target made up of the 10-6 point bands.

W1 (*compound bow limited to 45 pounds/20.41 kilos in draw weight and without magnifying sights*):

Quadriplegic archers with an impairment in the lower limbs, trunk and one arm shoot from 50m at a 10-band 80cm target.



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Para-Athletics

Athlete classification is defined by a letter and a number:
T for track and jump events and **F** for field events.

Figures represent impairments as follows:

11-13: Vision impairment

20: Intellectual impairment

31-38: Coordination impairments

40-47: Short stature, upper limb competing with prosthesis or equivalent,
lower limb competing with prosthesis or equivalent

T51-54: Wheelchair races

F51-58: Seated throws

61-64: Lower limb competing with prosthesis

Para-Badminton

WH1 and WH2 stands for Wheelchair

WH1: Athletes using a wheelchair with severely impaired leg and trunk function.

WH2: Athletes using a wheelchair with minor impairments to leg and trunk function.

SL3 and SL4 stands for Standing/Lower

SL3: Athletes competing standing with a lower limb impairment and balance problems walking or running.

SL4: Athletes competing standing with less severe impairment than in SL3. Athletes demonstrate lower limb impairment and minor balance problems walking or running.

SU5 stands for Standing/Upper

SU5: Athletes in this class have impairment of the upper limbs. The impairment could be on the playing or non-playing hand.

SH6 stands for Standing/Short stature

SH6: Short stature.



Para-Canoe

KL corresponds to a kayak and double paddle and VL corresponds to a pirogue (*Va'a*) and single paddle.

KL1-VL1: Athletes with no or extremely limited trunk function and no function in the legs.

KL2-VL2: Athletes with partial leg and trunk function, able to sit up straight in the kayak but may require a high-backed seat.

KL3-VL3: Athletes with full function of their trunk and partial function in the legs, able to sit with the trunk bent forwards in the kayak and use at least one leg.

Para-Cycling

C stands for cycling, **H** for handbike, **T** for tricycle and **B** for blind (*for tandems*).

Solo: Five categories, from C1 to C5, practised by athletes competing with prosthesis or limited movement of upper or lower limbs.

Handcycling: Five categories, from H1 to H5, practised by athletes with spinal cord injuries or competing with prosthesis in one or both lower limbs.

Tricycle: T1 and T2, for athletes with locomotor dysfunction and balance issues (*such as cerebral palsy or hemiplegia*).

Tandem: VI, for athletes who are blind or vision impaired who compete with a sighted pilot.

Para-Equestrian

Grade I: Athletes have severe impairments affecting all limbs and the trunk.

Grade II: Athletes have either a severe impairment of the trunk and minimal impairment of the arms or moderate impairment of the trunk, arms, and legs.

Grade III: Athletes have severe impairments in both legs with minimal or no impairment of the trunk or moderate impairment of the arms and legs and trunk.

Grade IV: Athletes have a severe impairment or deficiency of both arms or a moderate impairment of all four limbs or short stature.

Grade V: Athletes have vision impairment, complete blindness, a mildly impaired range of movement or muscle strength, or a deficiency of one limb or mild deficiency of two limbs.



Para-Judo

The Games program concerns visually impaired athletes, divided into two categories:

- B1:** complete blindness
- B2-B3:** vision impairment

The judokas are then divided into weight classes.

Para-Powerlifting

All athletes with a functional limitation of the lower limbs or hips that prevents them from practising standing weightlifting compete together in different bodyweight categories.

These functional limitations include:

- Orthopaedic disability
- Cerebral palsy
- Neurological disability
- Paraplegia and tetraplegia
- Progressive neurological disability

There are **20 weight categories**: 10 each for men and women.

Para-Rowing

Athletes are divided into three categories (*PR is the abbreviation for Para-rowing*):

- PR1:** Single Sculls (*for individual men and women*) – reserved for rowers without trunk or leg function using two oars.
- PR2:** Double Sculls (*mixed*) – a team of two rowers (male and female) each of whom has two oars. Reserved for rowers who can only use their upper body to row and their seat is fixed so their legs remain straight.
- PR3:** Coxed Four (*mixed*) – a team of four rowers (*two women and two men*) and a coxswain, with each rower using one oar. Category for people using their arms, trunk, and legs, with a maximum of two visually impaired people in the boat.



Para-Swimming

The letters correspond to the swimming style:

S (*Swimming*): butterfly, backstroke, crawl

SB (*Swimming breaststroke*): breaststroke

SM (*Swimming Multi*): multi-swimming events

S1-S10 / SB1-SB9 / SM1-SM10: Physical Impairment.

The greater the number, the less severe the athlete's limitation(s).

Athletes with different impairments may compete against one another as sport classes are allocated based on the impact the impairment has on swimming, rather than on the impairment itself.

S / SB / SM11-13: Vision Impairment

11: Athletes with extremely low visual acuity and/or no light perception. Swimmers must wear blackened goggles during races to ensure fair competition.

12: Athletes with a higher visual acuity than athletes competing in the S/SB11 sport class and/or a visual field of less than 10 degrees.

