

Greatest paralympics in history ends

[Dtheday.co.uk/greatest-paralympics-in-history-ends](https://www.theguardian.com/sport/paralympics/2024/09/08/greatest-paralympics-in-history-ends) 8 September 2024



Winning hearts: Bly Twomey (above) was born with cerebral palsy. Now the 14-year-old from Brighton has made history by becoming the youngest table tennis medallist at a Paralympic Games.

Should parasport be on TV all year round? This year's Paralympics feature some of humanity's most extraordinary sporting achievements. Some think parasports deserve a bigger spotlight.

What's happening?

On Sunday, the Paralympics came to a close.

Paris 2024 was a hit and offered some remarkable stories. The International Paralympics Committee expects total audience figures for Paris 2024 to surpass the previous two paralympic games combined.

The Guardian's day-by-day photo galleries captured dozens of extraordinary moments, from **fencing** in the Grand Palais to Brazil's surprise loss to Argentina in blind football, and yesterday's women's KL3 kayak single 200m, for which Laura Sugar won Team GB's 49th and last gold medal.

Indian archer Steetal Devi landed a perfect bullseye using just her feet, and the USA's Ezra Frech stunned the world winning gold medals for both the 100m and the high jump.

Find out more

Some argue that parasports are more exciting to watch than regular sports, yet outside of the Games parasport is rarely broadcast on television.

Many believe this is unfair as, according to the World Health Organization, an estimated 16% of the world's population experience significant disability.

Yet some worry that parasports paints a false picture of disability. They could spread the idea, say researchers Erin Pearson and Laura Misener, "that any person with a disability can overcome it if they just try hard enough".

Should parasport be on TV all year round?

Some say

Yes! Sports broadcasting enormously favours people without disabilities, especially men. This is unfair and needs to change to reflect the diversity of people competing in sports today.

Others think

No! Televised sports are competitive. Sports that thrill every four years at the Olympics, such as athletics and swimming, are not popular enough for regular broadcast.

Six steps to discovery

Some people say

"Pessimism leads to weakness, optimism to power."

William James (1842- 1910), American philosopher

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Did you watch this year's Paralympics? How did it make you feel?

2. Wonder

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What do you think?

What questions do you have? - What sports are featured in the Games?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - How are Paralympic classifications and categories assigned?

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You can visit any three events at Paris 2024. Which do you choose and why?

5. Express

What do others believe? - In pairs, invent your own international sporting contest.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Write a short profile of someone who has overcome great adversity.

Glossary

Fencing - The sport of fighting with swords.