



EUROPEAN PARA  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**2023**

ROTTERDAM

**THE ONLY  
PITY IS  
TO MISS IT**



**8-20 AUGUST 2023**

# EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



**ROTTERDAM.  
MAKE IT  
HAPPEN.**



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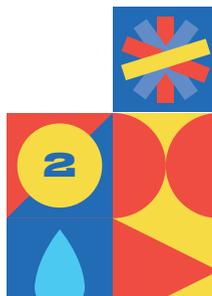
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# A NEW STANDARD FOR EUROPEAN PARASPORT

*'This event actually looks and feels like the Paralympics, but with an even larger number of spectators. This is what the sport truly deserves.'* That is what we, as the organization of the World Para Archery Championships, heard from the Paralympic athletes who had just completed their World Championships. Held in the city center of 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. In that summer of 2019, an archery stadium sprung up in the heart of the city. The unique, centrally located site, in combination with the spectacular sport, ensured full stands. It was a wonderful experience for residents and visitors of the city, athletes, fans and the organization itself.

This experience, combined with learning moments gained during the para-cycling track & road World Championships that we organized before, made us realize that there is only one way to make parasport really successful. If you want to get the media and the public more interested in these spectacular sports, you must bring it out to the people. Offer the parasporters the same platform and treatment as all other athletes!

From that moment in 2019, we started desk research on all European Championships of a wide variety of Paralympic summer sports. We also envisaged a possible para variant of the European Championships, which were organized for the first time in Glasgow / Munich in 2018. Our investigation soon showed that the organization of parasport was characterized by an enormously fragmented landscape. The first challenge was clear: how could we unite the different world sports federations and European federations to achieve a successful multisport event?

Various parties and organizations involved subsequently joined our meetings & workshop to answer the above question. And of course, we wanted to prevent parties from being surprised by our initiative. In this way, a joint action plan was built.

We jointly foresaw the greatest chance of success in the summer of 2023, with the key requirement that there should be a relevant Paralympic link between our event and the Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024. The European Paralympic Committee embraced this and awarded us the status of 'regional games'. This implied that the event could become a European equivalent of the Asian Para Games and the Parapan-American Games. Not only in 2023 but also in the longer term. What followed was a race against time, to finally be able to say with immense pride that ten different European Championships will take place in the heart of Rotterdam in 2023, combined in one multisport event: the European Para Championships! We are immensely looking forward to hosting the top athletes and facilitating them on their way to Paris 2024.

And of course, this will not stop after the summer of 2023. In 2027, 2031 and beyond, this event will move to another major European (capital) city. The various international associations are very enthusiastic and next summer we will repay that trust with a top event, realized with the Dutch approach. We are looking forward to launching this concept next summer and making a real impact for parasport.

**The European Para Championships 2023 are just the start of a journey with an unknown but limitless destination for parasports!**



**Eric Kersten**

*Founder European  
Para Championships*





# 1

## ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS



# WHAT ARE THE EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS?

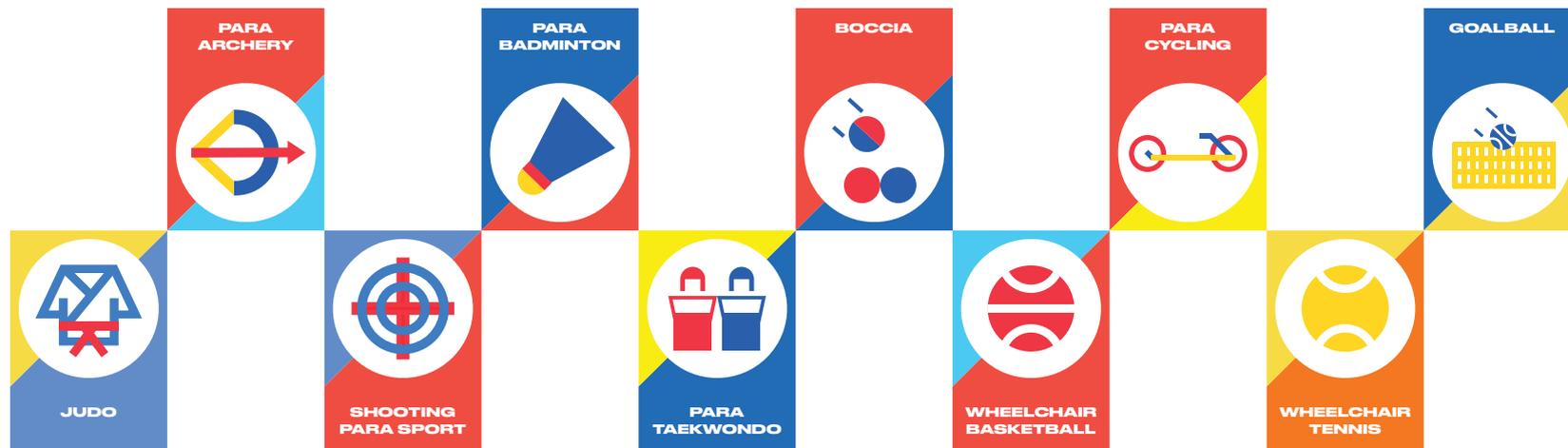
The European Para Championships are a multisport event. The event will be staged every four years and will always be hosted by a major European city in the year preceding the Olympic- and Paralympic Games. For the first time, the European Championships of ten different parasports will be organized simultaneously in one host city.

