

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IWF!

### 2025: Celebrating IWF's 120th anniversary!

2025 is a very special year for the IWF, as it marks the 120th anniversary since its foundation on June 10, 1905. In Duisburg, Germany, the pioneering national federations that established the basis of the world governing body for the sport of weightlifting, were far from imagining the progress made during this rich and prestigious history.

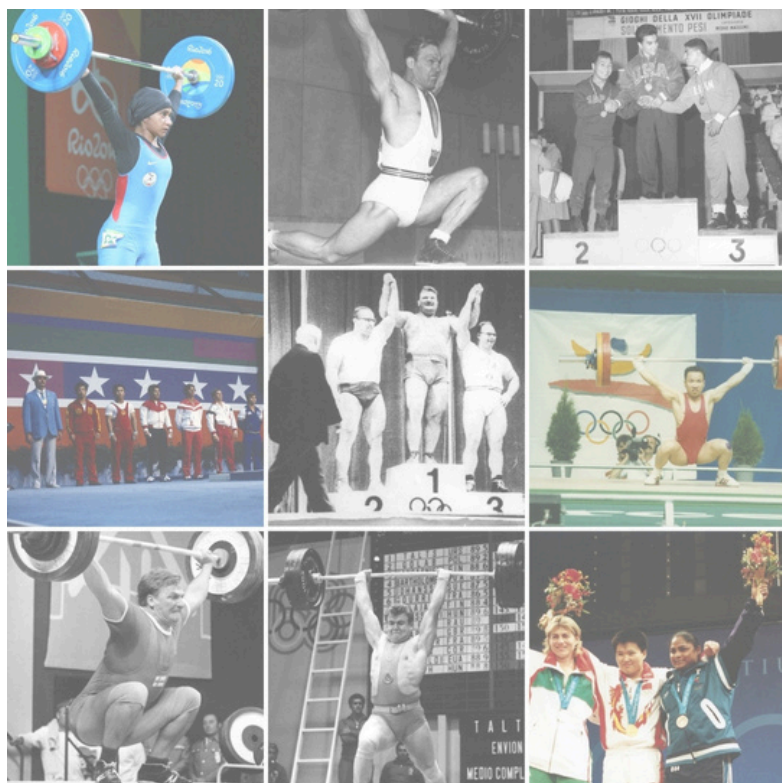
After great achievements in 2024 – namely the success of the Olympic Games in Paris, France, and the impeccable organisation of the IWF World Championships in Manama, Bahrain – our International Federation has reasons to be optimistic and look at an event brighter future.

From February 11, to June 10, there are exactly 120 days – in each of them, we are recalling a milestone in the history of the IWF. It may be a pivotal moment within its organisation, it may be the performance of a great legend of the sport, or it may refer to an unforgettable competition.

These highlights (*published on the IWF website, and IWF Facebook, Instagram and X pages*) are not presented in chronological order, and do not pretend to be an exhaustive list of the IWF achievements during these 120 years. They are selected moments and feats of those men and women who made weightlifting a great and important Sport in the Olympic movement.

In a year of celebration (for which a dedicated logo was created), let's then get inspired by the IWF's history, an organisation initially created to provide a structured framework for competitions and to create opportunities for weightlifters to showcase their talents on an international stage, but that became over these years an inspiring platform for all those loving the sport of weightlifting.

While the road ahead is filled with challenges, it also encompasses opportunities for further improvement across our members, and respective athletes, officials, coaches, and administrators in the five continents!



## Samoa gives Oceania's hopes a huge boost with opening of new IWF academy and stadium

The future of weightlifting in Oceania looks brighter than ever after a landmark event in Samoa in mid-February. More than 90 coaches, about 40 athletes, 20 national federation presidents from the Pacific region, the Samoan Prime Minister and several senior leaders from the IWF were at the grand opening of a new continental headquarters for training athletes, coaches and technical officials in Apia, Samoa's capital.

*"This is truly a historic day for weightlifting in Oceania,"* said Jerry Wallwork, who will be in charge of the new Oceania Weightlifting Institute/Academy, which is certified by the IWF. *"We are proud, we are united, we are strong."*

*"This Institute will play a major role in Oceania weightlifters winning medals at the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, World Championships at senior, junior and youth levels, and many other international events. We will bring the whole continent together. Our vision is firmly focused on success."*

The new weightlifting hub will host training camps, as well as being a centre for educating coaches and technical officials up to IWF standards. It will also host major international competitions in future, Wallwork hopes.

There were sessions on coaching and officiating in Apia on February 16, the latter conducted by the IWF technical committee chair Sam Coffa.

The Institute/Academy has 50 platforms, rooms for 50 people to stay for training camps, accommodation for four full-time coaches and their families – with room for more from other nations – and a purpose-built weightlifting stadium that holds 3,000 spectators.

Support from the project has come from the IWF, the Samoan government and National Olympic Committee, the Bank of Samoa and other sponsors. The IOC is involved too: when athletes from across the Pacific region base themselves at the Institute/Academy, they will be funded by Olympic Solidarity payments.

