

IWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS Leon (ESP) - September 19-27, 2024

Rizki and Olivia Reeves did it last time, now the stars of 2024 World Juniors are ready to shine

Before the 2024 Championships ended in León, Spain last week, the last time a World Junior Championships was held in an Olympic year was in 2021 in Tashkent.

Among the winners in the Uzbekistan capital were the Paris 2024 Olympic champions Rizki Juniansyah from Indonesia and Olivia Reeves from the United States. Few people outside their own country had heard of them at the time.

Other future Olympians won junior world titles three years ago – Sergio Massidda from Italy, Muhammed Furkan Ozbek from Turkey, Garik Karapetyan from Armenia and Kamila Konotop from Ukraine all lifted in Paris, and Hristo Hristov from Bulgaria competed at the delayed 2020 Games in Tokyo a few months after becoming junior world champion.

Among those who won silver or bronze in Tashkent were Mihaela Cambei from Romania, Nina Sterckx from Belgium and Yekta Jamali, then lifting for Iran and now a medal-winning member of the Weightlifting Refugee Team. They competed in Paris too, where Cambei won a silver medal.

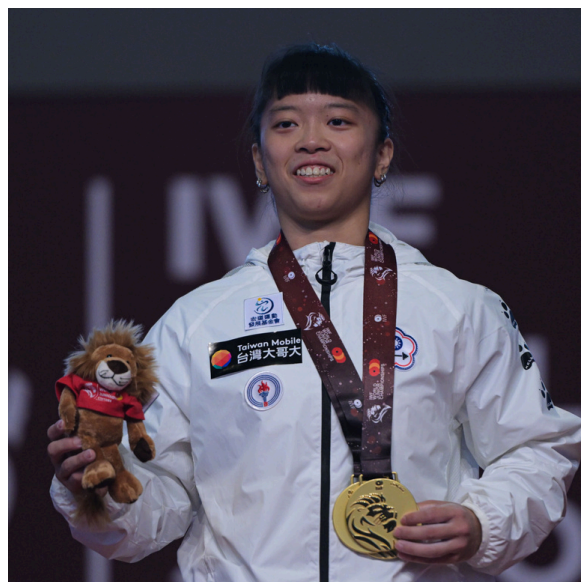
During the three years between winning in Tashkent and competing in Paris, those 2021 junior world champions trained harder, got stronger and improved their best competitive totals by huge amounts. The biggest female improver was Reeves, up 39kg, while Karapetyan did best of the men, up 46kg.

The stars from León have four years rather than three before the next Olympics. While they may be “unknown” as of now, you may well hear much more about them in the coming years.

Some of the best juniors did not win. Remarkably, the IWF’s “best lifter” rankings, based on Robi points, featured three silver medallists in the men’s top six.

In the best competition of the Championships, the men’s 102kg, winner Shahzadbek Matyakubov from Turkmenistan and runner-up Matheus Pessanha from Brazil both broke world records. Shahzadbek, ranked best individual in León, will go for more world records at the senior World Championships in Bahrain in December.

Read more [here](#)



Shahzadbek Matyakubov (Turkmenistan) and Chen Guan-Ling (Chinese Taipei), respectively the best Male and Female lifters in Leon

IWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hampton Morris: Olympic medallist, world champion and... loader!

After his Olympic medal this summer in Paris, he could have skipped the IWF World Junior Championships in Leon (ESP). He didn't. He came and was world champion, on the second day of the event. On the following day, he could have enjoyed a deserved tour of the historical and beautiful Spanish town, and taste the local food, as he told the media after his gold medal. He didn't. Instead, he was again in the field of play, but on the "other side" of the competition. As a loader, during the first B session of the day, the men's 67kg. He is Hampton Morris!

"As someone who loves the Sport so much, I think it's important to participate more in the community. Not just as a lifter, or an athlete... At home, at our Nationals, I did the same after I competed. It is however my first time at an international meet," confesses the US star. *"Loading is one of the hardest parts of our competitions. Loaders really do a lot of work – I think being here is a kind of recognition for the importance of their job".* With some sweat droplets on his forehead, the Olympic bronze medallist in the 61kg recognises: *"Running back and forth, and jumping on and off the stage is perhaps the most challenging part of it..."*

Read more [here](#)



IWF/ITA Clean Sport Seminar: "Don't be negligent, remain vigilant and get informed!"

