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Focus on...Valladolid

The home of Arturito Coello, the world number 1

For the 17th stage of the season, the **Premier Padel** circuit comes back to Spain. The **Oysho Valladolid Premier Padel P2** will be played at the **Polideportivo Pisuerga**, in a city located in northwestern Spain, capital of the province of the same name and the **Autonomous Community of Castilla and León**. Castilla and León is the fifth largest community in Spain in terms of number of clubs after **Catalunya, Andalusia, Madrid** and the **Comunidad Valenciana** with 280 facilities (clubs + accommodation) and 870 padel courts. **Valladolid** in particular has 210 courts, according to estimates by the **FIP Research & Data Analysis Department**.

Padel began to become popular in **Castilla y León** in the 1980s, with the foundation of the first clubs dedicated exclusively to the sport. Clubs such as the **Valladolid Padel Club** were pioneers, providing facilities and organising the first local tournaments that attracted many amateur. Over the years, lots of events have contributed to the popularity of padel in Castilla y León. Tournaments such as the Valladolid Padel Open and the Regional Padel League have been crucial, attracting high-level players and promoting the sport among the community. The padel movement in this region is driven by the **Federación de Padel Castilla Y Leon** in concert with the **Federación Española de Padel (FEP)**. The Federación de Padel Castilla Y Leon, presided over by **Victoria Barcina Hidalgo**, has a licensed number of 2,879 players of which 34.6% are women (in the whole of Spain, licences exceeded the record number of 102,000), 55 federated clubs, 77 national coaches and 17 national referees (Data source: FEP - updated September 2024).

The future of padel in Castilla y León looks promising, with several projects under development: it is estimated that licences will exceed the almost 3,000 of the previous year. Another extremely positive aspect is that under-19s hold 15.4% of the current licences and that start-up programmes for young people are being planned, with the aim of promoting local talent from an early age. The **Oysho Valladolid Premier Padel P2** is the second tournament of the FIP circuits to be played in this province: the first was the **FIP Gold Valladolid** played in June with the victories of **Javi Rico** and **Juanlu Esbri** among the men and **Lorena Rufo** and **Bea Caldera** (the latter a home idol) among the women.

In the FIP ranking there is a player from Valladolid who is writing padel history: the current world number 1 **Arturo Coello**, already winner of eight Premier Padel tournaments in 2024. Also in the world's top 100 among men is **Javier Martinez**, number 74. In the women's FIP ranking there are four players from Valladolid in the top 40: the very young **Ale Alonso** (born in 2006, number 19), currently out due to injury, and again **Bea Caldera** (2001, number 26), **Esther Carnicero** (1999, number 34) and **Melania Merino** (1999, number 40).

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