



PARALYMPIC TEAM BELGIUM GUIDE

FROM AUGUST 28 TO
SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

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FOREWORD PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL

On August 28, the opening ceremony on the Champs Elysées and Place de la Concorde will mark the start of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. We are convinced that it will be an extraordinary adventure for the Paralympic Team Belgium and the chance to have the Paralympic Games in our backyard is an opportunity not to be missed.

Belgian Para athletes have worked hard over the last three years for the chance to represent Belgium's colors in Paris. Rest assured that they realize the importance of this responsibility and will do everything in their power to honor their selection.

This edition, following Tokyo 2020, is a special one, as we're going from a closed-door event to one that could hardly be a bigger celebration. An additional motivation for the athletes, who are all very much looking forward to sharing these Games with their loved ones. Of course, we also hope that many fans will come to cheer them on and enjoy the Paralympic experience at the heart of the event. We look forward to welcoming them to the "Lotto Paralympic Belgium House".

We would also like to thank our partners for their enthusiasm and the many visits planned throughout the Games period. We hope that the emotions our visitors will experience will leave them with unforgettable memories of these Games and will positively change their perception on disability forever. We would also like to thank all our stakeholders, disability sports federations and staff members who have helped our athletes to prepare in the best possible conditions. They have been training daily for this event, and we are confident that they will once again make us very proud of them.

We hope that they will be supported by all Belgian sports fans! Together, let's make the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games a memorable event that will mark the history of our movement!



Marc Vergauwen
President



Dominique Gavage
Secretary General

FOREWORD CHEF DE MISSION

Today, Paralympic Team Belgium is, once again, ready to write history for the 17th edition of the summer Paralympic Games of Paris 2024. Paris, the City of Light and its wonderful sport venues will now welcome the amazing performances of our Paralympic athletes.

With a delegation counting 29 athletes and 2 guides, we will proudly represent Belgium on the international stage.

Of course, we are all very aware of the efforts and sacrifices of our athletes to finally claim their official selection in Paralympic Team Belgium. This selection process was far from easy and many athletes, who all live and dream for their sport, demonstrated not only their level of excellence in the last years of international competitions, but also their huge dedication and resilience.

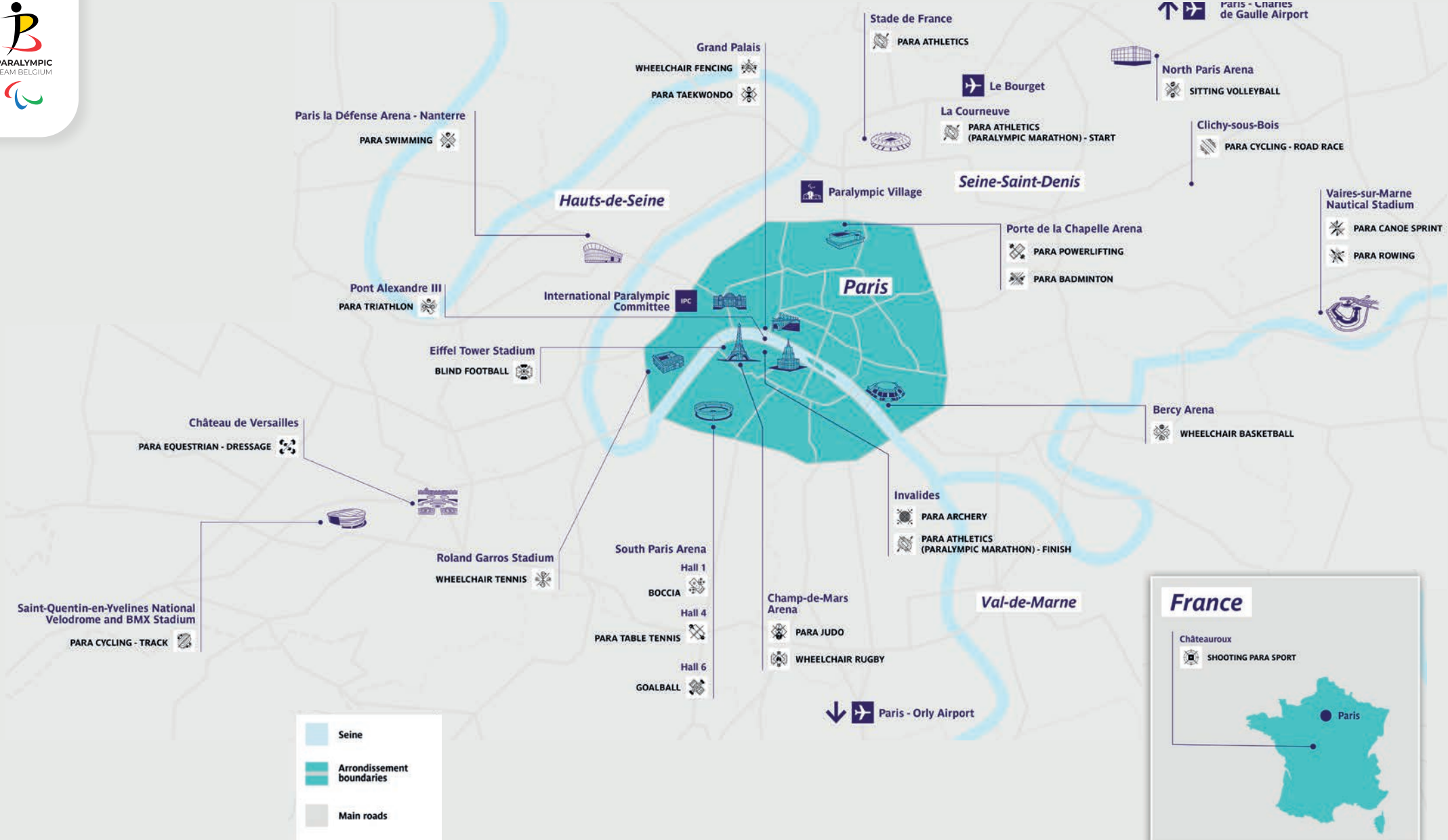
Naturally, our athletes will not come in action alone. They will be constantly advised and encouraged by their coaches and all accompanying staff members who I also wish to thank here for their efforts towards the same goal. It is all of us, looking in the same direction and acting for the same goal, that makes us a real Team.

