

## IWF WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS May 22-26, 2024 // Lima, Peru

### Venezuela moving up, IWF moving forward with senior World Championships plans

Venezuela reaped the rewards of planning ahead when three of its team won gold medals at the World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru.

*“Long-term planning and strategic vision”* helped Venezuela to follow up their achievement of qualifying five athletes for the Paris Olympic Games by topping the medals table in Lima. The IWF will be hoping for similar success at the end of a process of change that moved another step forward at this landmark Championships.

There were two platforms in the main arena for the first time at an IWF competition, and technical officials wore t-shirts and chinos rather than their usual uniforms. Whether these two initiatives will be followed up in future is yet to be decided.

Away from the arena in Lima, the IWF’s Innovation Commission, tasked with making the sport more attractive to its own stakeholders and its audience, held its latest meeting.

Top of the agenda for the Commission is devising a way of making the IWF senior World Championships more marketable and less costly for prospective hosts.

*“It’s the IWF’s flagship event, and we need to make changes,”* said Sam Coffa, chair of the IWF Technical Committee and the Innovation Commission.

At last year’s World Championships there were more than 700 athletes in action over 13 days. In 2022 the numbers were 537 and 10 days. *“We want it to be all over in six or seven days,”* Coffa said.

There are three ways of doing it, all under consideration by the innovation group. One is to use two platforms, as in Lima where all 20 medal events, plus B Groups, were staged within five days. The other two involve cutting the number of athletes by either imposing minimum standards or using an Olympic-style qualifying system, in which there would be continental quotas. The IWF executive board has already approved a proposal to cut the number of weight categories from 20 to 16, eight per gender, although precise details are yet to be decided.

[Read more here](#)



## IWF President Jalood: “There is an effective culture change in our Sport!”

Around 75 participants at the IWF World Youth Championships gathered on May 24 in the headquarters of the Peruvian Olympic Committee (adjacent to the competition venue) to attend the IWF Anti-Doping Education Seminar, an initiative staged in close co-operation with the International Testing Agency (ITA). Athletes, coaches, and support staff had the opportunity to be briefed by ITA’s Ambassador Thais Cevada on the main aspects related to the anti-doping programme. The IWF President Mohammed Jalood and several members of the IWF Executive Board were also present to testify on the priority this matter deserves in our International Federation.

*“We are very lucky to have the ITA onboard with us in this fight against doping. They are basically in charge of the entire implementation of the programme, and since 2018 this partnership has brought excellent results,”* underlined Mr Jalood. *“We are proud to say that in our recent and major competitions, no positive cases were found, indicating that there is an effective culture change in our Sport, when compared with the past. The education of our younger lifters, as it happens today, is also a powerful tool to consolidate this success,”* added the IWF President during his initial address to the participants.

Cevada then proceeded with her presentation, highlighting many topics that are part of the anti-doping educational programme, namely: the definition of an ADRV (Anti-doping Rule Violation), the principle of strict liability, the list of prohibited substances, the Therapeutic Use Exemptions, the dangers related with the consumption of supplements, and the reporting possibilities.

Read more [here](#)



Mohammed Jalood (IWF President) at the seminar

## 2023 IWF/ITA report: another successful year in the fight against doping!

The IWF is happy to announce the 2023 statistics concerning its Anti-Doping activities, in co-operation with the ITA (International Testing Agency). Last year, a total of 3192 samples were collected around the world, including 1766 in-competition and 1426 out-of-competition. Moreover, in terms of urine/blood proportion, there were respectively 2403 and 789 samples.

This amount of collected samples resulted in a total of 2522 completed tests, performed on 1039 athletes (52% men, 48% women) from 109 countries. Concerning the Results Management of these tests, 18 of them constitute Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRV).

Last year, the IWF/ITA received 25 TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemptions) application requests.

In terms of Anti-Doping Education, the attendance in webinars/seminars totalled 1211 participants from 64 different nationalities. In 2023, as part of its four-year education strategy plan, the IWF, together with the ITA, held three Anti-Doping seminars – at the IWF World Youth Championships in Durrës (ALB) in March, the IWF World Championships in Riyadh (KSA) in September and the IWF World Junior Championships in Guadalajara (MEX) in November.

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

## Armenia's Prime Minister meets with the IWF to discuss 2027 IWF Worlds in Yerevan

The IWF President Mohammed Jalood and the IWF General Secretary Antonio Urso met recently in Yerevan with the Prime Minister of Armenia, Mr Nikol Pashinyan, to discuss the preparation of the IWF World Championships, to be staged in the country in 2027. It will be the first time that the IWF showcase will be held in Armenia, a decision taken by the IWF Executive Board last March 29 in Phuket (THA), with the occasion of the IWF World Cup.

