

Editorial



Dear Friends,

It is only natural that these weeks, these months, the whole world feels the Olympic fever. Athletes, coaches, officials and fans all over the world are having their eyes fixed on Beijing. This is expected to continue until the end of the Games, to the end of August.

However, no matter how strange it may sound now: there is life after the Olympic Games! Other major tasks, projects are awaiting us. And just in the interest of successful Olympic Games there is always a lot to do – in fact, more and more – on the “everydays” of the sport. In the last issue of **World Weightlifting** we pointed

out the importance of the elections in the various Continental Federations. Since then, two more Continental organizations have changed leadership. Let us congratulate the new Oceania Federation President, the **Hon. Marcus Stephen** from Nauru (featured as the President of the Republic of Nauru in the previous issue of **World**

Weightlifting) and the new European Federation President, **Dr. Antonio Urso** from Italy! The pleasing conclusions from both elections are that there was enormous interest in the top positions of these Federations, a proof of general ambition to be involved in the administration in international sport at highest level. Several capable and in the civic life well-positioned officials were running for executive functions in both Oceania and Europe and we have no doubt that the most deserving candidates eventually won these prestigious places. With the high positions come the duties, of course, and the governance of such important pillars of our sport requires lots of work, lots of promotion and lot of time and devotion. We wish the best of success to the newly elected and their respective Executive Boards.

The elections in the Continental Federations were followed by the respective Continental Championships, each of which served as additional qualification opportunities for those countries who failed to win quota to the Beijing 2008 Games through the 2006 and 2007 World Championships.



The IWF President hopes to enjoy the same cheerful atmosphere in Beijing



The prospect of getting a few slots at the Games drew record numbers in nations and athletes to these Continental events. Pan-America opened the series, followed by Oceania, Europe, Asia and finally by Africa. (In this issue you will find our special reports on the Championships.) The high stake entailed taking a high risk taken by some, and we must note with regret that several athletes have toppled in the extensive and rigorous IWF anti-doping controls at these events. A shame that will not remain without consequences for the countries concerned.

The Olympic Qualification process is incomplete at the time of writing this Editorial: some anti-doping issues are still in process; furthermore the individual qualifications and the Tripartite Commission Invitations (Wild Cards) are yet to be allocated. Just one

word on the latter: nearly 100(!) Wild Card applications on the one hand testify to the fantastic interest and popularity in weightlifting, on the other hand give an almost impossible job to the decision-makers to make a fair distribution.

Looking now beyond the Olympic Games, we are happy and proud to note that weightlifting will feature as a core sport on the program of the 1st Youth Olympic Games in 2010, which will be held in Singapore. Similarly, after the first FISU World University Weightlifting Championships, which will take place in Komotini, Greece, end of November this year, weightlifting was adopted to the program of the FISU Games, the Summer Universiade for 2011 Shenzhen, China.

When allocating our annual world championships – both seniors and juniors – the IWF

Executive Board does not need to make a global search for candidates. On the contrary, we find it difficult to choose from equally suitable candidates, 3 to 4 years in advance. As mentioned in the introduction, the workload multiplies with the advance of the Olympic Games. However, with or without the Games, the highly qualified and hard-working staff members of the IWF's Secretariat in Budapest – in accordance with our philosophy – are at any time at the disposal of the Weightlifting Family. Contact us for help, for information; our goals are the same.

The next major target is undoubtedly Beijing and the Games. Let us be successful and let the sport win!

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President

Yannis Sgouros
IWF General Secretary

The Executive Board of the European Federation

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