

IWF NEWS

IWF and ITA formally sign a 2025-2028 agreement

The IWF is happy to announce that it formally signed a 2025-2028 agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA), for the prosecution of our Federation's anti-doping programme.

This four-year contract highlights the excellent co-operation between the two parties, working together since 2019. This collaboration includes, among other areas, athletes' testing, results management, scientific research, TUE procedures, education, intelligence & investigation, and compliance.

The success of these operations was recently demonstrated by the figures related to the lifters taking part at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games: both before and during the event, all tests done on the 122 lifters present in the French capital were negative.

In a very challenging environment, these achievements are a proof of IWF's strong commitment to promote clean and fair competitions around the world. The regular update on anti-doping regulations and the technological advancements provided by the ITA are also a guarantee that our International Federation remains at the forefront of this merciless fight.

"We are extremely satisfied with this partnership, as it allowed us to pursue on a transparent and independent way our anti-doping strategy. Weightlifting definitively changed from the moment we partnered with the ITA – and this was essential for our credibility and growth as an Olympic sport. We are now a respected International Federation that operated a structural change in the way it looks at this essential area. The Los Angeles 2028 Olympics are already on the horizon and we will get there very well accompanied by the ITA," considered the IWF President Mohammed Jalood.

"We are honoured to continue our partnership with the IWF, a collaboration that has proven to be a game-changer for weightlifting athletes worldwide. By placing the utmost emphasis on clean sport, the IWF has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to protecting athletes and ensuring fair competition," stated ITA Director General Benjamin Cohen. *"This renewed trust underscores the IWF's determination to uphold the integrity of weightlifting and reflects the success of the reforms achieved together since 2019. We congratulate the IWF on their leadership in this critical area and look forward to supporting the weightlifting community on the path to LA28 and beyond."*



Benjamin Cohen, ITA Director General and
Mohammed Jalood, IWF President



Intense week of activities for the IWF President

The IWF President Mohammed Jalood had an intense week of activities in mid-January, with successive visits to Kazakhstan, Switzerland, and Armenia.

It all started in Astana, the vibrant capital of Kazakhstan, where the President of the Republic Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev received the IWF delegation, also comprising the President of the Asian Weightlifting Federation, Mr Mohamed Yousef Al Mana. The two IWF dignitaries were given the 2nd Degree Dostyk (Friendship) Order, awarded to individuals for the promotion of international and civil consensus in society and the promotion of peace, friendship, and cooperation between peoples.

Mr Jalood and Mr Al Mana had the opportunity to discuss the development of weightlifting in the country, a sport with a lot of tradition and good results in Kazakhstan.

Mr Jalood also travelled to Yerevan, the historical capital of Armenia, where he had the opportunity to attend the country's weightlifting federation's electoral session and congratulate the new President of the national body, Mr. Arayik Harutyunyan. This highly-respected official is well known within the weightlifting family, as he has been Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister's Office. In this quality, he had represented the highest authorities of the country, namely playing a decisive role in the award of the 2027 IWF World Championships to the city of Yerevan. A meeting with the President of the Republic of Armenia, Mr Vahagn Khachaturyan, was also organised.

Read more [here](#)



President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev between Mr Mohamed Yousef Al Mana (AWF President, left) and Mr Mohammed Jalood (IWF President, right)



The President of the Republic of Armenia Mr Vahagn Khachaturyan (fourth from the left in the photo) welcomed the IWF delegation in Yerevan. Next to him (fourth from the right), Mr Arayik Harutyunyan, the newly-elected president of the country's weightlifting federation

IWF recognised in IF Transition Seminar at home of the IOC

The IWF was honoured at the International Federation (IF) Transition Seminar for LA28, held at Olympic House and the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland. All International Federations were presented with a commemorative Olympic Games Paris 2024 torch and medals by the IOC and the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, recognising the Federation's key contributions to the resounding success of the Games. Speaking about the success of Paris 2024, IWF President Mohammed Jalood said:

"The Olympic Games in Paris were an extraordinary showcase for weightlifting. The atmosphere created by thousands of fans at the South Paris Arena highlighted just how much our sport continues to inspire and excite people; it was truly special to experience that. Athletes rose to the occasion, competing at their best in a fair and clean environment, and it is encouraging to see that seven of the ten gold medallists were age 25 or younger. This is a testament to the bright future of weightlifting as we now look ahead to LA28."

The IWF remains dedicated to building on the momentum of Paris 2024, promoting clean sport and fuelling innovation to ensure weightlifting continues to provide opportunities and experiences for its global community.