And expectations are high! In all 11 sports in which our Belgian athletes will compete in Paris, we can hope for potential medals or spots in finals! So let's show the world a proud Belgium with high-quality standards as well as a great medal-appetite!



**Olek
Kazimirowski**
Chef de Mission
Paris 2024

**«It is all of us,
looking in the
same direction
and acting for
the same goal,
that makes us
a real Team»**





ABOUT PARIS 2024



The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, set to take place from **August 28 to September 8, 2024**, will be a landmark event, bringing together approximately **4,400 athletes from over 180 countries**. These athletes will compete in **22 sports**, including Para athletics, Para swimming, Para cycling, and newer sports like Para taekwondo and Para badminton.. In total, there will be **549 medal** events.

The Games will take place in a variety of venues, blending existing facilities with newly constructed sites and iconic temporary locations. Key venues include the **Stade de France** for the closing ceremony and athletics events, **Roland-Garros** for wheelchair tennis, the **Grand Palais** for wheelchair fencing, and the **Château de Versailles** for Para Dressage. **Paris La Défense Arena** will host the swimming events and the **Arena La Chapelle** will see wheelchair basketball action.



Accessibility is a focal point for Paris 2024, with all venues and most of the public transport systems being adapted to accommodate athletes, spectators, and staff with disabilities. The Paralympic Village, located in Saint-Denis, will provide an inclusive and comfortable environment, designed to meet the unique needs of Paralympic athletes.

Beyond the competition, Paris 2024 aims to leave a lasting legacy of increased **social inclusion and awareness of disability issues**. The Games will not only showcase the extraordinary talents of Paralympic athletes but also promote a more inclusive society, reinforcing Paris and France's dedication to the values of the Paralympic movement.



THE BELGIAN DELEGATION

	BOCCIA	1 athlete
	PARA ARCHERY	1 athlete
	PARA ATHLETICS	7 (+2) athletes
	PARA BADMINTON	1 athlete
	PARA CYCLING (TR + RD)	6 athletes
	PARA EQUESTRIAN	4 athletes
	PARA SWIMMING	3 athletes
	PARA TABLE TENNIS	4 athletes
	PARA TRIATHLON	1 athlete
	WHEELCHAIR TENNIS	1 athlete

29 athletes
2 competition partners (marathon)



Pavillon Elysée Té, Paris

28 August > 7 September



BOCCIA



ABOUT BOCCIA

Boccia, derived from the Italian word for 'ball', is a sport designed for athletes with neurological impairments that affect motor function. Introduced to the Paralympics at the New York 1984 Games, bocce has since grown in popularity and **is now played in over 75 countries worldwide.**

This sport is one of precision and strategy, where athletes aim to throw or roll leather balls as close as possible to a white target ball known as the 'jack'. In bocce, a single well-executed shot can change the course of the game, making every move crucial.

