

Athletes' Commission Meeting

Date: 13 November 2025

Present:

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

Absent:

Keydomar Vallenilla, Yasmin Stevens

Guests:

Matthew Curtain (IWF EB Member), Matyas Lencser (IWF Secretariat), Timea Horvath (IWF Secretariat)

1. Opening Remarks

- Mr Osei welcomed all participants and introduced the meeting as an important discussion.
- Mr Curtain stated that:
 - the IOC will meet the following month
 - the final Olympic Qualification System (OQS) must be submitted prior to this meeting
 - final IOC approval is expected around **February 2026**
 - the objective is to combine the strongest elements from the **Tokyo and Paris qualification systems**
- A video presentation explaining the proposed OQS was shown.

2. Olympic Qualification System (OQS)

- Ms Charron thanked the speakers for the helpful explanation and asked:
 - whether a “best athlete spot” would take priority over the Top 8, and how this would affect the ranking order
 - what happens if an athlete changes bodyweight category during the qualification period
- Mr Curtain clarified that:
 - the **best five total results** within the qualification period must come from the **same bodyweight category**
- Mr Lencser added that:
 - while a category change may be possible “on paper,” in practice it would be difficult
 - totals accumulated in different categories cannot be combined, as the final ranking is based on totals in one category
- Regarding the “best lifter quota”
 - this mechanism could allow, in theory, two NOCs (one men’s and one women’s) to exceed the maximum team size
 - the standard team size remains **3 men + 3 women**
- It was also noted that the IWF is developing a new point system that will not be based on Sinclair or Robi points.
- Ms Diaz asked about the length of the qualification period.
 - Mr Curtain confirmed the period will be **18 months**.
- Mr Osei clarified that:
 - an athlete’s best five totals must come from one bodyweight category within the 18-month period
 - athletes may still compete in another category (e.g., at a World Championship), but totals from a different category would not count toward the best five totals
- Mr Tchatchet II expressed concern regarding young athletes, as 18 months may be problematic due to growth and development.

- Mr Osei acknowledged this as a valid welfare concern but noted that the limited quota of **120 places** creates the need for restrictions.
- It was stated that there may be a change in the number of qualification periods:
 - from **3 periods to 2 periods**

Possible structure (subject to final confirmation):

- **Period 1:** 6 competitions (3 totals required)
- **Period 2:** 4 competitions (2 totals required)
- Mr Curtain explained that this possible adjustment was linked to newly received information regarding the European Games and Pacific Games.
- Ms Charron expressed concern that with longer qualification periods, athletes might compete early, disappear, and return only at the end.
- Mr Curtain stated that this issue was already raised and discussed with the ITA, and confirmed that:
 - there will be a unique category in ITA's testing pool
 - the 3-month whereabouts rule remains unchanged
 - there must be no weakening of anti-doping regulations
- Ms Diaz asked whether there will be a compulsory event.
 - Mr Curtain and Mr Lencser confirmed **no**, and noted that competitions are generally considered at a similar level.
- Ms Diaz also asked whether adjustments could be made later in the qualification system.
 - Mr Osei confirmed that once the IOC approves the OQS, **no changes can be made**.
- Mr Tchatchet II asked when it will be confirmed whether the European Games are considered the European Championships. Mr Curtain stated that this will be known once events are formally listed and checked for compliance.

Motion and Vote

- Mr Curtain requested Athletes' Commission support for the Olympic Qualification System in **principle**, with the Working Group continuing to adjust the issue of periods.
- Mr Osei called for a vote on the following motion:
"To support the Olympic Qualification System provisionally with the Working Group adjusting the issue of periods."

Vote result: All 7 members present voted YES

3. Closing

- Mr Osei thanked all participants, and especially Mr Curtain and Mr Lencser, for joining and providing a detailed explanation.