The 2023 edition will take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from Tuesday 8 to Sunday 20 August 2023. At the event, 1,500 Paralympic athletes from forty-five different European countries will compete to become European Champions.

All sports that are part of the European Para Championships have a direct connection to the Road to the Paris 2024 Paralympics. Paralympic Qualifying Points can be earned during this event. Some sports even involve direct qualification for Paris 2024.

By combining multiple European Para Championships on one occasion, we will create cross-pollination between sports federations, associations and other stakeholders. The European Para Championships are an exceptional event that Europe has never seen or experienced before!

**This inaugural edition features ten different sports:**



# WHERE WILL THE EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 BE HELD?

Rotterdam, the second largest city in the Netherlands, will host the inaugural edition of the European Para Championships in 2023. The main hub, and therefore the venue for multiple sports, is Rotterdam Ahoy. The venue is very well known as the 'biggest on earth' since 1971. It offers a base for international artists, top sports professionals, politicians and celebrities.

In addition to this exceptional world-class indoor location, the European Para Championships 2023 will also use various outdoor venues in the heart of Rotterdam. These 'city center courts' ensure that the parasports come to the people, instead of the other way around. In this way, we present unique para sports in a high-quality way to Rotterdam and its residents & visitors. This allows them to get acquainted with parasport of the highest level. Enjoy top sports at unique locations!



1.3

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the European Para Championships is to create a new standard for Paralympic sports events worldwide and to inspire people - with or without disabilities, rich or poor, young or old and regardless of background - to take up sports and exercise. We believe that only cooperation can help us succeed in this mission. By making connections, thinking big and believing in opportunities where others see limitations, we want to give adaptive sports the attention it deserves.

1.4

## LEGACY

It is important to emphasize that the European Para Championships will not be a one-off event. Besides organizing the inaugural edition in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the organizing committee develops the concept, scenario and event in such a manner that it will serve as a solid basis for guaranteeing the continuity of the event on the European sports calendar in 2027, 2031 and beyond.





# 2

## THE ORGANIZATION



# EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS AS A RIGHTS HOLDER



**EUROPEAN PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

European Para Championships BV is the owner of the concept European Para Championships. It therefore is responsible for the organization of the 2023 European Para Championships, to be held in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) between 8 & 20 August 2023. In that capacity, it is also the right holder of all broadcast, sponsorship and marketing rights related thereto.

Besides organizing the inaugural edition in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, European Para Championships BV develops the concept, scenario and event in such a manner that it will serve as a solid basis for guaranteeing the continuity of the event on the European sports calendar in 2027, 2031 and beyond.



## EUROPEAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

The mission of the European Paralympic Committee is to promote and contribute to the development of sports opportunities and competitions for European athletes with a disability, as part of the International Paralympic Movement. Plus, to ensure the growth and strength of the Paralympic Movement in Europe through the development of the European National Paralympic Committees, supporting the activities of all EPC members.

