



THE DAILY NEWS

KOBE 2024 PARA ATHLETICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fri 17 May

DAY 1

English

Finally, the opening!

Kobe 2024 World Para Championships Organising Committee/
Chairperson/Akemi Masuda



Finally, the long-awaited Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics Championships will begin. It was scheduled to be held in 2021. However, due to the global spread of COVID-19, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which were supposed to be held in 2020, were postponed by an unprecedented 1 year. Accordingly, we had to postpone it twice.

Originally, I wanted many children to feel various things by cheering on the performance of Para athletes at the Tokyo 2020 Games, but there were no spectators. Give children the opportunity to meet the world's top para-athletes! That is an important theme of Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics.

Over the past three years, a variety of projects have been conducted in Kobe City, including opportunities to interact with para-athletes and experience para-sports. Top players went to school to talk about their daily training and life, and there was a program where children could actually experience parasports. Taking the time to do this has greatly improved our understanding of parasports.

In addition, both children and adults are involved in the championships in various ways. For example, lunch boxes developed by university students in Kobe City are sold at a shop in the venue during the competition. In addition, the sweets made by children of special needs schools will welcome players and officials from all over the world. The throwing platform or base devised by the students of the technical high school is installed on the training area during the championships and used by the athletes for training. The event will be filled with the passion of Kobe residents and the great work they have done.

In 1985, "the Universiade" an International competition for university students was held at the Univer Memorial Stadium. Later in 1989, FESPIC, the predecessor of the Asian Para Games was also held in Kobe. Kobe is also a place that has embraced sports and diversity and has become familiar with it.

Actually, it was here in Kobe that I made my debut as a track and field athlete. When I was a junior in high school, I participated in the 5000 m race and won the championship with a record that greatly exceeded the Japanese record at that time. So, Kobe is a very memorable place for me. Along with the view from Mt. Rokko, the streets lined with former foreign residences, and the deliciousness of the Kobe beef that I tasted for the first time, these memories are still in my mind.

In the Championships, you can see the performance of many athletes who use special equipment like a wheelchair, throwing chair, and prosthetic legs, visually impaired athletes who compete running with guide-runner. Also, athletes with cerebral palsy, and intellectual impairment.

This event will feature a variety of athletes, including athletes who use athletic equipment such as wheelchairs, throwing platforms, and prosthetic legs, visually impaired athletes who compete in unison with their guide-runners, and athletes with cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities. There are a lot of events to see, but the one you should definitely pay attention to is the Universal Relay, on May 24th Friday. Relays in which athletes with different disabilities are connected by touching work, are truly symbolic of diversity.

The Kobe 2024 World Para Championships will begin today. Let's incentive and cheer the athletes together.

GO KOBE 2024!



On May 16, just one day before the start of the Kobe 2024 World Para Athletics Championships, six leading athletes met at the venue "Universiade Memorial Stadium", to express their enthusiasm for this championships.

■ YAMAMOTO Atsushi (T63/Japan)

I'm representing this championships as an ambassador, and hope to see many people cheering us during this event.

This is my eighth World Championships, and this time I'll participate in the long jump. I have won a lot of medals so far, but I would like to do my best to win another medal and set a new personal best. I want a lot of people to see my great performance, how to achieve speedy and highest jump using my prosthetic leg (blade (prosthetic leg)).

■ Holy Robinson (F46/New Zealand)

Kobe is beautiful, well prepared and reassuring. The entire New Zealand team is very happy. This is my seventh world championship. I had specialized in the javelin but I'll focus on short put, after I won a silver medal in the last Paris Championships. Since I have been working hard to improve my technical skill, I hope to renew my personal best, and to win another medal.

■ Hannah Cockroft (T34/England)

I am glad to be able to visit Japan again for the second time. This is my seventh World Championships, but it has never been held in the same year as the Paralympics Games. This competition is my first one in this season, so I feel a mixture of nervous and excitement. I have been improving my technical skills, and also I have changed my wheelchair (racer for competition), I hope to get a good result in the 100m and 800m race.

■ Noemi Alphonse (T54/Mauritius)

On behalf of the Mauritius team, I would like to thank the organizing committee. This is my fourth world championship, so my goal is to set a new personal best, and if possible, I want to take home a medal. I will participate in four track events, and I want to set a good result especially in the 100 m where I won the silver medal in the last competition. I've been training on improving my starting technique.

■ Noah Malone (T12/USA)

This is the third World Championship, and It's a great honor to represent my country. In the 100 m race, I'm aiming to break the world record as I have strengthened my speed in the first half. In addition, in the Universal Relay, we want to improve team cooperation and have a good race.