VENUE

The **Arena Paris Sud** is a large multi-purpose hall located at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris. It is used for various events, such as concerts, trade shows, and sporting competitions.



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OUR ATHLETE



FRANCIS ROMBOUTS

- Discipline:** Individual competition
- Classification:** BC2
- Date of birth:** 11/2/1984
- Residence:** Tielen
- Club:** Spinnaker
- Disability:** Cerebral palsy
- Participation to PG:** Tokyo 2020: 15th
- Best performances:** European Championships: 1x Silver, 1x Bronze



TEAM SUPPORT



Bas Van Dycke
Coach



Francis Rombouts © Luc dequick



Francis Rombouts © Luc dequick



Piotr Van Montagu © Belgaimage



OUR ATHLETE

PIOTR VAN MONTAGU

- Discipline:** Compound Men Open
- Classification:** ST
- Date of birth:** 16/10/1988
- Residence:** Montignies-sur-Sambre
- Club:** Compagnie des Archers du Château Gerpinnes
- Disability:** Born without arms
- Participation to PG:** Tokyo 2020 : 9th



TEAM SUPPORT



Vincent Vandervelden
Coach



ABOUT PARA ARCHERY

Originally developed as a form of rehabilitation and recreation for individuals with physical disabilities, Para archery has quickly evolved into the highly competitive international sport we see at the Paralympic Games today. **Since its debut in 1960**, Para archery has been a staple of every Paralympic programme.

The goal of the sport is straightforward: to shoot arrows as close to the center of the target as possible, aiming for the gold ring. Athletes compete using two types of bows — the recurve bow, recognized by its outwardly curved limbs, and the compound bow, which incorporates mechanical pulleys, telescopic sights, and release aids to enhance accuracy. **The distance and target size vary depending on the category.**



VENUE

The competition will take place at **Les Invalides**, a historic complex housing a military museum and the tomb of Napoleon Bonaparte.



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Roger Habch © Marcus Hartmann

VENUE

The world's best runners, throwers and jumpers will gather in the **Stade de France**, the country's largest stadium. The venue, located in Saint-Denis, was originally built for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, and since then, has staged some of the world's biggest sporting moments. At the Rugby World Cup last year, 10 matches, including the tournament opener and the final, took place here.



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ABOUT PARA ATHLETICS

At the inaugural Paralympic Games in Rome in 1960, the Para athletics competition featured 31 athletes from 10 countries. Today, it has grown into **the largest sport on the Paralympic program**, offering a diverse range of events that include athletes from **all impairment groups**—physical, visual, and intellectual. These thrilling competitions traditionally take place in the Olympic Stadium.

Three years ago in Tokyo, Paralympic Team Belgium proudly secured **4 medals in Para athletics**.



TEAM SUPPORT



Bjorn Nelen
Team Leader



Johan Baerts
Coach



Corentin Campener
Coach



Pascale Henkinbrant
Coach



Claude Issorat
Coach



Arno Mul
Coach



Mieke Van Thuyne
Coach



Ann Van Dun
Nurse



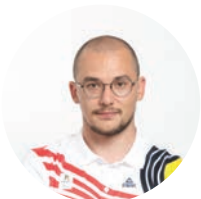
OUR ATHLETES

LÉA BAYEKULA



Disciplines: 100m, 400, 800m
Classification: T54
Date of birth: 26/04/1995
Residence: Bruxelles
Club: Royal White Star AC
Disability: Spina bifida
Participation to PG: First participation
Best performances: European Championships: 1x Bronze

MAXIME CARABIN



Disciplines: 100m, 400m
Classification: T52
Date of birth: 18/09/2000
Residence: Soumagne
Club: RFC Liège
Disability: Tetraplegy
Participation to PG: World Championships: 5x Gold
Best performances:

MARTIN CLOBERT



Discipline: Marathon
Classification: T12
Date of birth: 22/02/1993
Residence: Namur
Club: SMAC – Leg’s Go
Disability: Visually impaired
Participation to PG: First participation



Sébastien Thirion
Guide



Valentin Poncelet
Guide

PETER GENYN



Disciplines: 100m, 200m
Classification: T51
Date of birth: 24/12/1976
Residence: Kalmthout
Club: Wapper
Disability: Tetraplegy

Participation to PG:
 Athens 2004: 6th with wheelchair rugby team
 London 2012: 7th with wheelchair rugby team
 Rio 2016: Gold 100m, Gold 400m
 Tokyo 2020: Gold 100m, Silver 200m
Best performances (athletics):
 World Championships: 6x Gold, 1x Silver, 1x Bronze
 European Championships: 5x Gold, 3x Silver