13: Athletes with the least severe vision impairment eligible for Paralympic sport. They have the highest visual acuity and/or a visual field of less than 40 degrees.

S / SB / SM14: Intellectual Impairment

Swimmers with an intellectual impairment, which typically leads to athletes having difficulties with pattern recognition, sequencing, and memory, or having a slower reaction time which impacts sport performance in general.

Para-Table Tennis

There are 11 classes in total (*five sitting, six standing*):

TT1-5 are for wheelchair athletes

TT6-10 are for standing athletes

TT11 is for athletes with intellectual impairments.

Table tennis players who have difficulty gripping the racquet may use orthotics to attach it to the hand, or use strapping to maintain their grip of the handle only.



Para-Taekwondo

Athletes are divided into two categories (*K for Kyorugi, the Korean word for sparring*):

K43 Includes athletes with bilateral amputation below the elbow, or equivalent loss of function in both upper limbs.

K44 Includes athletes with unilateral arm amputation (*or equivalent loss of function*), or loss of toes which impact the ability to lift the heel properly.

Para athletes in the K43 and K44 categories compete together in different bodyweight categories.

Para-Triathlon

The classification is based on the letters PT for Para triathlon plus the disability category:

WC for Wheelchair

S for Standing

VI for Visual impairment

Triathlon has nine classes:

PTWC 1-2: Athletes with limitations in lower and upper limbs, using a handcycle for the cycling segment and a racing chair for the running segment. PTWC1 and PTWC2 compete in combined events, with an interval start system per sport class to ensure a level playing field.

PTS 2-5: Athletes with limitations in lower and/or upper limbs who do not require a handcycle for the cycling segment or a racing chair for the running segment. Assistive devices such as prosthetic legs and/or bike modifications are allowed.

PTVI 1-3: Athletes with vision impairment. Interval starts ensure a level playing field between partially sighted triathletes and blind triathletes competing with a guide.

Para-Shooting

SH stands for Shooting.

SH1: Athletes able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). SH1 athletes may use a pistol or a rifle.

SH2: Athletes are unable to hold their rifle independently, so use a stand, but can aim by themselves and control the rifle when they shoot. Certain athletes may have an assistant to reload their gun.



PARIS 2024



Sitting Volleyball

Sitting volleyball has two classes:

VS1 and VS2 (*athletes with a less severe impairment*). Sitting volleyball players demonstrate a physical impairment in one or several upper or lower limbs. Athletes must be able to move around easily and safely in a seated position.

Only two VS2 athletes can be on a team's roster.

Wheelchair Basketball

Wheelchair basketball players are classified on a points system according to the degree of their impairment(s).

Points range from 1 to 4.5, with 1 representing the most severe impairment. At the Paralympic Games, the sum of points for the five players on court for each team must not exceed 14.

Wheelchair Fencing

Wheelchair fencing is split into two Paralympic categories:

Category A: Fencers must have a disability affecting at least one lower limb.

Category B: Fencers have a disability that prevents voluntary movement of the trunk.

Wheelchair Rugby

Every player is assigned a **points value based on their functional ability**, from 0.5 for a player with the least physical function through to 3.5 for the most physical function.

The total on-court value for each team of four cannot exceed 8 points (*8.5 points if a female athlete is on the court*).

Players with the most limited mobility (*between 0.5 and 1.5 points*) due to their impairment (*quadriplegia or equivalent*) occupy a primarily defensive position in the game.

Wheelchair Tennis

Athletes are divided into two categories:

Open: Athletes with a lower limb impairment(s).

Quad: Athletes with both upper and lower limb impairments.





PARALYMPIC HOSTS

Ellie Cole, James Bracey, Kurt Fearnley and Todd Woodbridge

5.00pm - 10.30pm AEST

Ellie Cole AM – Paralympic Gold Medallist and Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Ellie Cole is Australia's most decorated female Paralympic athlete. She has a jaw-dropping 17 medals from four Paralympic Games (Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020). At London 2012, she landed four gold medals and a world record as part of the 4x100m freestyle relay team. At the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, she medalled in all six of her events, including gold in the 100m backstroke. She also has 10 World Championships and four Commonwealth Games medals.

Ellie has never let challenges get in her way. After her right leg was amputated above the knee when she was just three, her swimming instructors said it could take her up to a year to swim in a straight line. It took two weeks. She had double shoulder surgery in 2013, but by the 2015 World Para Swimming Championships was back in breathtaking form, winning five medals, including two gold, and breaking the 100m world backstroke record twice in one day.

It's little wonder she received Swimming Australia's Golden Moment in 2015 after being awarded an OAM in 2014. She was the flag-bearer for Australia at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Closing Ceremony and in 2022 won the Most Outstanding Woman in Sport Award at the Australian Women in Sport Awards. Ellie is a mentor for young swimmers and an advocate for disability, inclusion, equality and women's rights, and has recently become a first-time mother.





James Bracey – Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

For James Bracey, too much sport is barely enough. He has been master of the round since his first days in journalism almost two decades ago and now hosts the 9Network's NRL coverage, Sports Sunday, 100% Footy, and is 9News Sydney's weekday sports presenter. He is an authoritative anchor for some of Australia's highest rating sport broadcasts.

