



2024 AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Wheelchair Tournament Preview

In 2002, the first Grand Slam wheelchair tournament was held at the Australian Open, with Robin Ammerlaan and Esther Vergeer winning the inaugural men’s and women’s wheelchair singles events. The first Australian Open quad wheelchair singles and doubles events were contested in 2008, with Peter Norfolk becoming the first Australian Open quad singles champion.

These are the 23rd editions of the Australian Open men’s and women’s wheelchair singles events and the 17th edition of the Australian Open quad wheelchair singles event. The 2024 Australian Open is the 112th edition of the event overall and is being played at Melbourne Park for the 37th time, having first been played here in 1988, when the venue was known as Flinders Park.

The men’s and women’s wheelchair singles draws were expanded to 16 players for the first time in 2023, and the quad wheelchair singles draw has been expanded from 8 to 16 players for the first time this year.

DE GROOT BIDS FOR THIRTEENTH STRAIGHT SLAM TITLE

Netherlands’ Diede de Groot recorded 2 consecutive Grand Slam-winning seasons in 2021 and 2022, becoming the first tennis player, in any discipline, to win the Grand Slam in back-to-back years. She then won another Grand Slam in 2023, becoming the first tennis player, in any discipline, to win the Grand Slam in 3 years. She is the 3-time defending champion here – having defeated Yui Kamiji to win the title in 2021, Aniek van Koot in 2022, and Kamiji again in 2023 – and a 5-time Australian Open singles champion overall.

De Groot is bidding to win a 13th consecutive Grand Slam title here and claim sole ownership of the record for the longest Grand Slam wheelchair singles title-winning streak. She overtook compatriot Esther Vergeer by winning her 12th consecutive Grand Slam title at the 2023 US Open, equalling Shingo Kunieda at the top of the all-time record list. Her last defeat at a Grand Slam came in the semifinals at 2020 Roland Garros, when she fell to Momoko Ohtani in straight sets.

Longest Grand Slam wheelchair singles title-winning streaks

Player	Length of streak	Years
Diede de Groot	13??	2021-24??
Shingo Kunieda	12	2007-11
Esther Vergeer	11	2005-10
Esther Vergeer	7	2010-12
Shingo Kunieda	6	2014-15
Dylan Alcott	5	2018-19
Dylan Alcott	5	2020-21
Peter Norfolk	5	2007-10

Note: 2017 was the first season when all four Grand Slam tournaments held men’s and women’s wheelchair singles events. The quad wheelchair singles events have been held at all four Grand Slam tournaments since 2019.

THE RIVALRY GROWS

Following the retirement of 28-time Grand slam singles champion Shingo Kunieda at the start of 2023, two men have forged ahead at the top of the men's game – fellow Japanese Tokito Oda, still just 17 years old, and British star Alfie Hewett. Hewett faced Kunieda in 7 Grand Slam singles finals, winning 3 and losing 4, so the legend's retirement presented a huge opportunity for Hewett.

Entering 2023, Hewett led his head-to-head with Oda 3-1, and defeated the then 16-year-old in the Australian Open final for his first singles title in Melbourne. The two met in the next two Grand Slam finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon, with Oda winning on both occasions for his first 2 Grand Slam titles. Wimbledon remains the only Grand Slam singles title that Hewett is yet to win.

After Oda lost in the 1st round at the US Open, Hewett capitalised to claim his 4th singles title in New York and ensure he and Oda split the year's Grand Slam titles. Hewett went on to win his 3rd Wheelchair Tennis Masters singles title and finish the year ranked at world No. 1.

DUTCH DOMINANCE IN QUAD SINGLES

Sam Schroder defeated fellow Dutchman Niels Vink in the 2023 Australian Open quad wheelchair singles final to successfully defend his title from 2022 and claim his 4th Grand Slam singles title.

As in 2022, the rivalry between Schroder and fellow Dutchman Niels Vink dominated the quad division in 2023. The pair also contested the quad singles finals at both Roland Garros and the US Open, with Vink winning in Paris for his 3rd Grand Slam singles title and Schroder triumphing in New York for his 5th. Wimbledon was the only Grand Slam where the two men did not meet in the final, as Schroder fell to Heath Davidson in the semifinals before Vink defeated Davidson in the final for his 4th Grand Slam singles title and first at SW19.

Vink ended the year as the world No. 1 ahead of Schroder. Vink, who is bidding to complete the Grand Slam in quad singles here, enters the event as No. 1 seed, while Schroder is No. 2 seed.

DE GROOT CHASES DOWN ALL-TIME GREATS

De Groot is bidding to win her 6th Australian Open title and close the gap on 7-time champion Dylan Alcott in 3rd place on the list for most Australian Open wheelchair singles titles.

Three-time Australian Open champion David Wagner is also aiming to win another title here and ascend the list, while Kamiji, Schroder and Jiske Griffioen are all bidding to win their 3rd Australian Open singles titles this year.

