



2015 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ROMA



WHEELCHAIR DANCE SPORT IPC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, ROME 6 -7- 8 NOVEMBER 2015

GET READY FOR THE MOST EXCITING EVENT OF THE YEAR

The competition, for the first time in Italy, is organized by the Italian Dance Sport Federation and the National Paralympic Committee

The 2015 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships will take place in Rome, Italy, between 6-8 November 2015.

IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport announced on 1st July that the 2015 World Championships, will be held in Rome, Italy, from 6-8 November at the FIB Federal Technical Centre (Bocciodromo).

The competition, for the first time in Italy, is organized by the Italian Dance Sport Federation (FIDS) and will attract more than 150 athletes from 24 countries.

It will also feature freestyle and singles events for the first time, after the disciplines were added in 2014, to bring the number of medal events to 14 across class 1 and 2.

About 270 performances are planned in this three days competition.

DECLARATIONS

Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Chief Executive Officer, said: “We are very much looking forward to this hotly anticipated competition in Rome later this year, and for the debut of freestyle and singles at a World Championships.

“The Worlds are what all dancers work towards and we are pleased to be able to offer consistent opportunities for the best in the world to compete against each other on a global stage.

“I am grateful to the FIDS for their support in putting on what I am sure will be a great event in one of the Rome’s best dance venues.”

Christian Zamblera, President of FIDS added: "It's an honour and a privilege for us to host such an important event in Italy for the first time.

“On behalf of the Italian Dance Sport Federation and all of my staff, I want to express the joy and the pride of being able to include the World Championships in our 2015 program. Wheelchair Dance Sport is growing more and more and FIDS is sure this competition will open new scenarios in the future inclusion of our sport into the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

I hope this is just the beginning of an even more solid partnership between FIDS ,IPC and CIP, and I'm looking forward to attending this amazing event."

Luca Pancalli, President of the Italian Paralympic Committee, concludes: “ I greet and welcome 2015 Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships, the first in the history of the discipline to be held in Rome. It will be an unmissable festival of inclusion and a musical demonstration with steps and evolutions, that sport is an opportunity offered and granted to everyone. Rome will be a god mother and an exceptional host, of these world competitions: her ability in sports event organizations says it all, it's a well-established vocation and a challenge to confirm, as a candidate to host the next Olympic and Paralympic Games of 2024. It's an honor for me to greet the registered couples. You're all invited to this festival, you'll be surprised to discover that sport is one, the ability are endless and extraordinary, and the emotions very strong and always different.

24 COUNTRIES

Austria

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Belarus

Spain

Finland

Germany

Israel

Italy

Malta

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Russia

Slovenia

Slovakia

Ukraine

Japan

Kazakhstan

South Korea

Philippines

FIRST-TIME ENTRIES

Sri Lanka
Georgia
Hungary

NOTABLE COUNTRIES

Russia are a particularly strong country in wheelchair dance sport, and left the last World Championships in 2013 at the top of the medals table with eight medals including three golds.

Poland, Ukraine and Austria all have reigning world or European medallists in their teams, and athletes from **Asian** countries have emerged as strong contenders in recent years.

South Korean athletes in particular currently lead the world rankings in several events.

NOTABLE ATHLETES

Susanna Spugnoli- Italia – combi Standard class 2

The Italian athlete will compete for the first time at a World Championship with her new partner, Francesco Galuppo. They'll try to defend the Silver Medal she conquered at Tokyo 2013, with Sebastian Mureddu.

Galina Ryzhkova, Russia – Women's Singles and Freestyle class 2

Reigning double European champion Ryzhkova is looking to win world titles in these events, which will be contested for the first time at World Championships level at Rome 2015.

Erik Machens, Germany – Men's Singles and Freestyle class 2

Machens is famous for break-dancing in his wheelchair, but is also the singles European champion. Like Ryzhkova, Machens is aiming to make history by securing the first world titles at Rome 2015.

