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MILANO CORTINA
2026



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YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



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MILANO CORTINA 2026 PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES FRIDAY 6–SUNDAY 15 MARCH, 2026

FOREWORD ADDRESSES	3
BRENT WILLIAMS	3
BEN TROY	4
ELLIE COLE AM	5
NINE: YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS	6
MILANO CORTINA 2026	6
NINE NOW	8
STAN	9
FAST FACTS & FIGURES	10
PROGRAMMING	11
NINE’S WINTER PARALYMPICS TEAM	12
ELLIE COLE	12
MEET THE PARA-ATHLETES	13
PARALYMPIC SPORT EXPLAINERS	13
PUBLICITY CONTACTS	14



YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



FOREWORD ADDRESSES



BRENT WILLIAMS

NINE DIRECTOR OF SPORT
AND PARALYMPICS

There are moments in sport that reach far beyond the field of play and nowhere is that more evident than the Paralympic Games.

As a country we have a rich history in Winter Para-sports reaching back to Sweden in 1976. Australia has been represented in all 14 editions of the Paralympic Winter Games and along that journey we have collected a phenomenal 35 Paralympic medals, 12 of them gold.

Our team may be small but we are mighty. Every single one of our elite athletes is living the sporting dream and each one has a story to tell.

With over 300 hours of coverage set to screen across Nine, 9Now and Stan Sport, we look forward to sharing these incredible stories with all of Australia.

Milano Cortina 2026 marks 50 years of the Paralympic Winter Games and this edition promises to again deliver unforgettable memories that we hope will inspire the nation and encourage the 20 per cent of Australians living with a disability to get involved in sport.





BEN TROY

CHEF DE MISSION, 2026 AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPIC WINTER TEAM

The evolution of the Paralympic movement since the first Winter Games in 1976 has been nothing short of remarkable, and the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games represent another powerful chapter in that journey. These Paralympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina will showcase not only world-class sport, but the innovation, ambition and resilience that define Paralympians and the movement they represent.

For the Australian Paralympic Winter Team, there is enormous confidence in knowing that our athletes' stories will again be shared with Australians across the Nine Network. Nine's unrivalled reach, storytelling expertise and commitment to world-class sport coverage provide the ideal platform to capture the scale, intensity and emotion of the Paralympic Games in a way that truly resonates with audiences.

Our Australian athletes will face fierce opposition during every day of competition, and those who earn selection will do so through years of dedication, sacrifice and relentless pursuit of excellence. Every team member is at the absolute pinnacle of their sport, and their performances deserve to be seen, understood and celebrated.

Beyond the results and medals are stories of human strength that are uniquely Paralympic. Our athletes challenge perceptions, redefine what is possible and reflect the experiences of millions of Australians with disability. The Paralympic Games remain one of the most powerful platforms in sport to shift attitudes, spark conversations and drive lasting social change.

Paralympics Australia is proud to continue our partnership with Nine which began during the Paris 2024 campaign. This is a pivotal moment for Para sport, for Australians with disability, and for our nation's understanding of inclusion, excellence and opportunity. Together, we have another opportunity not only to deliver outstanding coverage of elite sport, but to elevate Paralympic storytelling in Australia and set a new benchmark with our home Paralympic Games in Brisbane 2032 on the horizon.





ELLIE COLE AM

HOST OF PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES MILANO CORTINA 2026,
AUSTRALIA'S MOST DECORATED FEMALE PARALYMPIAN

The Paralympic Games may be young compared to other global sporting events, but their impact has been extraordinary. Since the first Paralympic Games in 1960, when trailblazers like Daphne Ceeney and Kevin Coombs first pulled on the green and gold in Rome, the Games have stood for far more than elite sport.

I'll always be proud to call myself a Paralympian. My journey began in Beijing 2008 and carried me through London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. Every Games taught me something new about the power of sport and how it changes the way the world sees disability.

When I retired after Tokyo 2020, I finally had the space to reflect on what those years meant. Tokyo was historic: the first time Australian Para-athletes received equal medal bonuses to our Olympic teammates. It was also a Games where kids with disabilities across Australia could finally see athletes who looked like them on the world stage.

Those moments remain some of the proudest of my life. Our team carried us through a pandemic and connected Australians everywhere.

