

ATHLETES COMMISSION



Chair: FILZMOSER Sabrina

Members: BONFACE Harriet, EBINUMA Masashi, GALEA Natalie, KARAKAS Hedvig, LIPARTELIANI Varlam, MARCONCINI Matteo, PARETO Paula, VALOIS-FORTIER Antoine

The IJF Athletes Commission (AC) has worked to establish good communication between the athletes and the IJF leadership teams.

The members of the Athletes Commission attended regular calls with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and Athlete365 and have responded to queries from athletes all over the world.

The discussions at the International Athletes` Forum in Lausanne, October 2023, were just part of a huge programme of athlete engagement in the lead-up to the Paris 2024 Games. The AC held calls with athletes in the run-up to the Games and aimed to support them fully during the Games through the Athlete365 platform.

Our AC has started to set up a Telegram platform where we would like to send out more focused summaries and information directly to our athletes.

Additionally, the AC was actively involved and worked closely with our international federation and the Paris 2024 organising committee to support the safe and successful delivery of the Olympic Games for all participants, and to ensure the athletes' interests were at the core of all decisions.

Paris 2024 was also the stage for the IOC election with many different former athletes competing for an IOC member seat. Our very own Olympic champion from Argentina, Paula Pareto, member of our IJF AC, was elected as a member of the IOC. That`s an amazing and important step into an even more bright future for us judoka.

For the WADA AC election which took place at the beginning of December, we could take the opportunity to cast and vote.

Below is a summary of the most important topics and information which we dealt with during the last period.

IOC Calls Contents (Only Most Important Ones Summarised)

Conference calls with the worldwide network of Athletes Commissions

- IOC AC meeting updates.
- Discussions on new IOC-AC, WADA, RUSADA.

Athlete365

Initiatives and projects for athletes, safeguarding, gender equality, social media tasks, possibilities for future Games (LA28), IOC scholarships, IOC Olympic solidarity, IOC support.

Election AC WADA discussions.

Important Other Tasks

1. UN climate change secretary discussion (as AC chair).
2. Successful self-defence project, Abu Dhabi World Championships 2024 (Sorbonne University).
3. AJJF AC discussions, AJJF proposal discussions.
4. Connect WADA with IJF-AC.
5. WADA election AC (10th/11th 2024).
6. Discussions about proposals for the new rules and regulations on the SOR with AC members. Technical meeting in Abu Dhabi about proposals, technical seminar in Istanbul on IJF rules to be in place from Paris GS, February 2025.
7. Tokyo GS: activities to connect AC with IOC/AJJF, NPO JUDOs, 12/52 project, Athlete365 development projects, Everest Judo.
8. Activating athletes to take part in various kinds of projects (True Play, White Card, World Judo Day, etc.) and initiatives like WOA (World Olympians Association) and other grassroots projects (as AC chair took part in the WOA seminar in Kathmandu).
9. Supporting STOP WAR initiative, to underline we are working for peace as a community, thankfully there were still so many activities from all our federations and clubs to support Ukrainian judoka and refugees around the world.
10. COP27 video as IJF AC – S4CA signatory campaign.
11. Initiatives supporting IJF Children's Commission, Judogallerykids, connect to veteran judo (Las Vegas 2024).
12. Supporting our IJF Olympic Refugee Team.

Further points/emails from athletes all over the world with concerns have always been forwarded and discussed with IJF Disciplinary Commission, IJF GS, IJF Head Referee Director, e.g.:

- Questions about new rules/regulations.
- Solutions for judogi material/measurements.
- Social media activities with Athlete365, IOC, WADA, MoveForPeace

On a Sidenote

I want to mention again another project where I tried to combine and integrate my work as a climate ambassador, chair of the AC and work as a WADA ambassador.



One of last year's Judo For Peace missions was the K2 project in Pakistan (2023). It came after the massively positive effect of Everest Judo in Nepal, supported by the IJF, which took place during the spring of 2022 and was documented by the IJF film-team (Nicolas Messner, Robin Willingham, Jo Crowley) to promote our judo values.

On all IJF channels, it has been a huge success also because many athletes could contact me with their ideas, problems and solutions. I strongly believe it has been a massive build up to connect development projects like Judo for Peace, Judo for The World, Judo in Schools, Stop War or climate issue campaigns with the whole IJF community. Also, it helped to break invisible barriers between athletes, coaches, referees, commissions and people from different sports and fields.

Therefore, Everest Judo will be used to realise an even bigger network for everybody to spread our judo values around the globe. Climbing Everest from sea level and promoting the spirit of Jigoro Kano on the way up to the summit should be a sign to work together and help the whole community. I will continue to work on sharing our values with Everest Judo to be sustainable in the future.