Most Australian Open wheelchair singles titles (all categories)

Player	Australian Open singles titles
Shingo Kunieda	11
Esther Vergeer	9
Dylan Alcott	7
Diede de Groot	5
Peter Norfolk	4
David Hall	3
David Wagner	3
Gustavo Fernandez	2
Jiske Griffioen	2
Yui Kamiji	2
Sam Schroder	2

Players competing at the 2024 Australian Open in **bold**

HEWETT LEADS ACTIVE PLAYERS

Kunieda enjoys a healthy lead at the top of the all-time list for most Grand Slam wheelchair singles titles (in any category), having retired at the start of 2023 with 28 Grand Slam titles to his name – including victories at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon in 2022.

Hewett claimed sole ownership of 2nd place on the list for most Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles by winning his 6th major title at the US Open in 2022, before claiming his first Australian Open singles title and 4th US Open singles title in 2023 to move to 8 titles overall. Houdet will look to draw level with Fernandez in 3rd place by winning his 5th Grand Slam title. Should 2-time Grand Slam champions Gerard, Reid or Oda win the title here this year, they will equal Robin Ammerlaan and David Hall in 5th place on the list.

Most Grand Slam men's wheelchair singles titles	
Player	Grand Slam singles titles
Shingo Kunieda	28
Alfie Hewett	8
Gustavo Fernandez	5
Stephane Houdet	4
Robin Ammerlaan	3
David Hall	3

Players competing at the 2024 Australian Open in **bold**

DE GROOT BIDS TO EQUAL VERGEER

De Groot's streak of 12 consecutive Grand Slam singles titles has seen her move to within one title of matching the great Vergeer's 21 titles at the top of the all-time list for most Grand Slam women's wheelchair singles titles.

Fellow Dutch players Griffioen and Van Koot – both former Australian Open singles champions – are also bidding to add to their tallies, while Kamiji, the only non-Dutch player in the Top 5 of the list, is aiming for her 9th Grand Slam title.

Most Grand Slam women's wheelchair singles titles	
Player	Grand Slam singles titles
Esther Vergeer	21
Diede de Groot	20
Yui Kamiji	8
Jiske Griffioen	4
Aniek van Koot	3

Players competing at the 2024 Australian Open in **bold**

THE RACE TO CATCH ALCOTT

Alcott retired having won a total of 15 Grand Slam quad wheelchair singles titles – comfortably ahead of Peter Norfolk and Wagner's tallies of 6 major titles each.

Wagner will bid to win a 7th Grand Slam title and claim sole ownership of 2nd place on the list here. Schroder aims to equal Wagner and Norfolk with his 6th Grand Slam title, while a title-victory for Vink would see him equal Schroder in 4th place on the list.

Most Grand Slam quad wheelchair singles titles	
Player	Grand Slam singles titles
Dylan Alcott	15
Peter Norfolk	6
David Wagner	6
Sam Schroder	5
Niels Vink	4
Andy Laphorne	2

Players competing at the 2024 Australian Open in **bold**

GRAND SLAM PREPARATION

Most of the field competing at the Australian Open this week have played at the Victorian Wheelchair Open and the Melbourne Wheelchair Open over the last 2 weeks, with both events having been contested at the Hume Tennis Centre in the north of Melbourne.

The 3 finals at the Melbourne Wheelchair Open were all between the Top 2 players in each category, with No. 2 seeds Oda and Schroder overcoming Hewett and Vink respectively (Vink had to retire against Schroder due to injury), while Kamiji came within a point of ending De Groot's winning streak in the women's singles final before De Groot battled back to win in a final-set tiebreak.

Victorian Wheelchair Open (8-12 Jan) – final results

Event	Champion	Runner-up
Men's singles	Alfie Hewett	Martin de la Puente
Women's singles	Yui Kamiji	Dana Mathewson
Quad singles	Guy Sasson	Heath Davidson

Melbourne Wheelchair Open (14-19 Jan) – final results

Event	Champion	Runner-up
Men's singles	Tokito Oda	Alfie Hewett
Women's singles	Diede de Groot	Yui Kamiji
Quad singles	Sam Schroder	Niels Vink

2023 LEADERS LOOK TO CONTINUE THE MOMENTUM

Martin de la Puente topped the list for most men's wheelchair singles victories in 2023, ahead of Oda and Hewett.

2023 men's wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

Rank	Player	2023 win-loss
1.	Martin de la Puente	51-22
2.	Tokito Oda	47-7
3.	Alfie Hewett	44-7
4.	Gustavo Fernandez	42-12
5.	Gordon Reid	40-19

De Groot led the women's wheelchair singles tour for most match-wins last year with a perfect season, ahead of Kamiji and Zhu Zhenzhen.

2023 women's wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

Rank	Player	2023 win-loss
1.	Diede de Groot	53-0
2.	Yui Kamiji	48-10
3.	Zhu Zhenzhen	41-23
4.	Jiske Griffioen	33-17
5.	Momoko Ohtani	32-10

Vink easily topped the list for most quad wheelchair singles wins, with 20 more than 2nd-placed Schroder – and his only 2 defeats of the season came against Schroder, in the finals at the Australian Open and US Open. Of Schroder's 10 defeats last season, 7 came against Vink.