The Olympics are familiar territory for Bracey. As a sport reporter with Sky News, he covered three Summer Olympic Games (*Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016*) and two Winter Olympic Games (*Vancouver 2010, Sochi 2014*). His experience includes reporting on the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi and the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, and hosting the 9Network's State of Origin series and NRL Grand Final coverage.

He has hosted the Presidents Cup golf tournament and co-hosts Nine's Australian Open tennis coverage. James is an ambassador for JDRF, which supports research into Type 1 diabetes, and the Gidget Foundation, which supports the emotional wellbeing of expectant and new parents.



PARIS 2024





Kurt Fearnley – Paralympic Gold Medallist and Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Wheelchair racer Kurt Fearnley lives by a mantra that has taken him to extraordinary heights: “I am someone who will never stop. Someone who will never give up. Ever.”

The five-time Paralympian (*Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016*) has three gold medals in his impressive 13-medal Paralympic haul. There’s more: seven World Championships, two Commonwealth Games golds, and wins in more than 40 marathons, including New York, Chicago and London. That is topped with his successful mission to crawl the gruelling Kokoda Track in 2009 to raise awareness of men’s mental health. When Kurt says he’ll never give up, he means it.

In 2018, he received The Don Award from the Sport Australia Hall of Fame as the Australian sports person most likely to inspire the nation. The same year he was recognised as an Officer of the Order of Australia and received an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University for his contribution to sport and disability advocacy. In 2019, he was named NSW Australian of the Year. Kurt was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2023.

Kurt is a passionate disability advocate and author who works closely with a range of organisations devoted to making a difference to the lives of those living with disability or disadvantage.





Todd Woodbridge – Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

As Nine’s lead commentator for the Australian Open, Todd Woodbridge is a former world No.1 doubles player and Olympic gold medallist. Winning 83 doubles titles during his elite career, he won many of those with compatriot Mark Woodforde, including Olympic gold in Atlanta in 1996.

The Woodies formed one of the most successful doubles combinations in history with 11 Grand Slam titles. In total he won 22 Grand Slam titles, and in 2010 was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. He has also been immortalised in bronze at Melbourne Park.





Sylvia Jeffreys and Dylan Alcott

10.30pm - 2.30am AEST

Sylvia Jeffreys – Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Sylvia Jeffreys is the co-host of TODAY Extra alongside David Campbell. As a former A Current Affair journalist, 9 News Watch host on Facebook and former News Presenter for TODAY, she has established herself as one of the most versatile members of the 9Network's top-rating news and current affairs team.

Jeffreys launched her television career with Nine in Brisbane. Her reports, including coverage of the devastating 2010-11 Queensland floods which claimed 38 lives, and the destructive tropical Cyclone Yasi in early 2011, won high praise from the network.

She joined A Current Affair in 2019, covering a wide range of stories, and worked full-time on the show as well as filling in as co-host of TODAY Extra in November 2019. She is now the full-time co-host of TODAY Extra.





Dylan Alcott AO – Paralympic Gold Medallist and Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Australian of the Year, Australian Paralympian of the Year, and Graham Kennedy Award winner for Most Popular New Talent. Accolades follow Paralympic champion Dylan Alcott and little wonder: he has achieved one of the rarest feats in tennis, the Golden Slam in 2021, which he added to his doubles Grand Slam in 2019.

He is also one of the elite few to win Olympic/Paralympic gold in two sports: wheelchair basketball (Beijing 2008) and tennis (Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020). Dylan was awarded the prestigious Newcombe Medal in 2016 and 2021. He retired in 2022 after winning 23 Grand Slam titles.

His broadcasting career has been equally notable. In 2019, he became the first Paralympian to win a Silver Logie for Most Popular New Talent for his work on ABC's The Set. He is a commentator for the 9Network's coverage of the Australian Open and has been a host on weekend radio.

His profile has grown alongside his eponymous foundation, which helps young Australians with disabilities gain confidence, fulfil their potential and achieve their dreams. He was named Australian of the Year in 2022, the first person with a disability to receive that honour. He is also the author of Able: Gold Medals, Grand Slams and Smashing Glass Ceilings.





Roz Kelly and Blake Cochrane

2.30am - 6.00am AEST

Roz Kelly – Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

Roz Kelly is a sports presenter for 9News Sydney's flagship 6pm bulletin on Friday and Saturday evenings, who also hosts Nine's weekly Wide World of Sports program. Kelly's passion for sport was ignited by growing up in mining towns in Outback Australia, where she participated in every sport she could get involved in, including show jumping, touch football and triathlon.

She did a bachelor of journalism degree and gained experience in many forms of the media, contributing feature stories to the Sunshine Coast Daily, lifestyle magazines and websites, and working as a reporter for radio station Sea FM. She also spent her holidays as a sports photo-journalist for a regional newspaper, The Cobar Weekly.