ROGER HABSCH



Discipline: 100m, 200m
Classification: T51
Date of birth: 05/01/79
Residence: Liège
Club: RFC Liège Athlétisme – Leg’s Go
Disability: Tetraplegy
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: Bronze 100m, Bronze 200m
Best performances: World Championships: 3x Gold, 1x Silver

KIARA MAENE



Discipline: 400m
Classification: T20
Date of birth: 09/09/2005
Residence: Heusden-Zolder
Club: AVT Hasselt
Disability: Intellectual disability
Participation to PG: First participation

SELMA VAN KERM



Discipline: 400m
Classification: T37
Date of birth: 26/9/2006
Residence: Chanly
Club: ROCA
Disability: Hemiplegy
Participation to PG: First participation

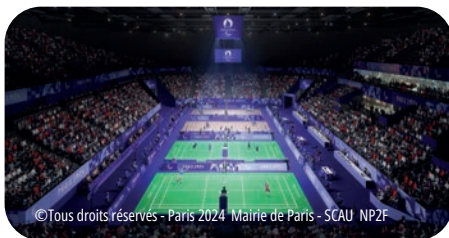


ABOUT PARA BADMINTON

Para badminton is a Paralympic sport where athletes with various physical impairments compete in an adapted version of traditional badminton. Making its Paralympic **debut at the Tokyo 2020 Games**, the sport features categories based on the type and degree of impairment to ensure fair competition. Matches are played on standard badminton courts, with rules similar to those of conventional badminton but modified to accommodate the specific abilities of the athletes, allowing everyone to compete on an even playing field.

VENUE

The **Arena Porte de la Chapelle** is one of the venues created for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Located in the northern part of Paris, it will host badminton and gymnastics events.



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MAN-KEI TO



OUR ATHLETE

Discipline: Singles **Date of birth:** 25/08/1086
Classification: WH1 **Residence:** Ninove
Disability: Spinal cord injury **Club:** BC Herne
Participation to PG: First participation
Best performances:
 World Championships (singles): 1x Bronze
 World Championships (doubles): 1x Silver
 European Championships (singles): 1x Gold, 1x Bronze
 European Championships (doubles): 2x Silver, 1x Bronze



TEAM SUPPORT



Arno Boonants
Coach



Sven De Rom
Coach



Man-Kei To © Lander Vansteene

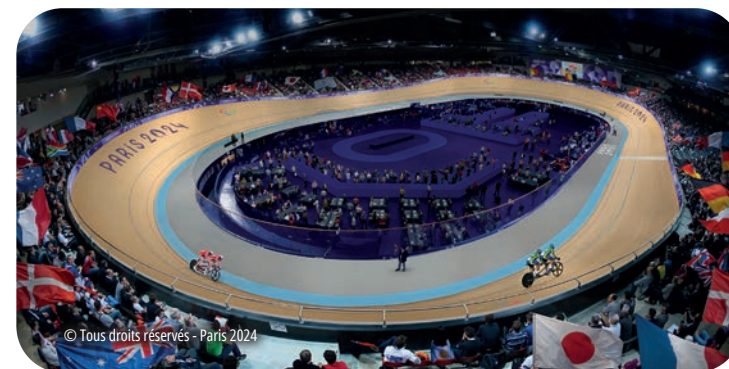
PARA CYCLING



Ewoud Vromant © SWpix.com

VENUE

The **Vélodrome National de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines** is a modern facility near Paris, inaugurated in 2014. It features a 250-meter wooden track and will be a key venue for track cycling events at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The road races will start and finish in **Clichy-sous-Bois**, a commune in the suburbs of Paris. Athletes will cover a certain number of laps based on the type of event and classification.



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ABOUT PARA CYCLING

Para cycling road made its Paralympic debut at the 1984 Games, held in New York and Stoke Mandeville, while Para cycling track was introduced later, at the Atlanta 1996 Games. Depending on the nature of their physical impairments, **athletes compete using a variety of equipment, including bicycles, tricycles, or handbikes**. For visually impaired athletes, a tandem bike is used, with a sighted pilot at the front.

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, Belgium won 5 medals in Para cycling: 2 silver and 3 bronze! Will we do just as well this year? With their determination and skill, these athletes are poised to make a significant impact on the competition.