Yerevan was recently a very successful host of the 2023 European Championships, a competition that established new standards in terms of sports presentation, TV production, and spectators' attendance. Based on this achievement, the Armenian bid for the 2027 IWF World Championships was enthusiastically welcomed by the IWF.

*"The level of commitment by our friends in Armenia is amazing and the personal interest and involvement of the Prime Minister are a solid guarantee that we will have a great competition in Yerevan!"* considered the IWF President Mohammed Jalood after the meeting with Mr Pashinyan.

Read more [here](#)



*IWF President and IWF General Secretary meeting Armenia's Prime Minister, Mr Nikol Pashinyan (third from the right)*



*Promoting the 2027 IWF World Championships in Yerevan*



*IWF President Mohammed Jalood (first, right) meets with the Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Mr Ali Asadov (second, left) and President of the Azerbaijan Weightlifting Federation Mr Kamran Nabizade (first, left)*



*IWF President with the President and Vice-President of Azerbaijan's Weightlifting Federation*

## IWF President in Baku to enhance weightlifting development in Azerbaijan

The IWF President Mohammed Jalood was recently in Azerbaijan, where he had the opportunity to discuss new ways of developing weightlifting in the country with the national authorities. While in Baku, Mr Jalood met with Prime Minister Mr Ali Asadov, the Minister of Youth and Sports Mr Farid Gayibov, and representatives of the Azerbaijan National Olympic Committee and Weightlifting Federation.

During these three days, Mr Jalood visited Baku's High-Performance Training Centre, a facility that could become an IWF Academy in the future. The complex includes high-level training facilities (the national team of Azerbaijan is doing its preparation there), but also excellent conditions for athletes' accommodation. A presentation on this venue will be made by Azeri representatives at the IWF Executive Board meeting next December in Bahrain (during the IWF World Championships), so that it can eventually integrate the IWF Academy project, already active in China (Fuzhou) and Cuba (La Habana).

*"All authorities are quite enthusiastic about this project, as they want to elevate the level of weightlifting in Azerbaijan. The performances of the younger athletes in the country are already quite encouraging,"* considered Mr Jalood after the visit.

Read more [here](#)

# PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES NEWS

## IWF confirms “excellent level” of preparation for the 2024 Olympics in Paris

With less than 80 days to go before the start of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, an IWF delegation was in the French capital to discuss the last preparation stages of the event with the organisers. The group included Matthew Curtain, IWF Executive Board member and Paris 2024 Technical Delegate, Achilleas Tsogas, IWF CEO, and Matyas Lencser, IWF Competition Manager. During the two-day visit, various aspect related with the staging of the Games were revised, namely the accommodation and transportation plan, the accreditation and ticketing procedure, and the sports presentation. The IWF delegation also had the opportunity to visit the venue of the competition, as well as the training facility (located in the Olympic Village). The inspection of the sports complex used for the weightlifting competition – Paris Expo Porte de Versailles (SP6) – deserved special attention from the IWF. All logistical details related to the necessary requirements for a weightlifting event were reviewed, with some small adjustments still to be done until the staging of the Games.

Read more [here](#)



*Achilleas Tsogas (IWF CEO, fifth from the left), Matthew Curtain (IWF EB member and Paris 2024 Technical Delegate, fourth from the right) and Matyas Lencser (IWF Competition Manager, second from the right) meeting the Paris 2024 OG organisers*

## Qatar welcomes Palestinian star Mohammed Hamada until the Paris Games

After being the first-ever weightlifter from Palestine to compete at the Olympics – he was 13th in the 96kg category in Tokyo 2020 – Mohammed Hamada is confident in obtaining a universality place for the upcoming Games, in Paris. At 22, Hamada arrived this weekend in Doha, Qatar, where the local federation will provide him with all the training conditions until the time of the Olympic celebration.

With his routine deeply affected by the conflict in Gaza, Hamada managed to compete in the 2024 IWF World Cup, held in Phuket, Thailand. This was the last qualification event for the Games and one of the two mandatory ones on the road to Paris. In the 96kg category – not an Olympic one any longer, at the Games he would compete in the 102kg – the Palestinian star ranked ninth, with 100-120-220. An outcome that, given the challenging circumstances, is far from his best, achieved at the 2021 IWF World Junior Championships, where he lifted 141-171-312. In Japan, at the Games' time, he was slightly worse, at 137-173-310.

At his arrival in Doha, Hamada was welcomed by the IWF President Mohammed Jalood, the President of the Asian (and Qatar) Weightlifting Federation Mohamed Al Mana, and by the IWF Athletes Commission Chair Forrester Osei.

Read more [here](#)



*From left to right: Mohammed Hamada; his coach (and brother); Mohamed Al Mana (AWF and Qatar Weightlifting Federation President); and Mohammed Jalood (IWF President)*