



BEBE VIO

ATHLETE AND ACTIVIST

GENERAL INFORMATIONS:

- Name: Beatrice Maria Adelaide Marzia Vio Grandis.
- Nickname: Bebe Vio
- Age: 23
- Palmarès: 12 golden medals, 2 silver medals, 5 bronze medals.
- Activism: Opened an Academy in 2018 where people with disabilities have the opportunity to learn fencing.
- Nowaday: Sport manager, Commendator of the Italian Republic and Argent Medal of sport.

5 W RULES

- Who: Who is Bebe Vio, early life, his disability
 - What: her goals, the 2020s Olympics and his activist career
 - Why: her importance in sport and her importance as a woman
 - When: When she started his career and when she be amen so famous.
 - Where: the 2020s Olympics, the beginnings and his darli career.
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WHO IS BEBE VIO?

EARLY LIFE

~She was born in Venice in March 1998, daughter of an aeronautical engineer, she grew up in Mogliano Veneto. At the age of five, Bebe started practicing fencing at the local club.

~At the age of eleven, she got sick of an unknown ache; later that day, the doctors found out that the ache is a dangerous form of meningitis, the Type B one. The meningitis caused a huge and devastating infection due to his rapid way to spread in the victim's body. The only way to survive was to cut arms and legs and let her at the hospital for some days. Bebe will stay at the hospital for 100 consecutive days.

BULLYSM

- ~One of the biggest problems were when Bebe went back to school. Some of the mothers and parents of his classmates refused to have someone different in their children's class.
- She started a new training program and practiced fencing alone, with a brand new humor and a new instructor. At the time, a specialized gym for people with disabilities like her didn't exist.

ACHIEVMENTS AND ACTIVISM

ACHIEVMENTS IN PARALYMPIC SPORT

Paralympic Gold Medal (2016)

World Champion (2017)

European Champion (2016)

Athlete of the Year: Vio has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards. She was named Italian Female Athlete of the Year in 2016, and she was also honored with the Laureus World Sports Award for Best Sporting Moment in 2017.

Despite her constant being under the Spotlights, Bebe has always been an athlete who avoids the constant cheers and fans. She is not someone who isolates herself, but she doesn't like public so much as the others in her league.

ACTIVISM CAREER

Bebe started a career as an activist after becoming a very important person in Italy. One of Bebe Vio's most significant activist efforts has been her work to raise awareness about disability rights. She has become a strong advocate for improving the social inclusion of people with disabilities, both in Italy and internationally.

Bebe has actively worked to break down stereotypes surrounding people with disabilities, particularly focusing on the idea that individuals with disabilities cannot be strong, athletic, or independent.



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WHY IS BEBE VIO SO IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN?

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

Bebe Vio has made a significant impact for women by breaking barriers and promoting inclusivity. As a Paralympic fencer, she has shown that women with disabilities can achieve extraordinary success. Her visibility has raised awareness about the importance of inclusion and the need to dismantle physical, social, and emotional barriers. Bebe's story empowers women to pursue their dreams regardless of challenges. She also highlighted the often-overlooked reality of women with disabilities, showing they deserve the same rights and opportunities. Through her strength, resilience, and determination, she has inspired countless women to embrace their potential and defy limitations.

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WHEN BEBE VIO STARTED FENCING AND WHEN SHE BECAME SUCCESSFUL

THE BEGINNING AND THE CALL-UP TO THE NATIONAL TEAM

Beatrice "Bebe" Vio began her fencing journey at the age of five, practicing standing fencing. In late 2008, at the age of 11, she contracted severe meningitis, leading to the amputation of both her legs at the knee and both her arms. After more than three months of intensive rehabilitation, she was able to return to fencing. She resumed fencing in the wheelchair version in 2010 and joined the National Paralympic fencing team in 2011.

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WHERE HER CAREER TOOK PLACE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS CAREER

Beatrice "Bebe" Vio began practicing fencing in 2002, at the age of five, in Mogliano Veneto, Italy. Following a severe case of meningitis in 2008, she did her rehabilitation at the INAIL Prosthesis Center in Budrio and , after a year she resumed fencing, adapting to wheelchair fencing with the aid of specialized prosthetics. She continued her training under her long-time coaches, Federica Berton and Alice Esposito, and participated in her first official wheelchair fencing competition in Bologna in May 2010.

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WHERE HER SUCCESS TOOK PLACE

HER SUCCESS

Beatrice "Bebe" Vio has achieved significant success in wheelchair fencing across various international competitions:

- European Championships: She secured her first European title in 2014 and continued her dominance by winning additional titles in 2016, 2018, and 2019.
- World Championships: Vio became the world champion in 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2023.
- Paralympic Games: at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympics, she won the gold medal in the individual foil B category. She successfully defended her title at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, held in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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HER INTERVIEW AND HER SMILE AND IRONY

Bebe Vio has always faced her difficulties with a smile and irony, in fact she was a guest on Fabio Fazio's "Che tempo che fa", in this interview she talks about the difficulties she had and the doctors who treated her. She was also the only person who carried the Olympic torch in both the Olympics and the Paralympics.



<https://youtu.be/l6uxrHEwHeA?si=XILxHF8PgSfIVRfZ>

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