Mr Mohammed Jalood (IWF President) with Mr Thomas Bach (IOC President)

IWF meets with the UNHCR on the Refugee Team programme

Florian Sperl, IWF Executive Board member and coordinator of the IWF Refugee Team project, was on January 23 at the headquarters of UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency in Geneva (Switzerland), where he had the opportunity to discuss our International Federation's programme with representatives of the UN body in charge of this topic.

As a reminder, the first IWF Refugee Team was launched in 2023, and some of its athletes could participate in the IWF World Championships organised that year in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). In 2024, the project continued and two athletes from the team successfully took part in the Paris Olympic Games. Moreover, four of them also competed at the recent IWF World Championships, held last December in Manama (Bahrain).

Given the success of the project, and to give additional stability to the programme, the IWF decided to open applications for a new Refugee Team for the period 2025-2028, thus covering the entire Olympic cycle until the Los Angeles 2028 Games.

"We had a very friendly and positive meeting! I presented our project to the UNHCR representatives and they were quite happy about the way we are supporting these lifters. It perfectly matches their own objectives and their actions around the world, where millions of people are experiencing challenging experiences as refugees," considered Mr Sperl after the meeting.

The IWF EB member met with Ms Francesca Bonelli (Head, Partnership and Coordination Service – Division of External Relations), Mr Nick Sore (Senior Refugee Sport Coordinator), and Mr Stephen Reynard (Sport Project Coordination Officer), and also discussed further ways of reinforcing the programme. Ms. Bonelli shared her thoughts following the meeting: *"We appreciate the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) support for refugees. We look forward to celebrating the successes of the IWF Refugee Team and to exploring further opportunities to improve the wellbeing and opportunities for people forced to flee through the sport of weightlifting."*

Mr. Sperl concluded: *"Another future possibility is to actively co-operate with the UNHCR to provide weightlifting equipment to refugee camps or to reinforce the structures already in place. As sport plays an important role in the integration of refugees into their new life environment, we can certainly offer some support in this area."*



From left to right: Nick Sore (UNHCR), Francesca Bonelli (UNHCR), Florian Sperl (IWF) and Stephen Reynard (UNHCR)



The IWF Refugee Team at the 2024 IWF Worlds



Yekta Jamali, IWF Refugee Team

Happy Chinese New Year!

In the last days of January/first days of February 2025, China is celebrating the arrival of a New Lunar Year, the Year of the Snake. To highlight the celebrations, the IWF President Mohammed Jalood addressed the following message:

The People's Republic of China is celebrating the arrival of a New Year and we address our warmest and most successful wishes to the entire weightlifting community in this beautiful country!

China is a great powerhouse in our Sport and has produced some of the most talented athletes in the history of weightlifting. The achievements at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games demonstrate this strength and devotion.

Moreover, China has been and will continue to be a valuable partner of our International Federation. In 2026, our IWF World Championships will be excellently hosted by the city of Ningbo, and I am sure all participants in this showcase will enjoy the great hospitality of the Chinese people.

The dedication and tradition in weightlifting led China to inaugurate last October the first-ever museum totally dedicated to our Sport in the world!

2025 will be the Year of the Snake, an animal symbolising wisdom, intelligence, and continuous transformation.

As the snake regularly changes its skin, we hope the Chinese weightlifting family can find renewed energy and motivation to continue shining both on and off the platform.

On this special occasion, we wish the best of health, happiness, and success to all athletes, coaches, officials, and administrators within the Chinese weightlifting family. May 2025 – the Year of the Snake – bring you excellence and inspiration for great feats!

Happy Chinese New Year!

Mohammed Jalood

IWF President

Applications are still open for the 2025-2028 IWF Refugee Team

The regulations for the future IWF Refugee Team have now been published after the approval of the IWF Executive Board concerning the continuation of this successful programme. Initiated in 2023 and renovated in 2024, the new guidelines will now comprise the 2025-2028 quadrennium, thus providing more stability to the project.

The IWF Refugee Team will be composed by two male and two female lifters, to be chosen by the IWF Refugee Working Group. Two additional athletes (one from each gender) can be included in the group, provided they are IOC Refugee Scholarship holders.

The application deadline to be included the IWF Refugee Team is **February 16, 2025**. By March 30, 2025 the IWF Refugee Working Group will decide on the athletes and support personnel that will integrate the Team.

Read more [here](#)

Weightlifting honoured by the National Bank of Moldova

The National Bank of Moldova has recently issued a series of three commemorative coins to celebrate their most successful sports. Weightlifting is one of them, together with wrestling and canoe. The silver coins have a nominal value of 50 Lei and only 500 of them are available to the public.