Stepping into the role of host for Nine's Paris Paralympic coverage felt like a natural continuation of that journey. And what a moment it was. The Paris Summer Paralympics captured the nation in a way we've never seen before, with Nine introducing our athletes to new audiences. I can't describe what it felt like to watch Australia fall in love with our Paralympians all over again.

Now the Paralympic Winter Games in Milano Cortina is our chance to showcase winter Para sport on a scale we've never known in Australia. The Paralympic movement keeps growing, keeps surprising, and keeps pushing boundaries. I am so grateful to be telling these stories with Nine. They're stories that continue to change the future of sport in Australia and change what's possible.





YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS

MILANO CORTINA 2026

The 9Network will be moving to Verona, Italy when the Paralympic Winter Games begins with the Opening Ceremony on Saturday, March 7 at 6.00am AEDT Live and Free on 9Gem and 9Now, plus stream it all on Stan Sport.

For 10 days the world's elite Para-athletes will compete in 79 medal events across six sports, marking the 50th anniversary of the first Paralympic Winter Games, spread across four clusters around Northern Italy.

Leading our dedicated coverage on the ground is Australia's most decorated female Paralympian, Ellie Cole. Bringing the same golden energy she became famous for in the pool, Cole will anchor the highlights show, bringing her unparalleled insight and champion's perspective to every major storyline of the Games.

The Paralympic Winter Games will begin with the Opening Ceremony in Verona, then Milano will host the Para-ice hockey,

Cortina will host Para-alpine skiing, Para-snowboard and Wheelchair Curling, and Val di Fiemme will host the Para-cross country skiing and Para-biathlon.

Team Australia: The Ones to Watch

Australia is sending a team of 14 para-athletes in four core disciplines: Para-alpine skiing, Para-snowboard, Para-cross country skiing and Para-biathlon. Led by Chef de Mission **Ben Troy**, the team features a mix of veteran champions and exciting new talent.

Appointed Australia's Team Captain, **Sean Pollard** (Para-snowboard) brings immense skill to the Para-snowboard cross and banked slalom events. Pollard's journey to the Paralympic stage is remarkable. Originally a keen surfer from Bunbury, WA, his life changed in 2014 when he lost his left arm and right hand to a shark attack in Esperance.

He discovered snowboarding a year later and had a natural affinity with the board, having never even seen snow before. This will be Pollard's second Paralympic Winter Games.



Returning for his fourth Games, **Ben Tudhope** (Para-snowboard) is the Beijing Games 2022 bronze medallist and a world-class competitor. Tudhope made history at the Sochi 2014 Games as the youngest competitor from any nation, a 14-year-old, and is a heavy favourite in the SB-LL2 event. He is the first Australian winter athlete to achieve 50 World Cup podiums and is looking to upgrade his bronze to gold.



Amanda Reid (Para-snowboard) is already a legend in Para-cycling with three golds and a silver, but now she aims to add a Winter Paralympic medal to her trophy cabinet in the Para-snowboard Cross and Banked Slalom events at her fifth Paralympic Games.



Following **Josh Hanlon's** (Para-alpine skiing) breakout performance in Beijing, he was named Paralympics Australia's Rookie of the Year in 2022 and has become a consistent force on the World Cup circuit. Hanlon is one of Australia's strongest medal hopes on the slopes after winning Australia's first Downhill World Cup medal since 2017, claiming a bronze. In 2018, Hanlon had a sudden and severe bacterial infection that led to the amputation of his lower legs and right hand at the wrist. He discovered sit-skiing a year later at a mobility clinic and instantly fell in love with the freedom of carving turns.



A former elite able-bodied triathlete, **Lauren Parker** (Para-cross country skiing) is a dual-sport superstar and Paralympic gold and silver medallist from the Paris 2024 Games in the Para-triathlon and Para-cycling events. Following her performance, Parker became the first Australian athlete in 48 years to win gold medals in two different sports at the same Games and was named the 2024 Australian Paralympian of the Year. Now she is looking to make history by asserting her dominance on the snow.





9Now will feature eight dedicated Individual Sport Channels, providing a comprehensive deep dive into all six Para-sports. Whether you want to follow Wheelchair Curling or watch the high-speed intensity of Para-ice hockey, these feeds will ensure Australia doesn't miss a second of the action.

