

IWF NEWS

IWF congratulates new IOC President-elect Kirsty Coventry

Following the announcement of the election of Mrs Kirsty Coventry at the IOC Session in Olympia (GRE), the IWF sent today a congratulatory letter to the new President-elect. Signed by the IWF President Mohammed Jalood (also present in Greece) and by the IWF General Secretary Antonio Urso, the message highlights the importance and symbolism of this success.

"This achievement assumes a special importance, as for the first time in its history, the IOC will be led by a woman, and simultaneously, by a president coming from the African continent. This is an outstanding milestone and a further proof that the principles defended within the Olympic Movement are also put in place for the election of its most prestigious representative," the letter said.

IOC President-elect Mrs Kirsty Coventry and IWF President Mr Mohammed Jalood at the IOC Session in Olympia

"Your extraordinary career as a swimmer and your engagement within the IOC in recent years are a testimony of your passion and commitment for Sport. Your footprint at the IOC presidency will certainly emphasise this determination," also wrote Mr Jalood and Mr Urso.

Coventry, representing Zimbabwe during her competitive career, has been a remarkable swimmer, winning seven Olympic medals (including two gold) and being on the podium on 13 occasions at World Championships. Aged 41, she is presently Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation in her country and will take the office as IOC President on June 24, 2025.

"We are thrilled to working closely with you and the IOC to strengthen weightlifting's standing in the Olympic Movement and ensure that, as one of the founding Olympic sports, it continues to make a valuable contribution to engaging people around the world in the Olympic values", we can also read in the IWF letter.

"After the enormous success of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, both for the entirety of the Olympic Movement and for the Weightlifting family, we are actively preparing the 2028 edition in Los Angeles. Under your guidance, we are sure that the IWF will continue providing a great contribution to the Olympic programme," concluded the IWF message.



In Greece, IWF President Mohammed Jalood greeting IOC President-elect Kirsty Coventry and IOC President Thomas Bach

IWF concludes successful visit to Forde (NOR)

An IWF delegation, led by IWF CEO Achilleas Tsogas, was recently in Norway to discuss the present stage of preparation for the 2025 IWF World Championships, taking place in Forde, from October 2-11. The IWF group, also including Matyas Lencser, Competition Manager, and Timea Horvath, Development and Education Manager, was welcomed by Stian Grimseth, President of the Norwegian Weightlifting Federation, and his team.

During the two-day visit to Forde, in the western part of the country, the IWF representatives could revise all the aspects related to the set-up of the IWF showcase, namely: accommodation and transportation plan, competition and training venue, sports presentation, communication and promotion, protocol and ceremonies, anti-doping procedures, and visa and financial matters.

Together with the Norwegian organisers, the IWF delegation had the opportunity to visit the proposed venues (for competition/warm-up, and training), as well as the hotels hosting the participating athletes, coaches, and officials.

With a population of around 20'000, Forde is a town surrounded by water courses and mountains and is the smallest-ever host of an IWF World Championships. Coming from outside Norway, the preferred arrival airport is Bergen (the second largest city in the country), 170km away.

"We had a very fruitful meeting in Forde, and we could definitively validate many of the items that had been discussed in the months before this visit. The Norwegian Weightlifting Federation and the local authorities are really determined to provide a great event in this so nice location. Considering Forde's size, it will necessarily be a 'compact' championship, but everything will be done to provide an unforgettable experience to all those coming here in October," considered Mr Tsogas at the end of the visit.

"Forde already hosted the 2016 European Championships, so there is previous knowledge of the demands of such complex events. Everything we saw here is perfectly adequate to successfully welcome the world weightlifting family in six months. I extend my gratitude and appreciation to our Norwegian hosts and wish them all the best in the last stage of the preparation," concluded the IWF CEO.



Top left photo: IWF and OC Forde 2025 - Timea Horvath (IWF), Gunnar Reiakvam (OC Forde 2025), Achilleas Tsogas (IWF), Matyas Lencser (IWF) and Stian Grimseth (OC Forde 2025)

Photo above: the competition venue

Photo left: the training hall

Cyrille Tchatchet: first lifter to sign the IOC Olympian Wall

Cyrille Tchatchet became on March 18 the first weightlifter to sign the prestigious Olympian Wall at the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne (SUI), a ceremony that coincided with his participation in the WADA Athlete Council meeting and WADA Symposium. With around 700 signatures from Olympians from all continents and Sports, the IOC Wall's goal is to pay tribute to all those who make the value and create emotions at the Games.