In 2010, she joined the 9Network as a sports presenter and reporter. She is now a host of the Australian Open and was at the helm of Nine's coverage of the 2023 Ashes series. She has covered Cadel Evans' 2011 Tour de France win from Paris, the 2010-11 Ashes series in Australia, filed stories for the State of Origin series, been to major events on the world surfing tour, and participated in Nine's racing coverage. In 2011, she reported from New Zealand on the Rugby World Cup.

In 2022, Kelly stepped into her role on the 9News Sydney desk, presenting weekend rounds of sport on Friday and Saturday nights alongside Georgie Gardner. In addition to hosting Wide World of Sports, she maintains her rugby and tennis commitments with the network.





Blake Cochrane – Paralympic Gold Medallist and Host, Paris 2024 Paralympic Games

With two gold and two silver from three Paralympic Games, two world titles, three minor World Championships medals, and four from the Commonwealth Games, in a career that lasted more than 14 years, Blake is one of the Australian Para-swimming team's most decorated athletes.

He went to four Paralympics, four Commonwealth Games and five world championships, and was a 13-time Australian champion. He made his debut at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008 aged 17 and went on to medal at every international appearance between 2008 and 2022, winning two gold medals at the London 2012 Paralympics.

In 2017, he was one of 11 athletes named to Paralympics Australia's inaugural Athlete Commission. Outside the pool, Blake holds a bachelor's degree in clinical exercise physiology. Since retiring from swimming he now works as the Queensland and Northern Territory manager for the Sport4All program which works with local councils, schools and clubs, creating opportunities for any sport anywhere for anyone.



PARALYMPIC COMMENTARY & EXPERT TEAM

Annabelle Williams

Para-Swimming – Paralympic Gold Medallist

Annabelle Williams is a Paralympic gold medallist, international motivational speaker, diversity and inclusion advocate, TV presenter, lawyer and board director. She is passionate about building belonging in the world's leading workplaces.

Annabelle captained the Australian Paralympic Swim Team and managed to balance her sporting career with a highly successful and demanding corporate career as a lawyer. She competed in two Paralympic Games, broke five world records, and won numerous medals for Australia, including gold at the London 2012 Paralympics.

She has hosted and commentated on numerous swimming championships, the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, as well as the Gold Coast 2018 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Annabelle was a merger and acquisition lawyer at top-tier law firm Allens Linklaters, and in-house counsel for the Australian Olympic Committee. She is a strong advocate for the rights of athletes. At the age of 24, she was awarded the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to sport.

Annabelle is the Founder and CEO of Grit & Gold, a Director of Bond University, and a Member of the World Athletics Disciplinary Tribunal and International Cricket Council Code of Conduct Commission. She was formerly a Board Member of Swimming Australia and Vice-President of the Board of Paralympics Australia. She graduated from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, where she delivered the valedictory address. In a fun fact, Annabelle was briefly Charlize Theron's stunt double in Mad Max 4: Fury Road.



PARIS 2024



Cate Campbell

Para-Swimming – Olympic Gold Medallist and Swimming Expert

Cate Campbell, one of Australia's greatest Olympians, is regarded as our greatest ever relay swimmer. Born in Africa as the first born of five siblings, she moved to Australia in 2001 and took up competitive swimming.

Within six years she was a Youth Olympian, and at the age of 16 she was on her way to the Beijing 2008 Olympics, returning with two bronze medals. At London 2012 she won her first gold medal, in Olympic record time in the 4x100m relay. She backed it up in the same event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, with her sister Bron- te, setting a world record in the process.

In her fourth Olympic Games at Tokyo 2020, Cate was awarded the honour of being the Opening Ceremony Flag Bearer for the Australian Olympic Team, alongside Patty Mills. In the same week she anchored another world record-breaking swim to win her third successive Olympic gold medal in the same event. She then backed that up with another gold medal in the 4x100m medley relay.

Cate is one of only three Australian Opening Ceremony Flag Bearers to claim gold at a Summer Games, and she is Australia's oldest Olympic swimming champion. After missing out on selection for Paris 2024, she retired from competitive swimming with four gold, one silver and one bronze at the Olympics. Her brother's journey with cerebral palsy inspired her to provide swimming commentary at the Paralympic Games.



PARIS 2024



Brenton Speed

*Para-Swimming – Wide World of Sports
Commentator*

Brenton Speed is one of the most versatile sports commentators in Australia. He is the only person to provide television commentary for a national audience on NRL, AFL, A-League, cricket, basketball and tennis.

Speed's versatility has also been highlighted at four Olympic Games. He will add the Paralympics to that list at Paris 2024. He was the lead caller on Nine's coverage of the Paralympic swimming trials in the lead-up to these Games.



Christie Dawes

Para-Athletics – Paralympic Medallist and Nine's Para-Athletics Expert

After competing internationally for three decades, Australian wheelchair racer Christie Dawes has rightfully earned a reputation for being one of the fiercest competitors in the game. Christie became eligible to compete in Paralympic sport after a car accident in 1990, at the age of ten, left her a paraplegic.

