

# Athletes' Commission Meeting

**Date:** 14 October 2025

**Present:**

Forrester Osei (Chairman), Hidilyn Diaz, Luisa Peters, Maude Charron, Cyrille Tchatchet II, Fares Elbakh, David Liti, Keydomar Vallenilla

**Absent:**

Luisa Peters, Yasmin Stevens

**Guests:**

Mohammed Jalood (IWF President), José Quinones (IWF General Secretary), Timea Horvath (IWF Secretariat)

## 1. Opening Remarks

- Mr Osei welcomed all participants and gave the floor to IWF President, Mr Mohammed Jalood.
- President Jalood announced that the IOC reviewed the IWF request and a **6th bodyweight category** was granted for **Los Angeles 2028**.
- President Jalood highlighted that:
  - the previous large gaps between categories raised health-related concerns
  - the Technical Committee prepared statistics and a proposal, which was approved by the IWF Executive Board
  - **27 October** was the deadline to submit the final categories to the IOC
  - the new bodyweight categories will take effect from **1 August 2026**
- Mr Quinones added that this was unprecedented, as it is the first time the IOC has modified the Olympic programme in this way, and reiterated the aim to secure **7+7 categories for Brisbane 2032**.

## 2. LA 2028 Updated Bodyweight Categories

- The proposed updated categories were presented to members on screen.
- Ms Charron confirmed she attended the Technical Committee meeting where the matter was discussed and voted on.
- She stated that
  - data from the past 20 years was reviewed
  - research was conducted
  - the **“golden ratio” principle** was applied in developing the proposal
- Mr Elbakh:
  - thanked the leadership and the Athletes' Commission for restoring **6+6 categories**
  - questioned why a full change of categories was needed
- Mr Osei and President Jalood responded that the changes were designed to maintain:
  - physiological and competitive balance
  - athlete health considerations
  - an objective structure supported by medical reasoning and mathematical ratios
- President Jalood noted that athletes in the middle categories may decide to move either up or down, and requested all members to keep the proposed categories confidential.
- Ms Charron added that the **95kg category was debated** during the Technical Committee meeting but based on the golden ratio calculation it was considered the most suitable option.
- Mr Osei confirmed that athletes would have approximately **nine months to adapt**.
- Mr Elbakh:
  - expressed understanding of the short timeline and did not disagree overall
  - asked why the gaps were not adjusted in a different pattern (e.g., 5–7–8–14)

- noted the proposal differs significantly from current categories and that current categories remain in place during the first half of the year
- Mr Osei reiterated that the gaps were based on the golden ratio principle and stated he would try to share the calculation with AC members.
- Ms Diaz asked if future Olympic Games would follow the same approach or change again.
  - Mr Osei replied that the intention is **not to change again**.
- Mr Elbakh asked if the changes were final and approved.
  - Mr Osei stated the expectation is that they will be final, but if additional quotas/categories are granted for Brisbane 2032, adjustments may be required.

## Motion and Vote

Members voted on the following motion:

**“Do you approve the proposed updated new bodyweight categories?”**

Votes cast: 7

**Motion approved unanimously (7 votes in favour).**

## 3. Athlete Representation and Internal Process

- Ms Charron suggested that the Athletes' Commission should reassess whether athletes are represented in all Committees, Commissions, and Working Groups.
- Mr Osei agreed and emphasized that:
  - members must be proactive in their roles
  - representatives must use their voice within their appointed bodies
  - if an athlete representative is not invited to a meeting, they should inform the Chair
- Ms Charron and Ms Diaz highlighted that this is an elected position and carries responsibilities.
- Mr Osei confirmed that an amendment request had been forwarded to the by-laws working group regarding:
  - inactive members
  - how vacant positions can be filled