



## PRESS RELEASE: 2024 PARA-STANDING TENNIS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following two successful editions of the Italian Open, Sportdipiù will organize the **Para-Standing Tennis World Championships** with the support of the **International Tennis Federation**. The event will take place from **20 to 23 June 2024** at the **Monviso Sporting Club** in Turin, Italy.

The International Para-Standing Tennis Association (IPSTA) is proud to have presented an integration plan to the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for consideration at the June 2024 board meetings. This plan would bring parts of PST under ITF governance, and would represent a huge step forward in PST's development.

IPSTA believes Para-Standing Tennis (PST) would be a vital addition to Paralympic tennis, which currently only represents athletes who use a wheelchair. PST players include hundreds of male and female athletes from around the world, with physical disabilities including cerebral palsy, amputations, congenital malformations, and short stature. Our sport is represented by the IPSTA, chaired by **Ivan Corretja** (brother of Alex, former ATP number 2 in the world, winner of the ATP Finals in 1998 and twice finalist at Roland Garros). Our ultimate goal is representation for PST at the Paralympic Games and Grand Slams, following the trail blazed by wheelchair tennis, table tennis, and badminton.

### PARTICIPATING ATHLETES

Thus far, **97 athletes** have registered for the Para-Standing Tennis World Championships, representing **27 nationalities** and **all global continents**. Players include ATP Professional **Alex Hunt**, NCAA Division 1 player **Thalita Rodrigues**, **Ivan Corretja**, and celebrities such as **Paola Antonini** and **Adam Hills**.

### CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In this first year of the tournament, male and female athletes will play together in co-ed categories in both singles and doubles. PST uses four categories, detailed below:

1 bounce allowed

- **PST1:** single arm upper limb disability
- **PST2:** below knee amputee, mild cerebral palsy, or other impairment with similar mobility

2 bounces allowed





- **PST3:** above knee amputee, severe cerebral palsy, bilateral arm amputation, or other impairment with similar mobility
- **PST4:** short stature or other impairment with similar mobility

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Para-Standing Tennis would like to thank the ITF for their trust and support, as well as Sportdipiù, our sponsors, and our volunteers for making this event possible. We are excited by both the number and the quality of the athletes registered, and are confident this will be the highest level tennis event hosted for PST thus far. These World Championships represent a major step forward for Para-Standing Tennis and are the product of extensive work by our athletes and supporters over almost a decade. Our community is large and growing rapidly. Based on our 2024 census, PST has **~400 athletes, representing 34 nations from all continents**, an increase of over 50% from 2023. We expect this growth to accelerate as more national federations help players find PST at the local level, including the **United States, Australia, Japan, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Chile**. We are grateful for the ITF's support for this tournament, and we hope to continue working closely with our governing body as the sport grows in future.

- **Gregory Leperdi, Vice-President, Tournament Organizer, and 4 times Paralympian**