She channelled her efforts into becoming a Paralympian, realising her dream in 1996 in Atlanta, the first of seven Paralympic Games appearances in a highly decorated career. Her versatility as a Para-athletics competitor shone through, making her debut in the 100m and 200m at Atlanta 1996, and signing off by competing in the Tokyo Marathon in 2021. However, it was the 800m, 1500m and 5000m where she became a regular and earned her silver medals.

Her journey to become an elite athlete has taught her vital lessons in preparation, self-discipline, resilience and teamwork, which have transferred into all areas of her life. She is a keen advocate for disability inclusion, a lover of travel and modern accessible design via her passion for property development and investment. Christie has been privileged and fortunate to pursue a dual career, successfully combining sport with study and work, as well as raising a family in Newcastle with her husband Andrew, and two young children.



PARIS 2024



Kelly Cartwright

*Para-Athletics – Paralympic Gold Medallist and
Nine's Paralympics Reporter*

Born in Victoria to an English mum and Australian dad, Kelly was a highly active kid, playing every sport possible, with a passion for netball. At 15, after being diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer in her right knee, she was forced to make a decision that would change her life. In 2004, faced with the option of amputation or radical surgery to remove the cancer, Kelly had her right leg amputated.

After three months of rehabilitation she was fitted with a prosthetic leg. Having learnt to walk again, and facing the reality that her netball career was over, she looked for a new direction and found it in running.

With a growing passion for running, Kelly's training intensified in pursuit of her next goal – to be the best above-knee amputee 100m sprinter in the world. Adding to her fast-growing list of achievements, Kelly became the first above-knee amputee woman to climb to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro in 2009. 2012 was by far her biggest year. She rose to the top in the Long Jump, setting a new world record; claimed the gold medal; and ran a personal best in the 100m to claim silver in London.

After receiving the Order of Australia Medal, her drive for accomplishment focused on powerlifting and she set new Australian records at the National Championships, World Championships, and the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

While her trophy cabinet is looking healthy, Kelly's proudest achievement has been the birth of her boys. Kelly has been an ambassador for Make-A-Wish Foundation Australia, Rare Cancers Australia and The START Foundation assisting amputees in reaching their sporting dream.



PARIS 2024



Katrina Webb

Para-Athletics – Three-time Paralympic Gold Medallist

A three-time Paralympian, Katrina Webb is a seven-time medallist, including gold on the track in Atlanta 1996 and Athens 2004.

She has mild cerebral palsy, with weakness in her shorter right leg compared to her left leg. It was discovered when she was two, but she was not told of the diagnosis by her parents, and it was only when she entered the Australian Institute of Sport on a netball scholarship that she uncovered her condition.

Switching sports to athletics, she quickly found her stride as a runner. She won gold in the T34-37 100m and 200m at Atlanta 1996, as well as winning silver in Long Jump in the same category. In front of her home crowd in Sydney 2000, she won silver in the T38 100m and 400m and bronze in the T38 200m. She would win her third gold in Athens 2004, taking the 400m T38, before retiring after the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games where she won silver in the 100m. She was also among the final torch bearers to carry the Paralympic Flame in Sydney, bringing the torch into Stadium Australia before the cauldron was lit by Louise Sauvage.

A physiotherapist and mother of three, Katrina is renowned as a leadership strategist and keynote speaker. In 2006, she represented the International Paralympic Committee before the United Nations in an ambassadorial role she continues to this day. She has been a TEDx presenter and has founded organisations like Silver 2 Gold High Performance Solutions and leadership outfit Newday.

In 2017, Katrina was inducted into the South Australian Sport Hall of Fame.



Tim Matthews

Para-Athletics – Paralympic Gold Medallist

Tim Matthews was born without his left arm, along with a number of other medical issues, in the Victorian country town of Orbost. He spent much of his first two years in the Royal Children’s Hospital.

Despite his disability, from a young age he was an active sportsman participating in tennis, baseball and golf, before undergoing a spinal fusion in 1990 at the age of 16 for scoliosis. It limited the sport he could play for almost three years.

In 1995, while playing in a tennis tournament in Melbourne, it was suggested that he pursue opportunities associated with Paralympic sport, in particular sprinting. Tim went on to compete at the Atlanta Paralympic Games eight months later, before Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004. He has earned three Paralympic gold medals and he carried the Olympic Torch in the lead-up to Sydney 2000.

Tim has coached a number of Paralympic athletes, including two world record holders. He coached his first Paralympic gold medallist in London, Kelly Cartwright, who broke the world record in the amputee Long Jump. Tim studied for a bachelor of arts degree in outdoor education at LaTrobe University before shifting career focus into Paralympic sport.



David Culbert

Para-Athletics – Olympic Finalist and Commentator

David Culbert's passion for sport has taken him from the heights of competition to sports marketing and broadcast roles that have made him one of the best-regarded commentators in the country. A dual Olympic long jumper (Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992 finalist), his trophy cabinet holds two Commonwealth Games medals and three Australian championships.

Culbert has worked on every Summer Olympics and Commonwealth Games since 1998, along with other major events including the Winter Olympics, World Athletics Championships and the Australian Open tennis tournament.

