

Dr. Astrit HASANI
President



Dr. Milan MIHAJLOVIC
General Secretary

EWF ORDINARY CONGRESS
MINUTES
Chisinau, Moldova
11.04.2025.

The EWF Ordinary Congress began at 9,30 a.m.

Item 1 - Roll call

EWF EB member Fassot did a roll call and concluded that there were 42 Member Federations present (attached).

Guests: Mohammed Jalood IWF President, Dr Antonio Urso IWF GS, Ursula Papndrea IWF 1st Vice-President, Melhalel Khaled WFA President, Jose Quinones PAWF President.

Item 2 Welcome

EWF President Conflitti thanked the delegates for their cooperation and support in the previous four years. He also welcomed the guests from IWF, WFA and PAWF.

IWF President Jalood wished unity to EWF and informed the delegates about weightlifting being on the program of LA28. He stressed the importance of the fight against doping and mentioned that IWF's efforts were even praised by the ITA. More hard work over a long period needed to secure more quotas at the Olympic Games. Jalood also reminded the delegates and candidates at the Electoral Congress that our sport should be prioritized over personal ambitions. He announced a partnership with SBD.

IWF GS Dr Urso wished success to all participants at the coming European Championships and to Congress participants, and announced his retirement after the IWF Congress in Riadh and wished everyone success in the further development of the sport.

Item 3 - Welcome by Host NF

MWF President Conflitti informed Congress delegates about competition preparation.

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Item 4 - Confirmation of the Selected Technical Officials

EWF TC Chairwoman Tina Beiter confirmed the selected Technical Officials (list published in Start Book).

Item 5 - Approval of the minutes of the previous EWF Congress

As no comments were made and no questions raised, the Congress proceeded to vote on the approval of the minutes.

FOR 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Item 6 - Annual Report of EWF President

EWF President Conflitti highlighted some of the key points in the Report such as cooperation with International Olympic Academy, EWF hosting USA and IWF Refugee teams at the previous European Senior Championships, he also highlighted the fact that weightlifting has secured a place at the 2027 European Games. More countries were included as hosts of competitions and all the results were achieved together with the help and participation of all members of EWF.

Vote to approve the report of EWF President

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Item 7 - Annual Report of EWF General Secretary

EWF GS Mihajlovic thanked the delegates and moved on to his report. He pointed out that last year Athletes' Commission was established, as well as the Balkan Weightlifting Federation. Apart from that, Faroe Islands were made an Associated member. Mihajlovic was involved in several IWF seminars for ITOs, EWF result database was created on the website, 1st issue of EWF Bulletin was reprinted, a book on the Danube Cup was published. Active efforts are being made on increasing the visibility of EWF on social media.

Vote to approve the report of EWF General Secretary.

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Item 8 - Annual Report of EWF Treasurer

EWF Treasurer Hasani presented the balance sheet, assets, expenses, liabilities, revenues.

Vote to approve the report of EWF Treasurer

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APPROVE 42
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 0

Item 9 - Annual Report of the Auditor for the preceding financial year.
Annual report of the Auditor was presented.

Vote to approve the report

APPROVE 42
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 0

Item 10 - Annual Report EWF Technical Committee

EWF TC Chairwoman Beiter presented detailed report. She informed the Congress that the TC members were very active in competitions. They have conducted several educational webinars and there were many promotions of ITOs.

Vote to approve EWF TC report

APPROVE 42
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 0

Item 11 - Annual Report EWF CR&S Committee

EWF CRSC Chairman Buckley reported to the Congress that the committee worked very well as a group. They were active around Youth camps with great success. Informed the Congress that this year the Youth camp will be in Madrid 13-20 July, and there was a possibility to organize a second camp later in the year.

EWF Coaches Forum is ready to start and monthly educational webinars are being prepared. He suggested EWF Coach of the Year award to be established.

The lead coach pass was successfully implemented in European championships.

IWF President Jalood thanked Buckley and Peter Krol for working on the project of International Coaching Licence. A coach needs to control his lifters in order to stop doping, so that the athlete is not the only one to be punished, but also the coach.