Beyond the live competition, 9Now is your all-access pass to the greatest moments of the Paralympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. From the historic Opening and Closing Ceremonies to full event replays and highlights of every medal moment, Australia will be able to relive the triumphs anytime, anywhere.

Plus, catch the day's biggest stories with the daily highlight episode to keep up to speed with the achievements of our athletes.



YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



Stan. SPORT

THE COMPLETE PARALYMPIC EXPERIENCE

Stan Sport will offer viewers a complete Paralympic Winter Games experience with every sport and every moment streamed live and on demand.

Throughout Milano Cortina 2026, fans can enjoy live coverage of all 79 medal events across eight dedicated sport feeds throughout Milano Cortina 2026.

Complementing this extensive live offering, Stan Sport will provide a comprehensive on-demand experience including full event replays for every event plus highlights for all medal events allowing fans to relive the thrilling action when they want.

9Now's Daily Highlights show showcasing the biggest moments and highlights will also be available throughout the Winter Games on Stan and Stan Sport.

Learn more at:

<https://www.stan.com.au/olympics>



YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



FAST FACTS & FIGURES

- Six sports: Para-alpine skiing, Para-biathlon, Para-cross country skiing, Para-ice hockey, Para-snowboard and wheelchair curling.
- For the first time Wheelchair Curling Mixed Doubles will debut, adding a high-stakes strategy event to the program.
- Held across four hubs in Northern Italy: ice sports will be centered on Milan, snow events in the stunning alpine hubs of Cortina d'Ampezzo and Val di Fiemme, and the opening ceremony in Verona.
- This event marks 50 years since the first Paralympic Winter Games were held in 1976.
- Australia is set to send 14 para-athletes in four disciplines
- The Opening Ceremony will take place at the Arena di Verona, a 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheatre, making it one of the most iconic backdrops in sporting history.





PROGRAMMING

CEREMONIES

OPENING CEREMONY

SATURDAY, MARCH 7
6.00AM – 8.00AM AEDT
9GEM & STAN SPORT

CLOSING CEREMONY

MONDAY, MARCH 16
6.30AM – 8.30AM AEDT
9GEM & STAN SPORT

DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

MILAN ENCORE

SUNDAY, MARCH 8
1.00PM – 2.00PM AEDT
CHANNEL 9 & STAN SPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 9 –
SATURDAY, MARCH 15
1.30PM – 3.00PM AEDT
CHANNEL 9 & STAN SPORT

SUNDAY, MARCH 15
1.00PM – 2.00PM AEDT
CHANNEL 9 & STAN SPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 16
1.30PM – 3.00PM AEDT
CHANNEL 9 & STAN SPORT





NINE'S WINTER PARALYMPICS TEAM

ELLIE COLE

Ellie Cole AM is Australia's most decorated female Paralympic athlete, winning a record-breaking 17 Paralympic medals during a distinguished swimming career. After losing her right leg to cancer at the age of three, Ellie's journey has become one of resilience, excellence and leadership on and off the field.

In recognition of her significant service to sport and advocacy for diversity and inclusion, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2024.



Following her retirement from elite sport, Ellie has transitioned seamlessly into senior leadership, governance and media roles. She sits on the Board of Paralympics Australia and the Board of the New South Wales Institute of Sport, contributing an athlete-first perspective to high-performance strategy, governance and pathway development.

Ellie has also led Australia's team as Chef de Mission for the Youth Commonwealth Games in Trinidad and Tobago, guiding the next generation of athletes on the international stage.

A highly respected broadcaster and host, Ellie is a familiar face on Nine's Wide World of Sports and was a key member of the 9Network commentary team for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024. Her natural warmth and experience have made her a trusted voice in major sporting moments, including Olympic and Paralympic competition.

Beyond sport, Ellie is a children's author. Her debut book, *Felix and His Fantastic Friends*, celebrates inclusion, friendship and accessibility, reaching families, schools and young audiences across Australia.

An accomplished speaker and advocate, Ellie continues to work across sport, media and education to champion diversity, inclusion and leadership, using her platform to drive meaningful change and representation in Australian society.



YOUR HOME OF THE PARALYMPICS



MEET THE PARA-ATHLETES

<https://www.9now.com.au/paralympic-winter-games-milano-cortina-2026>



PARALYMPIC SPORT EXPLAINERS

<https://www.9now.com.au/paralympic-winter-games-milano-cortina-2026?selectedTab=Sports+Explainers>



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