TEAM SUPPORT



Nicolas Benoit
Coach



Remko Meeusen
Coach



Anneleen Monsieur
Coach



Steven Houthuys
Mechanic



Jean Van Wilder
Mechanic



OUR ATHLETES

TIM CELEN



Disciplines: Road race, time trial
Classification: MT2 (tricycle)
Date of birth: 26/2/1998
Residence: Ham
Club: Cycling Vlaanderen
Disability: Hemiplegy
Participation to PG: Rio 2016: 10th time trial, 6th road race
 Tokyo 2020: Silver road race, Bronze time trial
Best performances: World Championships: 3x Gold, 2x Silver
 European Championships: 1x Gold, 1x Silver

LOUIS CLINCKE



Disciplines: Time trial, road race
Classification: MC4
Date of birth: 28/12/1986
Residence: Lembeke
Club: CT The Bananas
Disability: Foot drop
Participation to PG: First participation
Best performances: World Championships: 2x Silver, 1x Bronze
 European Championships: 1x Silver

MAXIME HORDIES



Disciplines: Road race, time trial
Classification: MH1 (handbike)
Date of birth: 13/03/1996
Residence: Overijse
Club: Rolling Lions
Disability: Tetraplegy
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: Bronze Time Trial, 6th Road Race
Best performances:
 World Championships: 3x Gold, 2x Silver, 3x Bronze
 European Championships: 1x Gold, 1x Silver

MARVIN ODENT



Disciplines: Time trial, road race
Classification: MH3
Date of birth: 16/09/1983
Residence: Hollebeke
Club: The Spirit of Handcycling
Disability: Spinal cord injury
Participation to PG: First participation

JONAS VAN DE STEENE



Disciplines: Road race, time trial, team relay
Classification: MH4 (handbike)
Date of birth: 15/02/1987
Residence: Zaffelaere
Club: Sunrise/Feniks
Disability: Spinal cord injury
Participation to PG:
 Rio 2016: Bronze team relay, 5th road race, 10th time trial
 Tokyo 2020: 4th road race, 9th time trial, 8th mixed team relay
Best performances:
 World Championships : 1x Gold

EWOUT VROMANT



Disciplines: Track: 3k individual pursuit
 Road: road race and time trial
Classification: MC2
Date of birth: 28/12/1986
Residence: Woubrechtgem
Club: Anvasport
Disability: Above knee amputation (right)
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: Silver time trial, 16th road race, DSQ 3km individual pursuit
Best performances: World Championships (Track): 1x Gold, 1x Silver, 2x Bronze
 World Championships (Road): 1x Gold, 1x Silver, 5x Bronze

PARA EQUESTRIAN



Michèle George © Luc Dequick

VENUE

The Paralympic equestrian events for the Paris 2024 Games will take place in the gardens of the **Château de Versailles**, a historic and iconic location. Built in the 17th century under Louis XIV, Versailles is renowned for its expansive French gardens and opulent architecture, having been the center of power in France.



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PARA EQUESTRIAN

Considered the most artistic of equestrian sports and serving as the foundation for all other disciplines, **Para equestrian tests the ability of the athlete and horse to perform set routines**, with the exception of the Freestyle to Music. Achieving this level of unity and competing at the Paralympic level requires years of practice, skill, and trust.

Para equestrian first appeared on the Paralympic program at the 1984 Games. It is a gender-equal sport with both male and female athletes participating, regardless of any physical or vision impairments.

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, we won 4 medals: two bronze and two spectacular gold medals. We hope to do at least as well this year!



TEAM SUPPORT



Jeroen Van Lent
Chef d'équipe



Jeroen Declercq
Veterinary



Wendy Laeremans
Team leader



Domien Michiels
Personnal coach



Samuel De Pauw
Groom



Antoine Guillaume
Groom



Jeffrey Teunkens
Groom



Camille Vangheluwe
Groom



OUR ATHLETES

MANON CLAEYS



Disciplines: Team test, individual test, freestyle
Classification: Grade IV
Date of birth: 03/01/1986
Horse: Katharina Sollenburg
Residence: Maldegem
Club: Quadrille
Disability: Hemiplegy
Participation to PG:
 Tokyo 2020: Bronze Individual Test, Bronze Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team (horse: San Dior 2)
Best performances:
 European Championships: 2x Silver, 3x Bronze

MICHÈLE GEORGE



Disciplines: Team test, individual test, freestyle
Classification: Grade V
Date of birth: 02/01/1974
Horse: Best of 8
Residence: Waregem
Club: Quadrille
Disability: Peripheral nerve injury
Participation to PG:
 London 2012: Gold Individual Test, Gold Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team (horse: Rainman)
 Rio 2016: Gold Individual test, Silver Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team (horse: Rainman)
 Tokyo 2020: Gold Individual Test, Gold Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team
Best performances:
 World Championships: 4x Gold, 1x Silver
 European Championships: 2x Gold, 1x Silver, 2x Bronze