The EPC's vision is to be the leading region in the Paralympic Movement concerning the development and promotion of sports for European athletes with a disability; this is the main focus and purpose of the EPC. The European Para Championships will be held under the patronage of the European Paralympic Committee.

The European Paralympic Committee recognizes that the European Para Championships are a multisport event, for which every sport has qualification opportunities for the next Paralympic Games. The EPC has signed a partnership with European Para Championships

BV to support and sanction the 2023 Championships, with the longer-term objective of expanding from 10 sports today and encouraging other IF's to join in later editions of the event (2027, 2031 and beyond). Given the status of the European Para Championships as a Paralympic pre-qualification event, the organizer will ensure that an appropriate anti-doping program is in place, supported by the relevant IF's and the EPC.

**EUROPEAN  
PARALYMPIC  
COMMITTEE**



The European Paralympic Committee will appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to help ensure the maximum support and engagement from European NPCs, play an active role in communication with EPC Members and sports bodies to promote the Championships and fully engage in the selection of a host city for the 2027 European Para championships and later editions.

## ABOUT THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Team TOC is the delivery partner of the event in 2023. In the longer term, it will bring its knowledge and experience of the 2023 edition to the next edition in 2027 and beyond. The key personnel in delivering the European Para Championships in 2023, will be responsible for the master script in 2027. In that way, we will ensure continuous improvements, from edition to edition. Together we ensure that The European Para Championships are further perfected.

The differences in the specific sports are evident, but through the economy of scale, each organizer can benefit from each other's growth and development. The whole is greater than the sum of all parts. The joint objective is to stage a European Para Championships every four years. The European Paralympic Committee will use its relationship with the International Paralympic Committee to encourage the growth and development of the European Para Championships.





# 3

## SPORTS



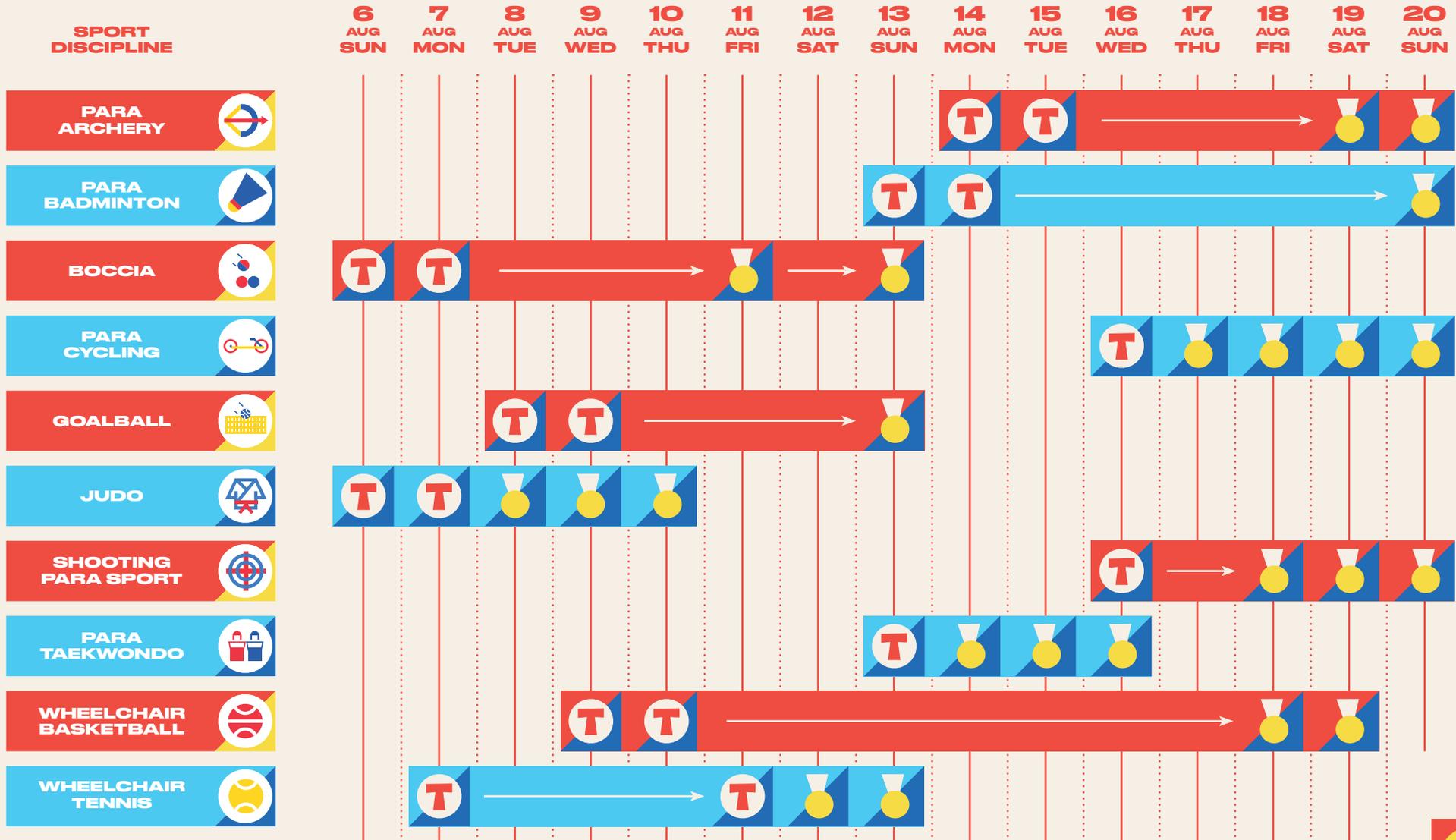
With a very extensive sports program and more than 1,500 professional para-athletes gathering in Rotterdam, the European Para Championships promise to be an event with eternal value. The overall event concept is innovative in many ways, mainly due to the substantial number of city center courts in the heart of Rotterdam. In addition, the organization strives for perfect facilities for both athletes and staff.

