

# Athletes' Commission Meeting

**Date:** 18 July 2025

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Yasmin Stevens

**Guests:**

Mohammed Jalood (IWF President), José Quinones (IWF General Secretary), Matthew Curtain (IWF EB Member), Achilleas Tsogas (IWF CEO), Ioannis Mournianakis (Legal Counsel), Matyas Lencser (IWF Secretariat), Timea Horvath (IWF Secretariat)

## 1. Opening Remarks

- Mr Osei welcomed all participants and thanked President Jalood for attending.
- President Jalood noted:
  - This was the first Athletes' Commission meeting with the newly elected General Secretary, Mr Quinones.
  - Athlete elections will take place in **2026 at the IWF World Championships in China**.
  - The past two Olympic Games were held without any doping cases, and recent competitions have shown very low numbers, indicating a positive cultural shift.
  - Due to quota limitations and the addition of new sports, the IOC has not increased the number of weightlifting quotas or bodyweight categories for LA 2028.
  - The IWF has already met with the new IOC Sports Director to present the situation and advocate for improved conditions ahead of **Brisbane 2032**.
- Mr Quinones added:
  - Recent competitions in Pan America and Asia included several world records, demonstrating that performance excellence is possible without prohibited substances.
  - Athletes remain the heart of the sport and the organization.

## 2. LA 2028 Bodyweight Categories

- The Athletes' Commission requested clarification regarding the reasons behind the proposed LA 2028 categories.
- Mr Curtain explained that the Working Group:
  - considered the lightest and heaviest categories, as well as average bodyweight distribution
  - worked within the limitations of the **5+5 Olympic format**
- Ms Diaz asked whether the decision was based on scientific or data-driven analysis, as this would be important for future reference.
- Mr Curtain noted that Olympic categories have changed over recent Games (from 10 to 8, and now only 5 are selected).
- President Jalood stated that the IWF is already focusing on Brisbane 2032 with the objective of achieving **7+7 categories**.
- Mr Tsogas emphasized that athlete participation and registered bodyweight data were reviewed carefully.
- Ms Charron highlighted that AC members represent athletes and must be able to answer questions clearly, noting that the categories were not selected randomly.
- Mr Lencser reiterated that health impacts, gender distribution, and feedback from CRC, MC, and EB were considered.

- Mr Tsogas added that considerations also included:
  - Olympic comparisons with other sports
  - broadcast and social media metrics
  - audience preferences (including higher interest in heavyweight sessions and strong women's viewership)
- Mr Osei confirmed that AC members would refrain from answering individual inquiries until the IWF publicly announces the final updates.
- Mr Quinones encouraged continued workshops and meetings to strengthen athlete engagement and input.

#### **Motion and Vote:**

A motion was made to approve the proposed LA 2028 bodyweight categories as follows:

- **Women:** 53kg, 63kg, 77kg, 86kg, +86kg
- **Men:** 65kg, 79kg, 94kg, 110kg, +110kg

All participating AC members (**8 votes**) voted **in favour**, and the categories were **approved unanimously**.

President Jalood thanked the athletes for their understanding and support.

### **3. SBD Costume / Apparel Discussions**

- Mr Osei confirmed ongoing discussions regarding competition costumes and the potential partnership with SBD.
- Mr Quinones clarified that no agreement has been signed so far, discussions are ongoing, any agreement should benefit both the IWF and the athletes
- Mr Tsogas explained that the IWF has developed the concepts of **Official** and **Certified Supplier**, and noted that:
  - the costume weight has been discussed with the Technical Committee Chair
  - besides SBD, approximately five additional suppliers are being considered, so athletes have options
- Mr Osei requested that SBD:
  - expand testing protocols
  - provide apparel for AC members to test and evaluate
- Ms Charron noted the importance of athlete choice and referenced IOC Rule 50 and uniform regulations.
  
- Mr Tsogas clarified that:
  - Rule 50 is an IOC regulation
  - suppliers are not sponsors, and SBD would be treated as a supplier

### **4. AC related matters**

- Mr Osei asked whether a specific Athletes' Commission budget could be secured.
- Mr Quinones responded that:
  - the budget for the current year is finalized
  - discussions for next year should begin soon
  - increased financial resources would be required
- Mr Osei explained that the budget would support AC activities, such as:
  - a dedicated Athletes' Commission booth at IWF events
- Mr Quinones suggested including AC support in agreements with future host countries

**Phased election / transition idea:**

- Mr Osei requested the Legal Counsel's opinion regarding the suggestion of phased elections for smoother continuity.
- Mr Mournianakis stated that extending mandates would be difficult due to fixed selection periods.
- Mr Tchatchet II clarified that the proposal applies to future AC structures, aiming to ensure continuity and smoother transitions.

**5. Closing**

- Mr Osei thanked all participants for their time and contributions and concluded that the meeting was productive and constructive.