■ Sae Tsuji (T47/Japan)

I will participate in 100m and 200m race. I'll do my best to set a new personal record. The Tokyo Paralympics was held without spectators due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this time we have spectators. So, I want show everyone to see my best performance especially an increase of the speed in the remain part in the 100m race. I've strengthened my speed a lot, so I want to finish the race without losing.



Two children from the "Kids reporters" which was formed about a year ago to promote the championships, also attended the press conference and interviewed the athletes. "What's important to be a top athlete representing your country?" said Haba Yamato, a fourth-grader in Okayama Prefecture school. Cockroft said, "That's a great question. It takes effort, but more importantly, passion. If I had fun practicing instead of thinking of it as a job, I could become a representative of a national team. Tsuji replied, "I was a handball player, but when I first started athletics at the age of 21, I had some concerns. But I could become a national team by "believing in myself that I can do it."



In response to a question by KINOSHITA Koki, a fourth grader from Nara Prefecture school, "What's good about Universiade Memorial Stadium?" Alphonse replied, "A large and wonderful facility. It is also good to be in a sports park with many sports facilities. I have memories of each stadium that I have been to so far, so I want to make a wonderful memory with a good performance in Kobe and take it home." "I'm excited about a great world class stadium. It's my first time to perform in front of Japanese people, so I'm looking forward to it. If it's an opportunity to get a lot of people to see and know about para athletics," Malone said.

Competition Schedule

Day 1 - 17 May							
Session 1							
09:00 - 12:00							
Start	Finish	Gender	Event Name	Eligible Classes	Round	Heat	Track Time
9:00	11:15	Women's	Discus Throw F55	F54, F55	Final		0:02
9:15	10:45	Men's	Javelin Throw F57	F55, F56, F57	Qualifying		0:02
9:25	11:25	Women's	Long Jump T20	T20	Final		0:02
9:30	9:51	Men's	5000m T11	T11	Final	1	0:21
9:55	10:02	Men's	100m T47	T45, T46, T47	Round 1	1 of 3	0:07
10:02	10:09	Men's	100m T47	T45, T46, T47	Round 1	2 of 3	0:07
10:09	10:16	Men's	100m T47	T45, T46, T47	Round 1	3 of 3	0:07
10:16	10:24	Men's	100m T12	T12	Round 1	1 of 4	0:08
10:24	10:32	Men's	100m T12	T12	Round 1	2 of 4	0:08
10:32	10:40	Men's	100m T12	T12	Round 1	3 of 4	0:08
10:40	10:48	Men's	100m T12	T12	Round 1	4 of 4	0:08
10:48	11:38	Women's	Shot Put F41	F41	Final		0:02
10:56	11:06	Women's	1500m T11	T11	Round 1	1 of 2	0:10
11:06	11:16	Women's	1500m T11	T11	Round 1	2 of 2	0:10
11:15	12:25	Women's	Discus Throw F57	F56, F57	Qualifying		0:02
11:18	11:25	Men's	100m T72	T72	Final	1	0:07
11:25	11:32	Women's	100m T72	T72	Final	1	0:07
							1:58
Session 2							
17:00 - 20:00							
Start	Finish	Gender	Event Name	Eligible Classes	Round	Heat	Track Time
17:00	20:00	Women's	Club Throw F32	F31, F32	Final		0:02
17:10	18:10	Men's	Long Jump T11	T11	Final		0:02
17:20	19:35	Men's	Shot Put F55	F54, F55	Final		0:02
17:30	17:38	Women's	400m T11	T11	Round 1	1 of 3	0:08
17:38	17:46	Women's	400m T11	T11	Round 1	2 of 3	0:08
17:46	17:54	Women's	400m T11	T11	Round 1	3 of 3	0:08
17:55	18:55	Men's	Shot Put F37	F37	Final		0:02
18:03	18:10	Men's	100m T38	T38	Round 1	1 of 2	0:07
18:10	18:17	Men's	100m T38	T38	Round 1	2 of 2	0:07
18:24	18:31	Men's	100m T37	T37	Round 1	1 of 2	0:07
18:31	18:38	Men's	100m T37	T37	Round 1	2 of 2	0:07
18:40	19:00	Men's	Long Jump T47	T45, T46, T47	Qualifying		0:02
18:44	18:52	Men's	100m T12	T12	S-Finals	1 of 2	0:08
18:50	19:50	Women's	Javelin Throw F46	F45, F46	Final		0:02
18:53	19:01	Men's	100m T12	T12	S-Finals	2 of 2	0:08
19:10	19:17	Men's	100m T47	T45, T46, T47	Final	1	0:07
19:25	19:32	Women's	400m T37	T37	Final	1	0:07