Prime Minister Fiafia Naomi Mata'afa, was among the speakers at the opening ceremony, as was the IWF President Mohammed Jalood, who later presented certificates to the 92 Oceania coaches who have gained IWF accreditation. Jalood said the stadium was *"one of the best in the world"*, thanked the Samoan government for their high level of support, and thanked the Oceania Federation general secretary Paul Coffa, who set up the original Oceania Institute 23 years ago to serve as a hub for athletes from a range of nations.

Read more [here](#)



IWF President Mohammed Jalood and Samoa's Prime Minister Fiafia Naomi Mata'afa





## A premiere: Weightlifting is added to programme of European Games in 2027!

Weightlifting has been welcomed on to the programme of the European Games for the first time, raising the status of the sport after a strong campaign by the continental federation.

Antonio Conflitti, president of the European Weightlifting Federation, has been working since early 2022 to persuade the European Olympic Committees (EOC) to add weightlifting to the European Games programme. *"It has been more than three years of diplomacy, starting with a meeting in Rome two months after I was elected,"* he said.

The EOC made the decision to include weightlifting at the 2027 European Games in Istanbul at its general assembly in Frankfurt, which ended on Saturday. Part of the agreement with the EWF is that the competition should be a qualifying event for Los Angeles 2028.

*"I believe that it would make the EWF the first continental federation to have the continental Games an Olympic qualifier,"* Conflitti said. *"That makes me very happy."*

There will be a full range of Olympic weight categories for men and women in Istanbul, with 300 or more athletes. Conflitti stressed that the precise format cannot be decided immediately, because the IWF is in the process of formulating a qualifying programme for 2028. There will be enough competitions, though, for the European Games to be part of the process.

Whether there will be a European Championships as well as the European Games in 2027 is also a decision for the future, Conflitti said.

In terms of multi-sport continental Games, Europe has long been behind the rest of the weightlifting world, mainly because the EOC did not support the creation of the European Games until 2012 – and weightlifting has not been a feature until now.

The other four continental Games began back in the 1950s and 1960s. When weightlifting was a major feature of the first Asian Games and Pan American Games, the winners included men who made their mark nine decades ago.

John Davis, who won Olympic heavyweight gold for the United States in 1948 and 1952, was a winner in Buenos Aires at the first Pan American Games. In the same year, 1951, Iran won all seven medal events at inaugural Asian Games in Delhi. One of the champions was Jafar Salmasi, whose bronze at London 1948 was the first Olympic medal in any sport for Iran.

Weightlifting featured at the Pacific Games in 1966 and has been on the Africa Games programme since 1991. All these continental multi-sport Games, held every four years, began decades before the first European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2015. Weightlifting was not among the 20 sports there, nor was it at the 2019 European Games in Minsk, Belarus or the 2023 version in Kraków-Małopolska, Poland.

*Read more [here](#)*



The EOC General Assembly on February 28-March 1 in Frankfurt (GER)



From left to right: Antonio Conflitti (EWF President and IWF EB member), Spyros Capralos (EOC President) and Florian Sperl (German Weightlifting Federation President and IWF EB member)

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Michel Raynaud prepares the Jeux de la Francophonie in 2027

The President of the French Weightlifting Federation Michel Raynaud recently met with Daniel Zielinski, Ministerial Delegate for the Francophonie at the French Ministry of Sports. Mr Raynaud is the IWF representative for the Jeux de la Francophonie, a sporting and artistic event that is open to nations where French is an official or culturally significant language. The next edition will take place in Yerevan (ARM) in 2027, and weightlifting will make its entry into the programme of the event.

During the meeting, Mr Raynaud had the opportunity to discover the functioning of the International Organisation of the Francophonie (OIF), which brings together 93 States around the world.

The OIF's mission is to promote the French language, cultural and sporting diversity, while enhancing cooperation between its members.

During this meeting, the networks and support mechanisms for the organisation of international events and exchanges were presented. These initiatives benefit African, Asian, American and European states affiliated to the OIF, including sometimes non-French-speaking countries.

This encounter was also part of the preparations for the Jeux de la Francophonie. On the programme of these Games, 10 sports/disciplines will be in the spotlight: judo, athletics, para-athletics, football, table tennis, 3x3 basketball, breakdancing, wheelchair basketball, team chess, and, for the first time, weightlifting!

After this first step, Mr Raynaud will participate in a technical visit in Yerevan from March 24-29. It will be a privileged opportunity to strengthen partnerships and ensure a smooth running of the 2027 Games and to ensure a significant presence of weightlifting in this major French-speaking competition.



*Michel Raynaud and Daniel Zielinski*

## MEMBER FEDERATIONS ELECTIONS

### ALG - Algeria Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Saidi Kamel  
**General Secretary:** Mr Ali Mariche Ahmed

### ESA - El Salvador Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Pedro Miguel Hernandez Linares  
**Secretary:** Ms Maria Alejandra Avilés Carrillo

### PER - Peru Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Manuel Alberto del Castillo Hernandez  
**Secretary:** Mr Eduardo Francisco Dibos Figueroa

### ARM - Armenia Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Arayik Harutyunyan  
**General Secretary:** Mr Samuel Gasparyan

### PAK - Pakistan Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Jabran Bin Salman  
**General Secretary:** Ms Sidra Gull

### SVK - Slovakia Weightlifting Federation

**President:** Mr Tomas Chovanec