The event will take place between August 8 and August 20, 2023. The selected dates are aligned with the national and international sports calendars. They are also aligned as much as possible with other relevant events that are part of the sports that are also included in the 2023 European Para Championships.

Based on the commitments of the delegates from the various sports disciplines, the local organizing committee currently expects the event to be scheduled for 11 to 13 days. Obviously, not all sports will be on the calendar during this entire period. This will differ per sport, but this varies from 3 to a maximum of 12 days.



# PRELIMINARY SPORTS SCHEDULE



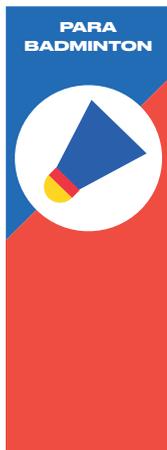
**T** TRAINING SESSION/ CLASSIFICATION      **🏆** FINALS



# SPORT SPECIFICATIONS



Divisions/categories	Wednesday August 16 - Sunday August 20 2023
<b>Individuals Men's and Women's</b>	Recurve Open, Compound Open, W1
<b>Individuals VI</b>	1, 2/3
<b>Teams Mixed 1M + 1W</b>	Recurve Open, Compound Open, W1
<b>Teams Men's and Women's</b>	Double recurve Open, Double Compound Open, Double W1



Divisions/categories	Tuesday August 15 - Sunday August 20 2023
<b>Men's and Women's Singles</b>	Wheelchair WH 1, Wheelchair WH 2, Standing Lower SL 3, Standing Lower SL 4, Standing Upper SU 5, Short Stature SH 6
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Wheelchair WH 1 - WH 2, Standing Lower SL 3 - SL 4, Standing Upper SU 5, Short Stature SH 6
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Wheelchair WH 1 - WH 2, Standing Lower/Upper SL 3 - SU 5, Short Stature SH 6
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Wheelchair WH 1 - WH 2, Standing Lower/Upper SL 3 - SU 5, Short Stature SH 6



Divisions/categories	Tuesday August 8 - Sunday August 13 2023
<b>Individual Men's and Women's</b>	BC1, BC2, BC3, BC4
<b>Team Mixed</b>	BC1/BC2
<b>Pairs Mixed</b>	BC3, BC4