"I am very honoured and pleased to be here. I didn't expect such a nice ceremony and attention. It's a great initiative and I am naturally glad to have my name on it. The Games are a great experience for all athletes and the International Olympic Committee wants to preserve that spirit and heritage," commented Tchatchet.

Olympian at the Tokyo 2020 Games as a member of the Olympic Refugee Team, the Cameroon-native lifter (presently living in England and holder of a British passport) also enjoyed a tour of the Olympic House in Lausanne. *"It is an impressive building, very modern and functional. Its location next to the lake also makes it special,"* noted Tchatchet after taking a photo next to the statue of Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, at the entry of the IOC headquarters.

Cyrille Tchatchet was elected last December to the World Anti-Doping Agency Athlete Council and came to Lausanne to attend the first meeting of that body in 2025. In this quality, he is attending the WADA Symposium, being held today and tomorrow in the Olympic capital.

Also an IWF Athlete Commission Member, Tchatchet recently re-started training with one objective: to take part in the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. In a recent interview with the IWF, he highlighted the importance of this competition: *"My goal is to compete at the 2026 Commonwealth Games and earn a medal there. As they are also in Glasgow, it would be a good way to close somehow the circle since 2014"*. Explanation: the 2014 edition marked a turning point in Tchatchet's life. Competing for Cameroon, he never returns home and seeks asylum in England. The rest is history.

After the IOC ceremony, Tchatchet also enjoyed a visit to the IWF headquarters. *"I finally know from where all the hard work is done – it's nice to see you have so many photos of weightlifters on the walls. You need to put mine..."* he concluded, smiling.



IWF/ITA reinforced the anti-doping programme in 2024

The IWF is pleased to present, in co-operation with the ITA (International Testing Agency), its statistics concerning the 2024 anti-doping programme. Last year, a total of **3324 samples** were collected around the world, including 1889 in-competition and 1435 out-of-competition. Moreover, in terms of urine/blood proportion, there were respectively 2389 and 935 samples.

This amount of collected samples resulted in a total of **2486 completed tests**, performed on **1078 athletes** (52% men, 48% women) from **120 countries**.

These numbers improve the statistics from 2023, when 3192 samples, from 1039 lifters representing 109 nations were collected.

Concerning the Results Management of the 2024 tests, 51 of them constitute Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV). In 2024, the IWF/ITA received only 21 TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemptions) application requests.

In terms of Anti-Doping Education, the attendance in webinars/seminars totalled 611 participants from 77 different nationalities. In 2024, the IWF, together with the ITA, held four Anti-Doping seminars – at the IWF World Cup in Phuket (THA), the IWF World Youth Championships in Lima (PER), the IWF World Junior Championships in Leon (ESP), and the IWF World Championships in Manama (BRN). As 2024 was an Olympic year, the IWF was proud to announce that all 122 athletes taking part in the Paris Games were tested before the event, and that all tests resulting from their participation in the French capital were negative.

All info on IWF/ITA Anti-Doping activities [here](#)



IWF's latest updates to the TCRR

The IWF recently published an updated version of the Technical Competition Rules and Regulations (TCRR), following the approval by the Executive Board of its latest modifications. These changes include:

-The new bodyweight categories, in place from June 1, 2025 as follows:

For Men (Senior and Junior) – 60kg, 65kg, 71kg, 79kg, 88kg, 98kg, 110kg, +110kg

For Women (Senior and Junior) – 48kg, 53kg, 58kg, 63kg, 69kg, 77kg, 86kg, +86kg

For Men (Youth) – 56kg, 60kg, 65kg, 71kg, 79kg, 88kg, 98kg, +98kg

For Women (Youth) – 44kg, 48kg, 53kg, 58kg, 63kg, 69kg, 77kg, +77kg

-The change in the bodyweight categories also dictates an update on the maximum possible entries per national federation at IWF events: from June 1, 2025 it will be of 16 men and 16 women for Preliminary Entries, 10 men (8+2 reserve) and 10 women (8+2 reserve) for Final Entries, and 8 men and 8 women for Competition (after Verification of Final Entries);

Read more [here](#)