He moved into sports marketing at the end of his competitive career and is now one of Australia's leading sports business strategists. He is a life member of Athletics Australia and was previously an Athletics Australia selector. In 2022, he won the Sport Australia Media Award for Best Broadcaster. He is co-chair of the Australian Olympians Association and co-founder and director of Aussie Aths, a health and fitness program for kids based on athletics.



Jess Fox

Para-Rowing and Para-Canoe – Olympic Gold Medallist

Born in France, Fox moved to Australia with her family at the age of four, where her passion for kayaking was entrenched by her parents.

Jess's mother, Myriam Fox-Jerusalmi, raced for France and won a K1 bronze medal in the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Her father, Richard Fox, raced for Great Britain and was a five-time K1 World Champion. Coached by her mother from the beginning, Jess made her first national junior team in 2009 and went on to win four junior World Champion crowns, eight under-23 world titles and a Youth Olympics gold medal.

At the age of 18, Jess competed in the London 2012 Olympics, winning a silver medal in K1. In 2016, she represented Australia at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, winning a bronze in K1. 2018 was a momentous year for Jess. She claimed two world titles, eight World Cup gold medals, and was the first person to go through an entire paddling World Cup season undefeated in the C1 event. All while managing to complete her bachelor's degree in social science psychology.

At the Tokyo Olympics, her nine-year hunt for gold continued and the nation watched on with bated breath as Jess lined up in the final of the C1 Canoe Slalom. Without incurring a single time penalty, Fox delivered a master class with a technically perfect run and finished three seconds clear to grab a historic C1 gold, in one of Australia's greatest ever Olympic performances.

At the Paris 2024 Olympic Games Fox put on a memorable display, winning two gold medals across the C1 and K1 events. Her superb campaign was made extra special for the Fox family when younger sister Noemie claimed the gold medal in the Women's Kayak Cross event. Their father Richard calling all three of their Paris 2024 gold medal victories live for the 9Network.

She joins Nine's coverage for the Paralympics as an expert commentator for the Para-canoe events, following in the commentary footsteps of her father.



PARIS 2024



John Maclean

Para-Rowing and Para-Canoe – Paralympic Medallist and Para-Rowing/Para-Canoe Expert

During fitness training in 1988, John Maclean was hit from behind by an eight-tonne truck as he rode his bike. He suffered multiple breaks to his pelvis and back, and was left a paraplegic. Despite the grief and the challenges of life in a wheelchair, John set about proving himself in the toughest sporting events the world had to offer.

In 1995, he made history by becoming the first wheelchair athlete to finish the course at the Hawaii Ironman Triathlon, falling outside the able-bodied cut-off times in the bike section. The following year he narrowly missed the cut-off time again, but in 1997 he not only finished within the able-bodied cut-off times, he became the first ever wheelchair category winner. He was subsequently inducted into the Hawaiian Ironman Triathlon Hall of Fame.

Many more extraordinary sporting challenges followed, including becoming the first wheelchair athlete to swim the English Channel in 1998. He completed the gruelling Molokai Ocean challenge in 2005 (World Championships for open water paddling), represented Australia at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and Paralympic Games, and in 2001 sailed in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. In 2006, he took part in the invitation-only extreme endurance event, the Ultraman World Championships.



PARIS 2024



In 2007, John was invited into the sport of rowing. In September 2007, he and his rowing partner claimed a silver medal at the Rowing World Championships, and followed up with gold at the International Regatta in Italy in April 2008.

John, with partner Kathryn Ross, won Rowing silver at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. In 2013, living by the mantra *“How far can you go?”*, he engaged with a radical alternative therapy. After 25 years in a wheelchair, John took his first steps towards achieving his dream to walk again.

Although the wheelchair remains John’s primary mode of movement, this dramatic and extraordinary development is allowing him to walk short distances with the aid of a carbon fibre leg brace. In 2014, he returned to compete in the triathlon he was training for in 1988 when he was hit by the truck. John completed the Nepean Triathlon as a conventional athlete after spending 26 years in a wheelchair. He returned to competitive sport in 2022, after being inspired by watching the 2021 Games in Tokyo. He then qualified to represent Australia at the Paracanoe World Cup in 2022, the fifth time he has represented his country in five different sports, at the age of 55.

Parallel to his sporting career, John has sought to further focus his tremendous energy and determination on helping others. He established a charity in 1998, The John Maclean Foundation, which is now a national-scale organisation providing support and assistance to Australian wheelchair users under the age of 18.



Shane McInnes

Para-Rowing – Para-Rowing Commentator

In a broadcasting career spanning over 16 years, Shane McInnes has cemented himself as a versatile, knowledgeable and accomplished broadcaster across multiple Olympics Games. He covered London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympic Games, bringing listeners on Nine Radio all the colour and excitement.

Listeners to 3AW in Melbourne will be familiar with his weekly commentary on AFL matches, while he also appears as a regular fill-in host on Afternoons and Drive, and makes appearances on Today.

McInnes is a respected voice at Melbourne Park every January at the Australian Open, as well as trackside at the Australian Formula One Grand Prix, commenting and presenting on two of the nation's biggest annual sporting events for Nine Radio. He has reported from other global events including Commonwealth Games (2014, 2018) and multiple Super Bowls.