BARBARA MINNECI



Disciplines: Team test, individual test, freestyle
Classification: Grade III
Date of birth: 12/06/1969
Horse: Stuart
Residence: Strombeek-Bever
Club: Quadrille
Disability: Monoplegy

Participation to PG:

London 2012: 12th Individual Test, 5th with the Team (horse: Barilla)
 Rio 2016: 8th Individual Test, 8th Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team (horse: Barilla)
 Tokyo 2020: 6th Individual Test, 4th Freestyle Test, 5th with the Team

Best performances: European Championships : 2x Bronze

KEVIN VAN HAM



Disciplines: Individual test, freestyle
Classification: Grade V
Date of birth: 22/07/1989
Horse: Eros Van Ons Heem
Residence: Tielt-Winge
Club: Quadrille
Disability: Underdeveloped left arm
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: 7th Individual Test, 8th Freestyle Test



Tatyana Lebrun © Belga Image



ABOUT PARA SWIMMING

At the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, swimmers will compete in a range of events, including freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke, and medley. Para swimming is the second most popular sport in terms of athlete participation, following Para athletics.

The diverse swimming styles exemplify the Paralympic motto, «Spirit in Motion,» showcasing the determination and resilience of every Paralympian. Swimming has been a part of the Paralympic program since the Rome 1960 Games and continues to be one of the most cherished sports. **Today, athletes with physical, visual, and intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to qualify for the Paralympic Games.**



TEAM SUPPORT



Philippe Midrez
Coach



Hélène Parmentier
Coach

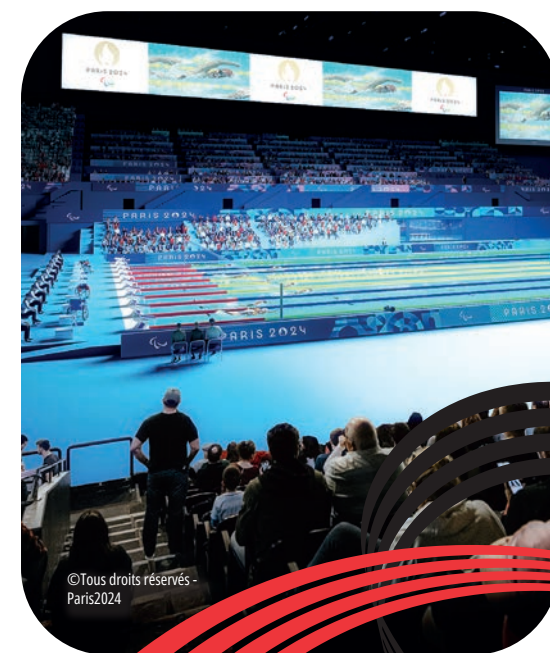


Gregory Planckaert
Coach



VENUE

Paris La Défense Arena, located in Nanterre, has been transformed into a temporary swimming pool for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This large complex, originally designed for sports and cultural events, will provide modern infrastructure for swimming events, offering an exceptional experience with its flexibility and state-of-the-art facilities.



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OUR ATHLETES

SAM DE VISSER



Discipline: 400m freestyle
Classification: S9
Date of birth: 26/08/2023
Residence: Lommel
Club: ZGeel
Disability: Below knee amputation of the right leg
Participation to PG: First participation
Best performances: European Championships: 1x Bronze

TATYANA LEBRUN



Disciplines: 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, 200m individual medley
Classification: S10 - SB9 - SM10
Date of birth: 09/12/2004
Residence: Stavelot
Club: SSSV (Saint-Vith)
Disability: Larsen syndrom
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: 11th 100m breaststroke
Best performances: World Championships: 1x Bronze
 European Championships: 1x Silver, 1x Bronze

AYMERIC PARMONTIER



Discipline: 100m breaststroke
Classification: S14 - SB14 - SM14
Date of birth: 18/01/1993
Residence: Limal
Club: Boust - SPH Fleurus
Disability: Intellectual disability
Participation to PG: Tokyo 2020: 10th 100m breaststroke
Best performances: World Championships: 1x Bronze

OUR GOLD PARTNERS





Laurens Devos © BELGAIMAGE

ABOUT PARA TABLE TENNIS

Table tennis is a globally popular sport and has been part of the Paralympic program since the first Games in Rome in 1960, featuring wheelchair athletes. Events for standing players were introduced later, at the Toronto 1976 Games. In contrast, table tennis was only **added to the Olympic program at Seoul 1988**, making the Paralympic version the sport with a longer history in the Games.