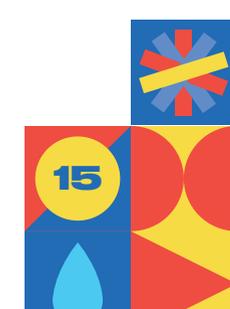
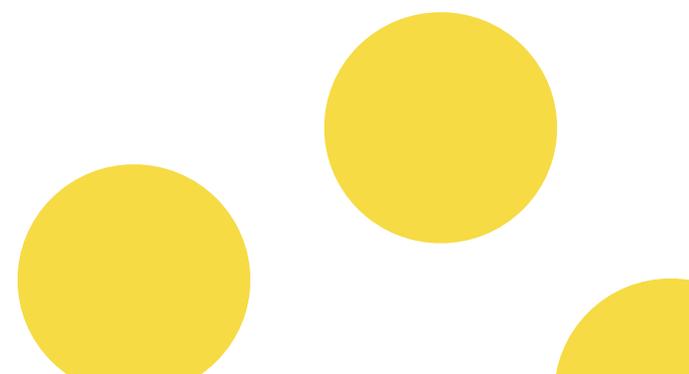
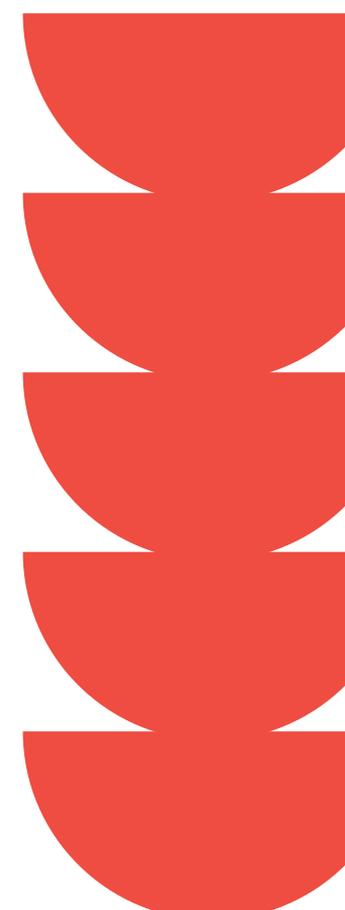
Divisions/categories	Thursday August 17 - Sunday August 20 2023
<b>Time trial Men's and Women's</b>	B, T1, T2, C1-C5 and H1-H5
<b>Road Race Men's and Women's</b>	B, T1, T2, C1-C5 and H1-H5
<b>Team relay Men's and Women's</b>	H1-H5



Divisions/categories	Thursday August 10 - Sunday August 13 2023
<b>Men's Group C</b>	



Divisions/categories	Tuesday August 8 - Sunday August 10 2023
<b>Men's J 1 (Blind)</b>	-60 kg, -73 kg, -90 kg, +90 kg
<b>Men's J 2 (Partially sighted)</b>	-60 kg, -73 kg, -90 kg, +90 kg
<b>Women's J 1 (Blind)</b>	-48 kg, -57 kg, -70 kg, +70 kg
<b>Women's J 2 (Partially sighted)</b>	-48 kg, -57 kg, -70 kg, +70 kg





Divisions/categories		Thursday August 17 - Sunday August 20 2023	
<b>R1 - 10m Air rifle standing</b>	<b>Men's</b>		SH1
<b>R2 - 10m Air rifle standing</b>	<b>Women's</b>		SH1
<b>R3 - 10m Air rifle prone</b>	<b>Mixed</b>		SH1
<b>R4 - 10m Air rifle standing</b>	<b>Mixed</b>		SH2
<b>R5 - 10m Air rifle prone</b>	<b>Mixed</b>		SH2
<b>P1 - 10m Air pistol</b>	<b>Men's</b>		SH1
<b>P2 - 10m Air pistol</b>	<b>Women's</b>		SH1
<b>VIS - 10m Air rifle VI Standing</b>	<b>Mixed</b>		SH-VI
<b>VIP - 10m Air rifle VI prone</b>	<b>Mixed</b>		SH-VI



Divisions/categories		Monday August 14 - Wednesday August 16 2023	
<b>Men's</b>		K44 -58kg, K44 -63kg, K44 -70kg, K44 -80kg, K44 +80kg	
<b>Women's</b>		K44 -47kg, K44 -52kg, K44 -57kg, K44 -65kg, K44 +65kg	