Earlier this year he was also awarded a prestigious Quill Award for his work on Nine Radio, highlighting his versatility and ability to host and broadcast across major sport and news events.



Ryan Scott

Wheelchair Rugby – Paralympic Gold Medallist and Wheelchair Rugby Expert

Ryan Scott is a wheelchair rugby competitor who, in the course of four Paralympics, won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics and gold medals at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

In 1998, aged 16, he became a quadriplegic after a car crash on a country road. The accident left him paralysed from the chest down, but with some movement in his shoulders, back, biceps and forearms. He moved to Brisbane from Adelaide in 2009 for the warm weather and Queensland's good wheelchair rugby program.

Scott took up wheelchair rugby as part of his rehabilitation and made his debut for the Australian team, the Steelers, in 2001. He was a member of the Steelers who came fifth at the 2004 Athens Paralympics, won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Games in the mixed wheelchair rugby event, and a gold medal at the 2012 London Games in mixed wheelchair rugby. He was a member of the Steelers team that took the silver medal at the 2010 World Championships and the gold medal at the 2014 World Wheelchair Rugby Championships in Denmark.

Scott captained the Australian team that retained its gold medal at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. At the 2018 World Championships in Sydney, he was a member of our silver-winning team. During his career he was co-captain and captain of the Steelers (2012-16) and played for the Suncorp Queensland Cyclones in the Wheelchair Rugby National League. In 2018, after 288 Steelers games, he announced his retirement from international wheelchair rugby.



Sean Maloney

Wheelchair Rugby and Para-Canoe – Commentator

Sean Maloney has parlayed stints as a lock for the Manly rugby club and the NSW Under-19 and 21 squads into his role as Stan Sport's voice of rugby. He has been commentating on rugby for more than a decade, including the World Sevens Series, World U20 Championship, and the holy grail of the sport, the World Cup.

Known for his humour and colourful calls, Maloney also co-hosts the podcast *Between Two Posts* and can also be found surfing on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

During the Paris 2024 Olympic Games he called Rugby Sevens and Kayak Slalom Cross for the 9Network.



Troy Sachs

Wheelchair Basketball

Troy Sachs is one of Australia's most decorated wheelchair basketball players, having been a part of the Australian Rollers team at five Paralympics between Barcelona 1992 and Beijing 2008.

He was a crucial member of the team that won gold in Atlanta 1996 and Beijing 2008, as well as adding a silver in Athens 2004 and representing his country at Sydney 2000. For much of that time, he was considered the best wheelchair basketball player in the world.

Born without a tibia and with a deformed right foot, his right leg was amputated below the knee when he was two and a half. Fitted with a prosthetic leg, his love of sports was evident as a kid when he made able-bodied junior representative teams in soccer, athletics, volleyball and basketball. However, it was in wheelchair basketball, a sport to which he was introduced at 14, that he would prove to be a natural.

His dedication was rewarded within two years when he made his first Paralympic team in Barcelona at the age of 16. Troy was pivotal to the rapid improvement of the Rollers, who went from an eighth placing at Barcelona to take the gold medal in Atlanta four years later. His 42 points in the final against Great Britain remains the highest number of points accrued by an individual in an Olympic or Paralympic basketball final, and he earned the Most Outstanding Individual Performance title from the then-Australian Paralympic Committee.

Becoming co-captain of the Rollers in 1998 and taking the mantle outright in 2002, Sachs was the only member of both the 1996 and 2008 gold medal-winning teams. He is a member of the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame and the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.



PARIS 2024



Mitch Tomlinson

Wheelchair Basketball – Wheelchair Basketball Commentator

Mitch Tomlinson hails from Newcastle and is passionate about action sports. Since his early years he has been immersed in the worlds of BMX, surfing, skateboarding and snowboarding, pursuits that have taken him on a global journey.

As he travelled with his beloved boards, Tomlinson ventured into live-event commentary. This unexpected turn led to invitations to host and provide commentary for snow, surf and skate events in Australia and around the world.

Along with being co-founder of Life Without Andy (Youth Pop Culture Platform), Mitchell has lent his presenting and commentary talents to various skateboarding, surfing and snowboarding events and shows, in addition to his Olympic duties which began in 2014. He has also been a host and presenter for action sports such as XGames, Street League, Vans Park Series, Burton Open, NZ Winter Games, Rush TV, Fuel TV, and more.



Sam Willoughby

Para-Cycling – Dual BMX World Champion

Sam Willoughby is Australia's most famous BMX rider, having won two World Championship gold medals as well as a silver in London 2012 among two Olympics appearances.

An Adelaide native, he was a national champion by the age of 10. He moved to California when he was 16 to chase his BMX dreams and was among the senior ranks within two years, landing his first World Championship gold in Birmingham in 2012, the year he became a household name following his Olympics debut.

Ranked number one in the world for much of his career, he was named the Australian Institute of Sport's Junior Athlete of the Year in 2012. He was inducted into the Australian BMX Hall of Fame in 2019 and the South Australian Sport Hall of Fame in 2022.