Nadia and Ivan Sivak, Ukraine – Duo Latin class 2 and Duo Standard class 2

The husband and wife team are aiming to defend their double gold at the 2013 World Championships, having also won European titles in 2014.

Eunji Lee and Youngho Lee, South Korea – Combi Latin class 2

The Lee's currently lead the world rankings in this event, having improved since finishing ninth at the 2013 World Championships. They have finished on the podium twice at lower-ranking events in 2014.

Hye-Jeong Jang and Jaewoo Lee, South Korea – Combi Standard class 1

Jang and Lee have a 100 per cent winning record in this event in 2015, having won it twice, and currently sit on top of the world rankings.

ABOUT IPC WHEELCHAIR DANCE SPORT

Participants can compete combi style, dancing with an able-bodied (standing) partner, or duo dance for two wheelchair users together. Group dance involves wheelchair users only or together with able-bodied partners whereas single dance sees a wheelchair user dance alone.

Standard dances include waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, slow foxtrot and quickstep.

Latin American dances include the samba, cha-cha-cha, rumba, paso doble and jive.

The newly introduced discipline of singles and freestyle will be included for the first time at a World Championships at Rome 2015. They can include the standard dances (conventional) or any style for presentation (folk, hip hop, Latin, standard, ballet, contemporary, street dance, salsa, Argentinean tango, cumbia, belly dance, etc.).

Since 1998 the sport has been governed by the IPC and co-ordinated by the IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport Technical Committee which incorporates the rules of the World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF). **The sport is not part of the summer Paralympic Games programme.**

HISTORY

Wheelchair dance sport is an extremely elegant, graceful and stylish sport which involves athletes with a physical impairment that affects the lower limbs.

Today the sport is widely practiced in 29 countries and the last World Championships took place in 2013 in Tokyo, Japan. In 2014 the European Championships was held in Lomianki, Poland and, for the first time, the sport took part in the Asian Para Games, in Incheon, South Korea.

Wheelchair user Els-Britt Larsson was one of the pioneers of wheelchair dancing when it originated in her native Sweden in 1968 for recreational and rehabilitation purposes.

In 1975 the first competition was organised in Vasteras, Sweden involving 30 couples. Two years later, in Sweden as well, was held the first international competition.

In 1984 Munich, Germany staged the first Rock'n'Roll European Championship for wheelchair dancers.

In 2014 singles and freestyle/showdance (singles and combi) were introduced as the part of the

official programme.

The IPC Wheelchair Dance World Championships are held every two years and were last staged in 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

The surface of the dance floor must be a minimum of 250 square metres with no side of the floor less than 10m in length, and 350 square meters for Championships.

Participants have the option of using electric wheelchairs if they need to.

In a blink:

Qualify: International Sport Event, World Championship. Editions in this place: first. Periodicity: biennial. Place: Bocciodromo, Via Fiume Bianco 79 – Rome. Tickets: free entry.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Media are encouraged to attend all competitions at the 2015 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships. Accreditation can be obtained at: <http://www.paralympic.org/wheelchair-dance-sport/rome-2015>.

Media enquiries and contact

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FIDS:

www.federdanza.it

<https://www.facebook.com/fidsOfficial>

https://instagram.com/fids_official/

<https://twitter.com/FidsOfficial>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzn4nu8yKYy53K0gtngAHw>

IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport

<http://www.paralympic.org/wheelchair-dance-sport>

<https://www.facebook.com/IPCWheelchairDanceSport>

<https://twitter.com/IPCWDS?lang=it>

CIP

<http://www.comitoparalimpico.it/index.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/Comitato-Italiano-Paralimpico-151247831700683/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ciptelevision>

Live updates, pictures and behind the scenes coverage will be provided throughout the competition and pictures will be available to download from:

<http://www.federdanza.it/wds-rome2015>

Flickr.com/Paralympic

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