



## IWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS November 15-23, 2023 - Guadalajara (MEX)

### Newcomers excel as medals are shared worldwide in Guadalajara

Young weightlifters from all parts of the world showed that lack of experience need not be a barrier to success at the 2023 World Junior Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Newcomers made a significant contribution as more than half of the teams who entered, 25 from 44, won medals. Nations from all five continental federations were among them.

There were plenty of medallists who have competed 10 times or more, including in senior competition. But on the opening day Isabella Rodriguez started a trend when she finished second for the United States on her first international appearance.

Gold medallists Alireza Nasiri from Iran and Elijah 'EJ' Hein from the US performed so well on their debuts at 96kg and 89kg that they featured in the top six individual performers in the IWF Robi points rankings.

Ariya Paydar, who was beaten by Mykyta Rubanovskyi's last lift at 109kg, was another impressive newcomer for Iran, whose team hit top form in the heavier men's categories.

Japan had a debutant medallist on day two when Mao Tsutsumi finished third, one place behind her team-mate Nanasa Kawasaki. Eight of Japan's 10 athletes had never competed before internationally, and five of them won medals.

The top male lifter was, unsurprisingly, Garik Karapetyan from Armenia, the European senior 102kg champion who won his third straight junior world title. Two 67kg lifters, Gor Sahakyan from Armenia and Hampton Morris from the United States, were ranked second and third.

Svitlana Samuliak from Ukraine topped the women's individual list with a six-from-six victory at 59kg, ahead of the 45kg multiple champion Cansu Bektas from Turkey and Kelin Jimenez from Ecuador, an impressive winner at 76kg.

Read more [here](#)



Elijah Hein (USA)



Ariya Paydar (IRI)

# POSITIVE NEWS FROM MEXICO

## IWF/ITA Anti-Doping Education Seminar: “We are here to protect the athletes’ career”

Athletes and coaches gathered on November 17 in the competition venue of the IWF World Junior Championships, taking place in Guadalajara (MEX), for the IWF Anti-Doping Education Seminar, organised in partnership with the International Testing Agency (ITA). Lectured by ITA Ambassador Thais Cevada, from Brazil, and a former international-level athlete in Artistic Gymnastics, this initiative is aimed at briefing the lifters and their respective entourage about the anti-doping main regulations and procedures.

Around 90 attentive spectators recalled their knowledge of the definition of an anti-doping rule violation, the prohibited substance list, the principle of strict liability, the importance of checking the eventual medicines athletes are taking, the danger of supplements, and the possibilities of reporting any past, present or future violation or suspect behaviour.

*“This is a fundamental cause for the sport of weightlifting. We are spending around 12 million US dollars each Olympic cycle in the fight against doping. This is a huge investment, which could otherwise be used for the direct benefit of our athletes and of our national federations,”* considered Antonio Urso, the IWF Secretary General in his introductory words to the attendants.

Read more [here](#)



## When sports performances and environmental causes meet in Guadalajara

The organisers had announced it proudly: the 2023 edition of the IWF World Junior Championships, presently staged in Guadalajara, wouldn't be limited to the great performances of the young lifters competing in Mexico. After the conclusion of the event, an important legacy would be associated with the competition: environmental protection. For that, various initiatives took place during the event, namely with a planting of trees, in a space adjacent to the competition venue.

The idea is that each national delegation present in the capital of Jalisco would plant a tree, which will stay as a testimony of the sports world to the cause of ecology. The ceremony took place between the two A sessions of the fourth day of competition and happily mobilised the delegations competing in Mexico.

Read more [here](#)





## IWF World Championships 2023: all anti-doping tests were negative!

Besides the outstanding sportive success, the IWF is pleased to announce that the 2023 IWF World Championships, held from September 4-17 in Riyadh (KSA), had no positive doping results among the 213 athletes from 61 different countries that were tested. In addition to the 213 urine samples, 82 blood samples were collected (approximately 40% of the tests).

The IWF global showcase was attended by 692 lifters and is one of the two mandatory events in the pathway for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games qualification.

After receiving this positive report from the International Testing Agency (ITA), responsible for the independent conduct of all IWF anti-doping activities, the IWF President Mohammed Jalood and IWF Secretary General Antonio Urso wrote a note of appreciation to all IWF National Member Federations. *"This accomplishment reflects the rigorous anti-doping measures, the commitment of our athletes, and the dedication of the Member Federations to uphold the highest standards of integrity in weightlifting,"* the IWF leadership considered. Congratulations to all athletes and National Federations!

*"We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to each and every Member Federation, its athletes, coaches, officials, and all stakeholders for their relentless commitment to clean and fair competition. Your dedication to maintaining the integrity of our sport is truly commendable and serves as an inspiration to the entire weightlifting community,"* they concluded.

Read more [here](#)



## IWF President receives prestigious Sport Award prize in UAE

The IWF President Mohammed Jalood received the prestigious Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award prize in the category "Arab Administrator" of the year. This award, given annually in several categories, is delivered in the United Arab Emirates and distinguishes individuals or organisations that have played a pivotal role in the development of sport, both locally and globally.