Divisions/categories		Friday August 11 - Saturday August 19 2023	
<b>Men's and Women's Division A</b>			



Divisions/categories		Tuesday August 8 - Sunday August 13 2023	
<b>Men's and Women's and Quads</b>			
Singles and doubles			



# 4

## LOCATIONS & TRANSPORT



4.1

# TRANSPORT NETWORK

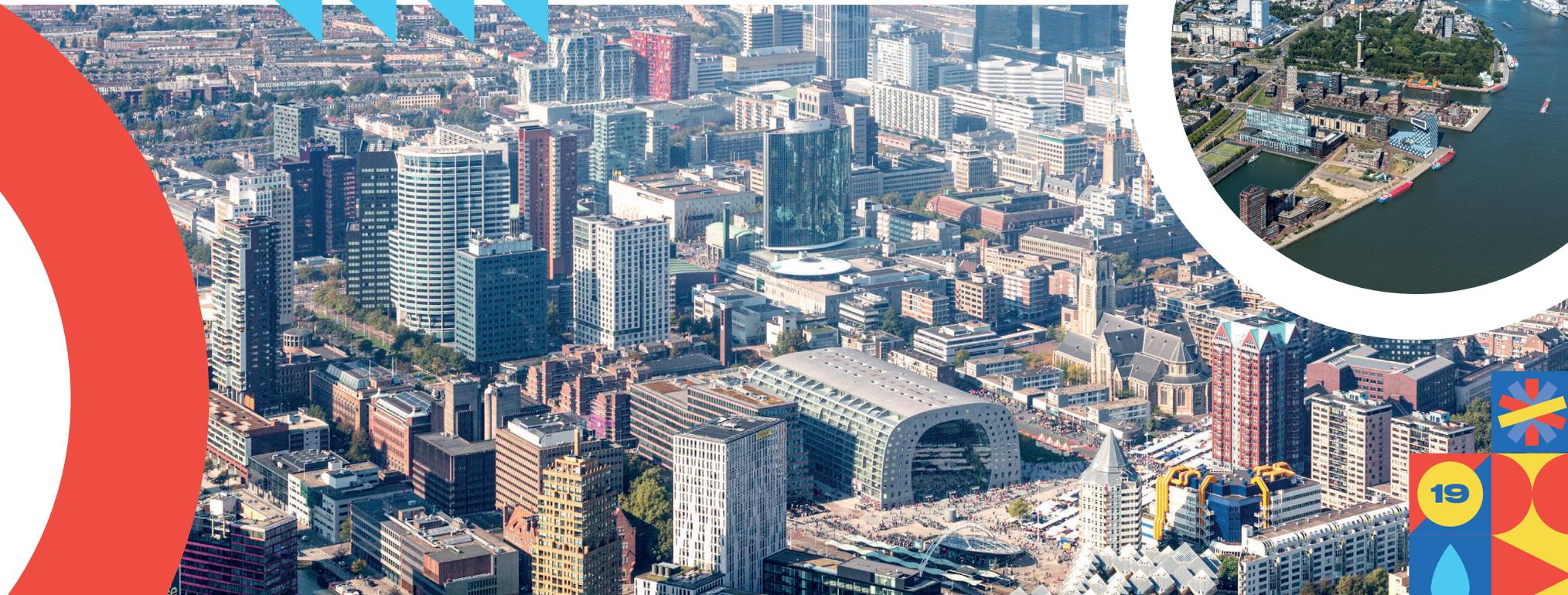
Rotterdam The Hague Airport is located just seven kilometers from the city center of Rotterdam. The city also has an excellent network of public transport, mostly very well accessible for travelers with disabilities. The organizing committee will provide suitable accommodation for all participating federations. Transport to and from the sports accommodation is also arranged by the local organizing committee.



## COMPETITION VENUES

The Erasmus Bridge, Rotterdam Central Station, the Markthal. It is essential that some very well-known 'landmarks' of Rotterdam become part of the competition program of the European Para Championships 2023. This will certainly be the case, due to the construction of some spectacular 'city center courts'. Of course, the local organizing committee will always determine whether this is desirable and feasible for specific sports.