Vote to approve EWF CR&S Committee report

APPROVE 42
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 0

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Item 12 - Annual Report of EWF Medical Committee

EWF MC Chairman Duun stressed the problem of motivating doctors to come and work at the competitions. EWF Medical Committee created Health Guidelines to serve as a checklist for future organisers.

The committee worked on ideas how to implement IWF Gender Identity Policy, they also shared updates on the WADA Prohibited List.

Vote to approve the EWF Medical Committee report

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

EWF President Conflitti invited the Congress Delegates to make a coffee break after this point.

Items 13 Annual Reports of EWF Antidoping Commission

EWF Antidoping Commission Chairwoman Offermann said that we have all seen a cultural change since 2021, and we need to continue on the same path. Educational seminars for athletes and coaches are organised at every EWF event, in cooperation with NADOs. Last year, EWF participated in WADA play true day. The matter is so important that coaches need to sign an antidoping declaration as part of the International Coaching Licence program.

Vote to approve EWF Antidoping Commission report

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Items 14 - Annual Reports of EWF Fair Play Commission

EWF Fair Play Commission Chairman Padure said a Level 2 coaching seminar was organised in Romania and anti doping education was part of it. He thanked ELEIKO for their continual support of the Anti Doping and Fairplay Commission. Reminded the delegates they should be at service to the athletes.

Vote to approve EWF Fair Play Commission report

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Item 15 - Annual Report EWF WEB TV Manager

EWF WEB TV is a good opportunity to increase the visibility of EWF and a way to promote our activities. It is a friendly platform, but there are many challenges.

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IWF President Jalood stated that IOC wants to see more media coverage. Asia and Pan America are very active on YouTube and have good results in the media. A media strategy for the future is needed in Europe. Cooperation between all continents is necessary.

Item 16 - Annual Report EWF Athletes' Commission

EWF Athletes Commission Chairwoman Tong said the Athletes' Commission focused on establishing what the athletes really need and the role of the Commission should be. They wish to enable more involvement of the athletes.

One of the goals is to set a gold standard of behaviour, and with this in mind athletes' code of conduct was drafted. Another document that is being drafted is the Term of Reference, based on best practice of ASOAF and IWF.

The Athletes' Commission will support athlete centered activities.

Vote to approve EWF Athletes' Commission report

APPROVE 42

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 0

Item 17 - Report Sport for Nature program

EWF Vice President Fassott explained how was made connection with Sport for Nature organization which is committed to protecting and avoiding damage to natural habitats and species, including respecting protected areas through takes positive action to restore and regenerate nature in and around the indoor and outdoor environments and educate and inspire greater awareness and action for nature within our sport and our wider communities and stakeholders. EWF is signatories with S4N, and he presented that implementation of program started in Moldova using reusable water bottles created with recycled plastic, and reduced as much as possible the printed documents, using QR code that grant the access to all the necessary event info.

Item 18 - SportFive TV coverage report

Mr. Sirunyan was tasked to secure extensive media coverage for the flagship event - EWC, which was a joint approach. At first the challenge was to meet production standards.

In 2022 cumulative audience was 2.42 million viewers, at 8 TV channels.

In 2023 cumulative audience was 3.25 viewers, at 12 TV channels.

In 2024 we had broadcast at 13 channels in 30 countries.

There is continued growth across all media platforms.

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Item 19 - Information about 2025 Training Camps

EWF CRSC Chairman Buckley reminded that he mentioned training camps during the CR&S report, Youth training camp in Madrid before the European Youth and U15 Championships, 13-20 July, 60 EUR per night. There is possibility to organize another camp if there is enough demand.

Item 20 - Information about 2025 European Championships

Youth and U15 – ESP WLF GS Arenales presented the venue and said the Youth Training camp will be organized in the same place. There have been improvements since last year's World championships in Leon. Transportation will be easier, and the training area is also the national training centre. Accommodation is students' residence.

Single room 140 EUR, double 120 EUR, triple 100 EUR, transport 25 EUR

Competition will be 23-30 July

Junior and U23 – ALB WLF President Gjoza said the location and venue will be the same as for EWC 2022.