Around 75 participants in the IWF World Junior Championships, including athletes and support personnel, gathered on September 24 in the competition venue in Leon (ESP) for the IWF/ITA Clean Sport Seminar, an important educational tool to disseminate information on IWF's Anti-Doping programme.

This initiative normally takes place at IWF events and is lectured by an ITA (International Testing Agency) Ambassador – this time, the presenter was Thais Cevada, from Brazil, a former international-level athlete in gymnastics.

The Seminar was opened by the IWF President Mohammed Jalood (pictured, right), who underlined the efforts our International Federation is allocating into this fundamental matter. *"The results are paying off, as in most of our events there are presently no positive cases. We are proud to say that we had no adverse tests also at the recent Paris 2024 Olympic Games!"* stated Mr Jalood. *"This proves that everyone is complying with the rules and that our Sport is clean and fair. These positive results will certainly count towards our wish to raise the bodyweight categories in future editions of the Olympic Games,"* the IWF President concluded.

Read more [here](#)



IWF and ITA discuss their fruitful co-operation in Lausanne

An IWF delegation led by President Mohammed Jalood met the International Testing Agency (ITA) this week in Lausanne (SUI) to discuss the ongoing partnership between the two entities and their common anti-doping strategies. The list of the IWF representatives also included the General Secretary Antonio Urso and the IWF CEO Achilleas Tsogas. From the ITA side, its Director General Benjamin Cohen led the discussions.

The IWF and the ITA are working closely together since 2019, with the independent agency supervising all anti-doping operations on behalf of our International Federation. The set of activities in this area comprises the in and out-of competition testing, results management, intelligence and education, TUE supervision, and storage and re-analysis of samples. This very complete programme ensures total transparency and reliability, and has produced very fruitful results in recent years.

The high-level meeting between the IWF and the ITA reinforced and praised this level of co-operation, and reiterated the mutual interest in remaining connected in a common effort to keep the sport of weightlifting clean and fair.

Read more [here](#)



IWF is now member of the Global Esports Federation

The IWF is pleased to announce that its membership to the Global Esports Federation (GEF) has been accepted and the Sport of weightlifting is now part of this exciting new family. The IWF application request was made in the final days of July and on August 1, the GEF President Chris Chan confirmed the membership status of our International Federation.

"I would like to warmly welcome the IWF into the Global Esports Family. We are greatly honoured to have IWF as a Member of the GEF," Mr Chan wrote in his letter.

Mr José Quiñones, IWF Executive Board Member and President of the Pan-American Weightlifting Federation, and Mr Achilleas Tsogas, IWF CEO, will be the two weightlifting representatives in the GEF working group of International Federations (IFAC).

"We truly believe that the input and support of the IWF to this focus group will be instrumental," also stated Mr Chan.

Read more [here](#)



Florian Sperl re-elected as President of the German Weightlifting Federation



Florian Sperl, also an IWF Executive Board member, was re-elected for a second four-year term as President of the German Weightlifting Federation

At the German Weightlifting Electoral Congress, Florian Sperl was re-elected as President of the German Weightlifting Federation (BVDG) for a second four-year term. The entire board and the expert advisors were also re-conducted at the helm of the German Federation. Mr Sperl is also an IWF Executive Board member.

Much has been achieved in the past four years to secure the future of the sport in Germany. An important milestone was the implementation of the "Agenda 2028", a strategic plan paving the way for the future of weightlifting in the country. Furthermore, personnel restructuring measures were established to modernise the federation and make it more efficient. Mr Sperl also reported on international sports policy and underlined the excellent co-operation within the IWF and the EWF Executive Board.

The German Weightlifting Bundesliga is a unique league competition and a very important element within the federation's strategic plan. The upcoming finals of the Bundesliga are scheduled for the end of April 2025.

In his speech, Mr Sperl emphasised that the German Weightlifting Federation will continue developing the sport at all levels and thanked the delegates for the good cooperation.

IWF IN MOURNING – Gustavo Malgor (ARG)

The IWF learnt with great sadness about the sudden loss of Mr Gustavo Malgor, President of the Argentinean Weightlifting Federation, on September 15.

In a letter of condolences sent to the National Federation, the IWF President Mohammed Jalood and IWF General Secretary Antonio Urso wrote:

"This extremely sad news was a shock for the entire weightlifting family. Besides his outstanding work leading your Federation, Gustavo was an amazing human being, appreciated by all those who had the privilege to know him."

Read more [here](#)