However, most of the competitions will take place in Rotterdam Ahoy, without a doubt one of the best and most professional event venues in the Netherlands. Very well known as the 'biggest on earth' since 1971. It offers a base for international artists, top sports professionals, politicians and celebrities. It switches effortlessly from a Justin Bieber concert to the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament. Another perfect example of Rotterdam Ahoy's extensive possibilities is the Eurovision Song Contest, which took place there in May 2021. Of course, Rotterdam Ahoy is also perfectly accessible for disabled visitors. The same applies to any other locations that will be used during the event.



### 4.3

## HOTELS

In August 2023, The European Para Championships will use over 1,000 hotel rooms a day in the Rotterdam region. For athletes, only accommodation that is fully accessible for athletes with disabilities will be used. All-important preconditions in this area will be met. The following hotels have met the strict conditions and will be used during the European Para Championships 2023:

- ▶▶ **Hilton Rotterdam** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **Vd Valk Hotel Blijdorp** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **Vd Valk Hotel Ridderkerk** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **NH Atlanta** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **NH Capelle Rotterdam** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **Nhow Rotterdam** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **Novotel Rotterdam Brainpark** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **WTC Postillion** ★★★★★
- ▶▶ **Inntel Hotels Rotterdam Centre** ★★★★★

### 4.4

## AIRPORTS

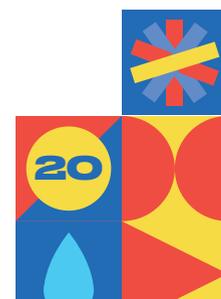
In addition to Rotterdam The Hague Airport, which offers flights to and from more than 50 European destinations, there are several other airports near the city of Rotterdam. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol can be reached from the center of Rotterdam by car or bus within one hour. Travel time to Eindhoven Airport is approximately 75 minutes. Both airports are also easily accessible from Rotterdam by public transport.

### 4.5

## TRANSPORT

The organizing committee will arrange shuttle services from Rotterdam The Hague Airport, Schiphol Airport and Rotterdam Central Station to the selected event hotels. These buses are accessible to athletes with disabilities. The organizing committee will take care of the transportation to and from:

- ▶▶ **Rotterdam The Hague Airport and Schiphol Airport**
- ▶▶ **Selected event hotels**
- ▶▶ **Rotterdam Ahoy**
- ▶▶ **City center courts**





# 5

# REGISTRATION



## 5.1 PROCEDURE

The registration procedure and deadlines for the European Para Championships 2023 will vary per sport and international federation. Every sport has its registration procedures, systems, databases and deadlines. Therefore, each procedure will be unique per sport.

The registration procedure will start shortly. At that time, the local organizing committee will share its first entry documents with the relevant sports federations. These documents will contain general event information, including location information, hotel overviews, etc.

Competition information will also be added by that time, such as competition rules & regulations, schedules, classification terms, etc. After that, the registration packages will be presented, including costs, deadlines and General Terms and Conditions.

Although each sport has its registration procedure, there are also important uniform conditions. The most important of these is that it is mandatory to manage the entry of athletes in the assigned registration procedure/system, according to the international federation rules.

## 5.2 ACCREDITATION

All reservations during the registration procedure must be made through the Local Organizing Committee. All delegates inscribed for an official event must stay in one of the official hotels suggested by the organization. If this is not respected, accreditation will not be provided.

## 5.3 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Each athlete must be registered and licensed in the system of their international federation before arrival. For classification, all athletes should be registered in the database and licensed before classification. All participating countries must be in good standing with their international federations.





# 6

## CONTACT



In the coming weeks and months, the organization will provide sport-specific information to federations, athletes and staff. If you nevertheless have urgent questions, please contact one of the following departments:

### Sports & General

[sports@europeanparachampionships.com](mailto:sports@europeanparachampionships.com)

### Marketing & Communications

[communications@europeanparachampionships.com](mailto:communications@europeanparachampionships.com)

### Sales

[sales@europeanparachampionships.com](mailto:sales@europeanparachampionships.com)

### Website

The official event website will be launched in mid-December 2022.

[www.europeanparachampionships.com](http://www.europeanparachampionships.com)

### Social Media



[@EuroParaChamps](https://www.instagram.com/EuroParaChamps)





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