The sport is inclusive, accommodating athletes with a wide range of impairments. These are categorized into physical and intellectual impairments, with the physical category further divided into wheelchair and standing groups. Matches are played in a best-of-five sets format, with each set played to 11 points.

Paralympic Team Belgium won **a gold and a bronze medal in Tokyo**.



TEAM SUPPORT



Robin Devos
Coach



Nico Vergeylen
Coach



Michel Verhaverbeke
Coach



Dongying Zhang
Coach



Vadym Sydorenko
Accompanist

VENUE

The Arena Paris Sud is a large multi-purpose hall located at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris. It is used for various events, such as concerts, trade shows, and sporting competitions.



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OUR ATHLETES

BEN ASHOK DESPINEUX



Discipline: Singles
Classification: T7
Date of birth: 21/06/1986
Residence: Eupen
Club: Sint Niklase Tafeltennisclub
Disability: Phocomelia
Participation to PG:
 London 2012: team knock-out quarter final, singles knock-out group phase
Best performances:
 World Championships (team): 2x Bronze
 European Championships (team): 2x Gold, 1x Bronze

LAURENS DEVOS



Disciplines: Singles, doubles
Classification: TT9
Date of birth: 15/8/2000
Residence: Malle
Club: TTC Indeland Jülich/TTC Zoersel
Disability: Hemiplegy
Participation to PG: Rio 2016: Gold singles
 Tokyo 2020: Gold singles
Best performances:
 World Championships (singles): 2x Gold
 World Championships (team): 1x bronze
 European Championships (singles): 4x Gold
 European Championships (team): 2x Gold, 1x Bronze

MARC LEDOUX



Disciplines: Singles, doubles
Classification: TT8
Date of birth: 04/03/1986
Residence: Strépy-Bracquegnies
Club: ELSH La Louvière
Disability: Hemiplegy
Participation to PG: Athens 2004: Gold team, Silver singles
 Beijing 2008: 1/4 final team
 London 2012: 1/4 final team
 Rio 2016: 1/8 final team

Best performances:
 World Championships (singles): 1x Bronze
 World Championships (team): 2x Silver, 1x Bronze
 European Championships (singles): 1x Bronze
 European Championships (team): 2x Gold, 3x Silver, 2x Bronze

FLORIAN VAN ACKER



Discipline: Singles
Classification: TT11
Date of birth: 28/02/1997
Residence: Langemark
Club: P.W. Diest
Disability: Intellectual disability
Participation to PG: Rio 2016: Gold singles
 Tokyo 2020: Bronze singles

Best performances:
 World Championships: 1x Gold, 1x Bronze
 European Championships: 3x Gold, 1x Bronze



ABOUT PARA TRIATHLON

Para triathlon is a relatively new discipline in the world of Paralympic sports. It made its debut at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, although it has been recognized by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) since 2010. **The sport combines three events: swimming, cycling, and running**, adapted for athletes with various physical, visual, or intellectual disabilities. Each discipline in Para triathlon can be modified to suit the athletes' abilities: bikes may include handbikes or tandems for visually impaired athletes, and running can be done with prosthetics or in a wheelchair.

VENUE

The **Pont Alexandre III**, inaugurated in 1900, is an iconic bridge in Paris known for its elegant architecture and opulent gilded bronze decorations. It connects the Invalides to the Champs-Élysées



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WIM DE PAEPE



OUR ATHLETE

Classification: PTS2
Date of birth: 03/01/1985
Residence: Carnières
Club: 3T - Triathlon Tenacity Team - CABW

Disability:
Participation to PG:
Best performances:

Above knee amputation of the right leg
Athens 2004: 6th 400m Freestyle (Para swimming)
World Championships: 2x Bronze
European Championships: 1x Bronze



TEAM SUPPORT



Maxime Swertvaegher
Coach



Darleen Pollet
Triathlon Handler





ABOUT WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Wheelchair tennis has come a long way since its modest start in the 1970s, growing rapidly thanks to its accessibility—it can be played on any standard court with no need for specialized equipment. The game follows the standard rules of tennis with one key modification: **the ball can bounce twice**, with only the first bounce needing to land within the court's boundaries. Matches are played in a best-of-three set format.

Wheelchair tennis made its Paralympic debut as a full medal event at the 1992 Barcelona Games and has been a staple at every Paralympic Games since. The sport is **fully integrated into all four Grand Slam tournaments**, and the ITF Wheelchair Tennis Tour, which started in 1992, now features over 150 tournaments worldwide.