2026 EWC - Congress watched a presentation on the host city of Batumi.

Single room 160 EUR, double 120 EUR. The Georgian Weightlifting Federations are trying to organize a prize fund for the winners. Dates they are considering are 17-27 April.

Item 21 - EWF Refugee Team - proposals

European Games 2027 will feature the refugee team.

It is recommended for the next leadership to establish a commission.

Item 22 - EWF Constitution amendments

EWF legal adviser Shai said suggestions will be sent to member federations for consideration and then the changes will be initiated according to the constitution.

EWF TC Chairwoman Beiter said EWC Technical, CRSC and Medical Committees had a joint meeting to establish U15 bodyweight categories.

IWF President Jalood informed that IWF is planning to soon define Olympic categories, and Shai suggested EWF waiting until that happens.

EWF GS Mihajlovic clarified there was a need to define body weight categories for U15 because of the upcoming championships.

IWF President Jalood suggested creating bylaws with the technical rules, not put them in the constitution, because it is more difficult to make any changes necessary.

Current Youth categories:

Girls - 44, 48, 53, 58, 63, 69, 77, +77

Boys - 56, 60, 65, 71, 79, 88, 98, +98

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Suggested U15 categories:

Girls - 40, 44, 48, 53, 58, 63, 69, +69

Boys - 52, 56, 60, 65, 71, 79, 88, + 88

Suggestion regarding records - U15 and U23 records can only be set in U15 and U23 championships or no records.

GBR CEO Curtain asked for confirmation if the categories were the same as the ones sent to member federations a month ago.

BEL WLF President Goegebuer suggested for the sake of clarity to say Youth categories are the same as in IWF championships and just specify the differences for U15 championships.

The suggested U15 categories will be used in Madrid, and further information from IWF is expected regarding Junior and senior categories, and some changes are expected.

Item 23 - EWF Awards

AIPS Europe President said weightlifting is on the right track when it comes to media and media visibility. We have witnessed phones have changed the media situation, as well as AI, and media are facing a difficult problem.

He reported that selection of Athlete of the year was interesting. This year a new award was introduced - Rising Star. Promotion of the Best European athletes will be held during the Opening ceremony. He wished everyone good luck.

Following Appendix 3 Title 1 Article 3 of the EWF Constitution and in light of the primary achievements, EWF President awarded the following organizations/individuals:

- 1) EWF GOLD COLLAR to Polish Weightlifting Federation. For the contribution made to European weightlifting and for reaching the venerable one-hundredth anniversary since its foundation.
- 2) EWF GOLD COLLAR to Mr. TALAKHADZE Lasha, for his extraordinary sports achievements during his career, three-time consecutive Olympic Champion, multiple World and European Champion (delivered during Opening ceremony).
- 3) EWF GOLD COLLAR to Dr. Milan Mihajlovic, General Secretary of the European Weightlifting Federation. For the commendable and continuous activities in support of the entire European weightlifting family.
- 4) EWF GOLD STAR to AIPS EUROPE, for the significant informational work and dedication in support of the EWF activities.
- 5) EWF GOLD STAR to Mr. Patrick Fassot. For ongoing and diligent contributions to the development of EWF activities and projects.
- 6) EWF GOLD STAR to Mr. Alexandru Padure. For ongoing and diligent contributions to the management of the Fair Play program and several EWF activities.

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- 7) EWF GOLD STAR to Mr. Jasmond Caruana. For outstanding efforts in developing weightlifting in Malta and good management of the regional federations focusing on young weightlifters and for his important contribution to the EWF activities.
- 8) EWF SILVER STAR to Mrs Georgeta Ion, IWF ITO Cat 1. For the outstanding and long service as International Technical Official.
- 9) EWF SILVER STAR to Mrs Dorthe Lauridsen, IWF ITO Cat 1. For the outstanding and long service as International Technical Official.

Item 24 - Presentation by sponsors

Mathieu Gratereau from Eleiko gave a presentation. He expressed willingness to cooperate on antidoping activities as well as the sustainability project.

Item 25 - Other issues

Tong (GBR) urged member federations to encourage their athletes to apply for Athletes' Commission.

