

# IWF Coaching and Research Committee

Dec. 1, 2024

Manama, BRN



Mr. Jalood welcomed all members and thanked for their attendance. Mr. Urso said that he is happy that the coaching licence project started and added that universities want to use IWF licence. Future projects might focus on artificial intelligence. Mr. Tsogas introduced himself and said he is member of the ASOIF ASDEG group.

Mr. Paul Coffa said the Oceania region is 1/3 of the world, with a 36 million of population. It costs a lot for Oceania to travel. He presented the history of the Oceania Institute. It was established in 1995 in Nauru, then it continued in 2002 in Fiji, in 2005 in Samoa, in 2009 in New Caledonia until 2020 the coronavirus. The OWF EB decided to have an academy in Samoa to attract all athletes from the region. New Zealand was also interested. Samoa is ready and is supported by the IWF. Samoa government will also assist financially, and IOC Olympic Solidarity, too. Mr. Krol thanked for the presentation and congratulated to Mr. Coffa. Mr. Jalood thanked also and asked Mr. Coffa to present it at the Executive Board meeting too. Mr. Coffa added that they are very proud on what they do in the region and they were criticized because of the results but they do not have any doping case since 18 years.

Mr. Adamfi said that the name of the Committee is Coaching and Research and asked what research the IWF did. There are a lot of opportunities in this area. He had discussions with Eleiko who already has a bar sensor. It would be an objective and standard decision. He proposed to initiate a research project how this could support correct ITO decisions. Mr. Krol agreed and said there is a need and technology can help. Mr. Tsogas added that the Technical Committee also has the same point on the agenda and Eleiko also requested to amend the TCRR. Mr. Urso told that he is happy to hear that Eleiko realized this, he had this idea. Dr. Pierce added that he did already some research on AI and weightlifting, AI referring to sport. Mr. Osei said it would be great for the athletes too. Mr. Veres informed that IWF has already started to develop AI technology, scan the body, the lifts, skeleton. With the skeleton, a lot of things can be evaluated but research is needed, lot of data is available. However, humans are needed, just AI can not realize some little things. Mr. Krol said that he is a bit afraid of technology in a sense that all lifts will be then no lifts and it will be against the athletes. Mr. Veres agreed that based on suggestion of Mr. Canzek, the tolerances were changed and immediately this caused no lifts. Mr. Krol summarized that there are many rules, research, collecting data is possible, just it needs to be decided what is needed/wanted. Mr. Osei added that athletes are different, it's difficult to compare athletes from different continents and nations, for example Chinese athletes with Pan American

athletes. The Continental Federations shall invest on studies, to collect data. Mr. Masic said that audience has a problem to understand why red lights were given.

Mr. Florian Sperl gave a brief update on the IWF Refugee program. 2 refugees were competing at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, the two weightlifters were among the total 36 athletes. This project is good for IWF's reputation. In Manama, Bahrain at the IWF World Championships 4 athletes will compete, accompanied by one coach and one physiotherapist. He will propose to the EB to continue the project until 2028. Mr. Jorge Luis Barcelán thanked the hard work but mentioned that Cuba already raised their concerns regarding the refugees. Mr. Sperl thanked the comments of Mr. Barcelán. He clarified that refugee is because they applied for refugee status, IWF does the same as IOC. Mr. Adamfi added that it is important to understand that not IWF decides who is refugee, IWF just applies UNHCR policy and gives opportunity to these athletes to compete. Mr. Osei said that this topic came up when eligibility criteria were discussed. He ensured that AC does not want to encourage athletes to run away. These athletes who are in the team, went through the process, they have the right to compete. Mr. Sperl added that when these athletes receive the new passport, they will be not refugees anymore. Mr. Krol said he understands the concerns of Mr. Barcelán, however IWF follows UNHCR rules.

Mr. Colin Buckley explained that the coaching passport project started in 2012 and 12 years later the coaching licence will be in force. The licence is not about who is the better coach, it is a reference. The coaching framework will provide minimum standards, principles and values. He thanked the work and cooperation of Dr. Pierce. The coach needs to sign the Anti-Doping declaration form. Mr. Osei said that the licence is a great initiative to register all weightlifting coaches. Mr. Buckley continued that there would be an assimilation panel, consisting the CRC Chair, 1 CRC member and the project manager. Additionally, the CRC Chair from the Continent. The fee for an Olympic cycle will be 200 USD. At continental events coaches also need to be registered. Mr. Krol added that all competitions under IWF umbrella. Coaches obligation is to have licence. The form needs to be signed by the coach and Member Federation. Mr. Krol said that the process and documents are clear and simple. Mr. Osei informed the members that the AC is proposing to create an IWF app that would have everything under IWF. Mr. Buckley thanked to the IWF legal department to put together the by-laws.

90 Member Federations completed the questionnaire. Mr. Krol said that a follow up will be sent to those Federations who have not responded.

Ms. Timea Horvath informed the members that in 2022 5, in 2023 7, in 2024 8 Olympic Solidarity courses happened, plus several coaches were supported with IOC coach scholarship.

Mr. Barcelán invited everyone for a scientific seminar on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Cuba. Mr. Alex Rangkwe asked for some help to support Africa in these coaching projects. Mr. Osei, on behalf of the athletes thanked the dedication of the coaches and congratulated for the hard work.