2023 quad wheelchair singles win-loss (ITF 2 Series and above)

Rank	Player	2022 win-loss
1.	Niels Vink	56-2
2.	Sam Schroder	36-10
3.	Ymanitu Silva	30-25
4=	Heath Davidson	25-17
	David Wagner	25-16

YOUNGEST AND OLDEST

At just 17 years 264 days, Oda is the youngest player to compete in the wheelchair events here this year – he is more than 35 years younger than the oldest player, Houdet (53 years 68 days). At Roland Garros in 2022, Oda became the youngest wheelchair player to have ever contested a Grand Slam.

Youngest and oldest players in Australian Open wheelchair events

Event	Youngest player (age)	Oldest player (age)
Men's singles	Tokito Oda (17 years 264 days)	Stephane Houdet (53 years 68 days)
Women's singles	Lizzy De Greef (19 years 295 days)	Lucy Shuker (43 years 244 days)
Quad singles	Niels Vink (21 years 52 days)	David Wagner (49 years 329 days)

NB ages calculated on final day of the tournament

HOME FAVOURITES

Two Australian players have won Australian Open wheelchair singles titles – Alcott won 7 consecutive quad wheelchair singles titles here in 2015-21, while Hall won 3 men's wheelchair singles titles here in 2003-05.

Among the 4 Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian Open has the most-recent home champion in a wheelchair singles event thanks to Alcott's 7 years of success in the quad division.

Most-recent home wheelchair singles champions

Grand Slam	Most-recent home wheelchair' singles champion
Australian Open	Dylan Alcott (2021)
Roland Garros	Stephane Houdet (2013)
Wimbledon	Gordon Reid (2016)
US Open	David Wagner (2017)

There are 4 Australian players competing in the wheelchair tournament here this year – Ben Weekes and Anderson Parker in the men's singles, and Heath Davidson and Finn Broadbent in the quad singles.

LEFTHANDERS

There are 10 lefthanders in the wheelchair singles draws at the Australian Open this year – 6 in the women's event (Shiori Funamizu, Kamiji, Kgothatso Montjane, Maria Florencia Moreno, Van Koot and Zhu) and 2 each in the men's (Oda and Reid) and quad (Lapthorne and Schroder) events. Kamiji, Reid, Schroder and Van Koot are the only lefthanded players to have won an Australian Open singles title.

COUNTRY COUNTDOWN

A total of 18 nations are represented in the wheelchair singles draws at the 2024 Australian Open, with Netherlands having the most players competing across the 3 events overall. Great Britain, Netherlands and USA are the only 3 nations with representatives in each of the men's, women's and quad wheelchair events here.

Nation	Men's singles	Women's singles	Quad singles	Total
Netherlands	3	4	2	9
Japan	4	4	0	8
Great Britain	2	1	2	5
Australia	2	0	2	4
Chile	1	0	2	3
USA	1	1	1	3
France	1	1	0	2
China	0	2	0	2
Turkey	0	0	2	2
South Africa	0	1	1	2
Brazil	0	0	1	1
Canada	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Spain	1	0	0	1
Belgium	1	0	0	1

AUSTRALIAN OPEN HONOUR ROLL

A total of 21 players have won an Australian Open wheelchair singles title – 9 in the men's category, 8 in the women's category and 4 in the quad category. Of the 21 champions, 10 have won the title here on multiple occasions.

Australian Open wheelchair singles honour roll

Year	Men's singles champion	Women's singles champion	Quad singles champion
2002	Robin Ammerlaan (NED)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	no tournament
2003	David Hall (AUS)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	no tournament
2004	David Hall (AUS)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	no tournament
2005	David Hall (AUS)	Mie Yaosa (JPN)	no tournament
2006	Michael Jeremiasz (FRA)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	no tournament
2007	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	no tournament
2008	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	Peter Norfolk (GBR)
2009	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	Peter Norfolk (GBR)
2010	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Korie Homan (NED)	Peter Norfolk (GBR)
2011	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	David Wagner (USA)
2012	Maikel Scheffers (NED)	Esther Vergeer (NED)	Peter Norfolk (GBR)
2013	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Aniek van Koot (NED)	David Wagner (USA)
2014	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Sabine Ellerbrock (GER)	David Wagner (USA)
2015	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Jiske Griffioen (NED)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2016	Gordon Reid (GBR)	Jiske Griffioen (NED)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2017	Gustavo Fernandez (ARG)	Yui Kamiji (JPN)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2018	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Diede de Groot (NED)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2019	Gustavo Fernandez (ARG)	Diede de Groot (NED)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2020	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Yui Kamiji (JPN)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2021	Joachim Gerard (BEL)	Diede de Groot (NED)	Dylan Alcott (AUS)
2022	Shingo Kunieda (JPN)	Diede de Groot (NED)	Sam Schroder (NED)
2023	Alfie Hewett (GBR)	Diede de Groot (NED)	Sam Schroder (NED)
2024	???	???	???