Gjoza (ALB) stated it was his belief this Congress was not supposed to have been held in Moldova, as it is conflict of interest for the incumbent President of EWF. He claimed Conflitti had used his power of presidency to ensure this championship was held in Moldova rather than Georgia which was also a candidate. EWF should follow the principle of not mixing sport and politics. He said the EWF leadership was not adequate and does not foster unity and some member federations were not allowed to run for positions in the next administration, which is against the principles of democracy.

Unlu (TUR) said that the Turkish candidate was not eligible to run for elections, so the Turkish Weightlifting Federation appealed to CAS, not because they wanted to postpone the elections but because they could not get any explanation from EWF management.

Harutunyan (ARM) said there was a decline in the development of EWF, especially regarding eligibility of some candidates. The Italian Weightlifting Federation raised some issues regarding this, but they were not addressed. He asked why Akkus or Padure are not on the candidate list.

Padure (ROU) said that lately there had been rumors circulating about ongoing procedures and the vetting panel. Some member federations got in touch and asked why Padure was not eligible. No information was sent to him from the vetting panel. He asked why was it not explained to member federations what was going on. Romanian Weightlifting Federation and other European federations were not informed old doping cases would be considered so that they could challenge the decision made. Romania was suspended as a nation in 2021 because of historical doping violations, and since then they demonstrated they were capable of change of culture. Many federations were unhappy with the process of candidate eligibility and the way it was handled. He found it hard to accept the situation but he was at the same time reluctant to take legal action. He concluded a clarification on the constitution was needed.

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Kakhiashvili (GEO) said EWF should be an example to everyone and suggested postponing the electoral congress for the sake of transparency.

Gjoza (ALB) said he never agreed to Akkus and Padure to be removed from the candidate list. They were removed in a non-democratic and non-transparent way. He said someone needed to take responsibility and withdraw.

Tong (GBR) explained why she was not on the candidate list. The constitution does not state there had to be a specific document that needed to be submitted and the vetting panel did not notify her about any issues concerning candidacy. She learned she was ineligible on the day the eligible candidates were announced. In her opinion this election was not fair.

EWF President Conflitti said the next leadership will have a duty to change and improve the constitution.

IWF GS Dr Urso claims that the main mistake was made in the interpretation of the law. When the rules are not clear, the decision should go in favour of the affected individuals. EWF was fighting for transparency for a long time and now we are back at the same point. He reminded the delegates that congress is the main governing body. They must decide on the future of EWF. Honesty, ethics and transparency should be in focus.

Lundahl (FIN) wanted to finish the elections today. If it was postponed, according to the constitution they would have to wait another year, until 2026 EWC. She asked if it was possible to change the wording in the constitution from "electoral congress must be held at senior championship" into "should preferably".

EWF legal adviser Shai replied it was not possible to make any amendments to the constitution today. He also added WADA can open samples up to 10 years old for retesting, and it was not under EWF or IWF's control. EWF does not allow candidates who have 4 or more sanctions in the last Olympic cycle before the elections. Article in the EWF constitution was copied from the IWF constitution. In the meantime IWF raised the number to 6 sanctions. This rule was meant to support the fight against doping. Shai takes the blame for not changing the constitution to allow 6 sanctions instead of 4 on time.

Padure (ROU) said he had proposed to EB to hold elections in the Olympic year - as stated in the constitution.

Dr Akkus (TUR) said the Turkish Weightlifting Federation received an email from EWF that Turkish candidates were not eligible. Before that, Weightlifting Federation of Moldova sent an email with a complaint against the Turkish Weightlifting Federation to the vetting panel. He asked how it was possible that an independent panel first shared information about eligible candidates with EWF, not the candidates themselves. His lawyer started a CAS case against the vetting panel's decision. Turkish Weightlifting Federation has also asked for the elections to be postponed, but they considered the fact the member federations have already paid for tickets and accommodation. He also asked the delegates to consider how much EWF has spent on this legal case.

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EWF President Conflitti said an email arrived from CAS to say the case was dismissed. He thanked the delegated and closed EWF Ordinary Congress.

The EWF Ordinary Congress was finished at 2:30 p.m.

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