JOACHIM GÉRARD



OUR ATHLETE



Discipline: Singles
Classification: Open
Date of birth: 15/10/1988
Participation to PG:
 Beijing 2008: 1/8 final singles
 London 2012: 1/4 final singles - 1/8 final doubles
 Rio 2016: Bronze singles - 1/8 final doubles
 Tokyo 2020: 3rd round singles - 1/4 final doubles
Best performances:
 Grand Slam Titles: 2 (men's singles), 4 (men's doubles)
 Masters: 4 (men's singles), 1 (men's doubles)
 World Team Cup: 1x Bronze

Residence: Erpent
Club: Belgian Open
Disability: Polio



TEAM SUPPORT



Damien Martinquet
 Coach

VENUE



Roland-Garros is a legendary tennis stadium in Paris, best known for hosting the French Open, one of the four prestigious Grand Slam tournaments. Named after the French aviator Roland Garros, the venue has become iconic for its clay courts and the intense matches they host.





BELGIUM AND THE SUMMER GAMES

YEAR	CITY	COUNTRIES	PARTICIPANTS	BELGIAN ATHLETES				TOTAL MEDALS
1960	Rome	23	400	18	1	1	1	3
1964	Tokyo	22	390	2	1	0	1	2
1968	Tel Aviv	29	750	29	0	3	3	6
1972	Heidelberg	44	1000	23	1	1	2	4
1976	Toronto	42	1600	48	8	6	9	23
1980	Arnhem	42	2000	77	13	13	18	44
1984	Stoke Mand NY	45	2900	51	22	22	12	56
1988	Seoel	62	3000	56	16	17	9	42
1992	Barcelona	90	3300	70	5	5	7	17
1996	Atlanta	120	3500	37	8	10	7	25
2000	Sydney	135	4000	30	1	4	4	9
2004	Athens	136	3800	25	3	2	2	7
2008	Beijing	150	4000	21	0	0	1	1
2012	London	165	4200	40	3	1	3	7
2016	Rio	176	4000	29	5	3	3	11
2020	Tokyo	162	4400	31	4	3	8	15

BELGIAN TECHNICAL OFFICIALS IN PARIS

SPORT	OFFICAL
Para athletics	Patrick Van Caelenberghe
Para athletics	Marnix De Mangelaere
Para athletics	Didier Foulon
Boccia	Ronny Van Assche
Boccia	Edwig Lamberechts
Para Equestrian	Freddy Leyman
Para Equestrian	Bart Poels
Blind Football	Tom De Bruyne
Para judo	Heather Loontjens
Para triathlon	Patrick Hendrickx
Wheelchair Tennis	Laura Baccaro

...THE FULL SCHEDULE OF PARALYMPIC TEAM BELGIUM FOR PARIS 2024 ON OUR WEBSITE ...





NPC REPRESENTATIVES



Marc Vergauwen
President



Dominique Gavage
Secretary General



Pascal Mertens
Vice President BPC



Brigitte Frankard
Board Member BPC



Ellen Van Camp
Treasurer



Joeri Verellen
Board Member BPC

TEAM DE MISSION



Olek Kazimirowski
Chef de Mission



Guillaume Gobert
Paralympic Attaché



Sabrina Rys
Sports Manager



Sofie Meneve
Sports Manager



H el ene Masson
Press Attach e



Sophie Tassenoy
Games Office Manager

LEAGUES REPRESENTATIVES



Anne d'Ieteren
President Ligue
Handisport Francophone



Stef Dehantschutter
President Ligue
Vlaanderen



Mailis Lechien
Director Ligue
Handisport Francophone



Steven Van Beylen
Director G-sport
Vlaanderen

(PARA)MEDICAL TEAM



Sophie Lambrecht
Chief Team Physician



Fabian Gabellini
Chief Team Physio



Inge Bru
Team Physician



Els Snauwaert
Welfare Officer



Simon Calande
Welfare Officer



Julien Liens
Physio



Benjamin Allaerts
Physio



Lander Vansteene
Physio



Nele Smits
Physio



Maxime Barbarotto
Physio



Delphine De Prest
Physio



Quentin Cr evocoeur
Physio



Pauline Gapenne
Nurse



Ann Van Dun
Nurse

COMMUNICATION & HOSPITALITY TEAM



Jeroen Bauters
Support Media & Com



Christophe Jardon
Editorial Manager



Lothar Desmet
Social Media Manager



Timo Hereman
House Coordinator



Greg Segers
Hospitality & House Support



Lauriane Figiela
Hospitality Support



Max Loriaux
Hospitality Support



Sander Vanderdriessche
Hospitality Support

PARTNERS



PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPLIERS & PROJECT PARTNERS



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



BELGIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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