Sam has tetraplegia – paralysis that affects arms and legs – following an accident during a routine training warm-up in California weeks after the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. He now coaches his American wife, two-time world champion Alise Willoughby, and also coached Australia's national team in 2022 and 2023.



Felicity Johnson

Para-Cycling – Paralympic Gold Medallist

Felicity Johnson OAM is an Australian Paralympic gold medallist in tandem cycling. Born in Canberra, with a visual impairment, she discovered her passion for cycling at an early age, navigating challenges with unwavering determination and spirit.

She rose to prominence after winning the National Achievement Award for Best Newcomer in 2007 before scoring silver at Beijing 2008 in the Women's 1 km Time Trial B VI 1–3 event with her pilot, Katie Parker. At the 2012 London Paralympics she went one better, winning a gold medal in the Women's 1 km Time Trial B with her pilot, Stephanie Morton.

Felicity joins Nine's Wide World of Sports for their coverage of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Her insight and firsthand experience will provide audiences with a deeper understanding of Para-cycling and the Paralympic movement.

Beyond her athletic achievements, Felicity is an advocate for inclusivity and accessibility in sports. Her advocacy work aims to break down barriers and create opportunities for athletes with disabilities to excel in their chosen fields.

She remains committed to empowering others through her motivational speaking engagements and community initiatives. She is employed as a support worker with Can Do for Kids, an organisation established for children with sensory disabilities. Felicity continues to be a beacon of inspiration, demonstrating that with courage and perseverance, dreams can be realised regardless of challenges.



Scott McGrory

Para-Cycling – Commentator and Olympic Gold Medallist

It's hard to think of a more resilient athlete than cyclist Scott McGrory. This is the world-class madison rider who pushed through the final 50 punishing laps of the 1999 World Championship two-man event alone after a heavy fall by his riding partner Brett Aitken. His gripping ride qualified the pair for the Olympics Games Sydney 2000. Then, just 10 weeks from the Opening Ceremony, Scott's infant son Alexander died. In the face of adversity the pair fought through heartbreak to win gold in one of the most inspiring performances in Olympic history.

Post-Sydney, Scott returned to professional cycling, establishing himself as a relentless competitor on the cutthroat international cycling circuit. He emerged as a specialist in the Six Day event, winning five Six Day races in Europe in 2001 and 15 in total. His achievements include victories in multiple Australian Championships, stage wins in the gruelling Tour Des Pyrenees, Olympic bronze (Seoul 1988) and silver in the 1996 World Championships.

Scott retired from cycling in 2005, turning to a career as a broadcaster, coach and race director. He provided specialist commentary for the Olympic Games in London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2021 and for three Commonwealth Games. He was inducted into the Cycling Hall of Fame in 2019.



Kate Naess

Para-Triathlon

Kate Naess (*nee Doughty*) is a former Paralympic triathlete who debuted at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and went on to build a reputation as one of the best Paratriathletes in the world. During her triathlon career Kate amassed 27 international starts, resulting in 16 wins and 21 podiums, a World Championship bronze, and a fifth placing at the Paralympic Games.

Interestingly, Kate's triathlon journey began in the Para-equestrian arena, including the World Equestrian Games in 2010. While equestrian and triathlon are vastly different, Kate's competitive instinct and motivation to improve remained intact as she transferred to the new discipline.

The devastation following the sudden loss of her mother inspired Kate to make the transition from Para-equestrian to Para-triathlon in 2014. Her resilience shone through once again in 2018 when she returned to the triathlon circuit just six months after her son Henrik was born and won her first World Cup.

Three months out from the Tokyo Paralympics, the postponement of the Games due to COVID meant Kate had to make the hard decision to step away from competing to focus on her family.

Kate is a registered psychologist (*Master of industrial and organisational psychology*) experienced in high performance, leadership, organisational culture, inclusion and wellbeing. Post-racing, she led the high-performance well-being program for Triathlon Aus, and commentates for Paralympic Triathlon, including Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.



Peter Psaltis

Para-Triathlon Commentator

Peter Psaltis has forged a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades, with over two of those spent at Brisbane's 4BC. For many, particularly in Queensland, the man affectionately known as "Salty" is the voice of sport.

Currently at the helm of 4BC's Wide World of Sports show, the esteemed sports broadcaster and seasoned rugby league commentator also lends his voice to Nine's NRL coverage and serves as a tennis commentator for the network.

Beginning his radio journey in 1997, Peter swiftly progressed from a panel operator for the Continuous Call Team to a valued panellist on programs like Peter Dick's Afternoons and Greg Cary's Drive.

Venturing into sports commentary, Peter discovered his calling in football alongside Rod Tiley and Trevor Gillmeister in 2002. The following year saw him join esteemed colleagues, including John McCoy, Wally Lewis, and Brett Kenny, establishing himself as a definitive voice in Brisbane Broncos game broadcasts on 4BC.

Peter has brought his expertise to coverage of numerous major events, including the Olympic and Commonwealth Games.



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