Para Taekwondo: From Vision to Paralympic Inclusion (and Beyond)

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ABSTRACT

This presentation looks into the actions taken by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) after Taekwondo was rejected in 2016 from the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. The WTF was informed in 2010 that their application to include Para Taekwondo in the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games program was unsuccessful. Dr. Chungwon Choue, the WTF President, presented a vision for Taekwondo in 2004 to be all-inclusive regardless of gender, age, social class, or ability. Included in this vision was the development of Taekwondo for athletes with a physical impairment, or Para Taekwondo. The Paralympic Committee was formed in 2005 with the aim of including Para Taekwondo in the Paralympic Games program, and the first World Para Taekwondo Championships was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2009. Those championships were an effort to reach the participation requirements stipulated for inclusion by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). To put forward recommendations on how to include Taekwondo in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, a Para Taekwondo Development Task Force convened in 2013. The task force created a list of 20 recommendations including, expansion of Para Taekwondo to include additional impairment classes, development of poomsae as a competition format, establish a Para Taekwondo department within the WTF, development of Classification Rules and competition rules for Para Taekwondo, and increase cooperation with the IPC and International Sport Organisation for the Disabled (IOSD). The implementation of these recommendations laid the foundation for Para Taekwondo’s inclusion in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games program.

KEYWORDS: ability, para sport, inclusion, impairment, evidence-based classification

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References