From Iraqi origin, Mr Jalood was elected IWF President in June 2022 and since then, under his leadership, the International Weightlifting Federations has undergone a structural reform, comprising the important areas of good governance, safeguarding and integrity, anti-doping policy, strategic planning, development and support to National Federations and athletes, and reinforcement of resources at its headquarters in Lausanne.

This positive evolution was recently recognised by the IOC, whose Session in October in Mumbai (IND) decided to reinstate weightlifting in the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. As one of the founding sports in modern Olympics, this outcome was the pinnacle of the IWF transformation under Mr Jalood's presidency.

Commenting on this fair and well-deserved prize, the IWF President stated: *"Despite being given to me, this award is a collective victory for the IWF. With my colleagues in the Executive Board, but also with the entire weightlifting family in the five continents, we have worked very hard to reshape our Federation and restore its reputation. We are definitively in the right direction".* Mr Jalood then concluded by saying that *"even if this is a time to celebrate, we should remain always attentive to the fact that this renovation effort must be our driving force in the years to come".*

Read more [here](#)

## Pacific Games/Oceania Championships: 'Special moment' for tearful champion Cikamatana after Paris 2024 boost

Eileen Cikamatana was in tears after winning at the Pacific Games in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands. The Australian was highly emotional not because she improved her best qualifying total in the Paris 2024 rankings, but because so many members of her family were there to see her do it.

The 24-year-old Australian made a career-best snatch and total in winning at 81kg on 115-145-260, and would have done even better but for failing with a final attempt at an Oceania record on 151kg.

She was more than happy because the Pacific Games doubled up as this year's Oceania Championships, making it an Olympic qualifier. Cikamatana is fifth in the rankings and has a chance to improve again at the IWF Grand Prix in Doha, Qatar which starts next week (December 4-14). Her entry total there is 260kg.

*"This is a special moment I'll hold forever,"* Cikamatana told the Australian Olympic Committee's media service. *"Finishing on the podium at Pacific Games is out of this world."*

Her parents, sister, uncles, aunts and cousins were there along with her grandmother Roselyn, who was born in the Solomon Islands and moved to Fiji, where Cikamatana lived most of her life. Roselyn had never seen her granddaughter lift live before.

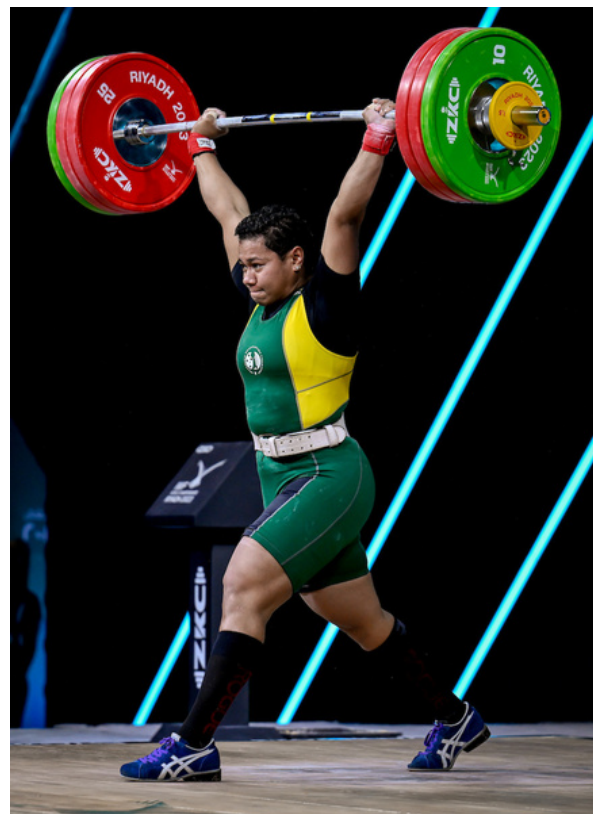
*"Ever since I started winning medals, I always dreamed of being able to go to loved ones in the crowd,"* Cikamatana said. *"I feel so special to pass over my medals to my grandmother, here in the place she's from. We were both in tears, it left us speechless. The people in the crowd are the most special people in the world to me."*

It was a good effort by Cikamatana given that temperatures reached 42C and humidity 98per cent throughout the competition. She was the only one of those from Oceania with a realistic chance of direct qualification for Paris to improve her best total.

The other four all won in Honiara and three of them, like Cikamatana, are entered in Qatar. Mattie Sasser from the Marshall Islands, whose entry total in Qatar is 220kg, made 95-115-210 at 59kg, declining her final attempt. The Samoan super-heavyweight luniarra Sipaia missed three times in making 252kg, well below her 275kg entry mark for the Grand Prix.

Among the men, Don Opeloge from Samoa also had three no-lifts in winning at 102kg on 165-214-379, which is 11kg below his entry total in Qatar. The New Zealand super-heavyweight David Liti totalled 405kg to hold off the challenge of Sanele Mao from Samoa, claiming his first Pacific Games title at the third attempt. Liti is skipping Doha.

[Read more here](#)



Eileen Cikamatana (AUS)



Dika Toua (PNG)