



European Commission Report 2018



Thirteen months after we, representatives for 24 countries, founded the WKSF, we can see back on a year of two successful big competitions. The World championships in Milan in June and now, in November, the European Championships in Porto.

Behind this is, of course, many hours of hard work and a big engagement from all involved.

I have visited and competed in seven Worlds and Europeans arranged by other organisations before I came in to the WKSF a little more than a year ago. There I have seen a lot of things with big potential for improvement, which I also pointed out for the heads of the organisations but was ignored in each and every case.

Within the WKSF, I think we are on a good way ahead to fulfill all the requirements you can ask from an organisation that arranges big championships. Such as:

A warm welcome and respect when lifters arrive at the venue for weigh-in. After all, everyone has paid out of their own pocket for registration fees, flights, hotels, taking days off work etc, and spend money on our organisation to come and compete. This requires respect from us to the lifters.

A venue which is easy to get to. So you don't have to spend several hours on buses or train to get there from the airport.

A smooth weigh-in situation without queues with separate rooms for men and women.

To keep time schedule for the flights. When you get to know your time for your lift you start to focus on just that time. A slight delay can be very disturbing.

A generous warm-up area with all the necessary weights.

Consequent and fair judging. It must not be a lottery which judge you get due to uneven and sloppy judging. And not "special treatment" depending from which country you come. I have seen a lot of this before.

All flights are filmed due to any doubts for certain lifts, that can occur afterwards.

A committee meeting with many lifters where everyone can say whatever they want and come with opinions and suggestions. And everyone has one vote. Full democracy.

We have a very positive spirit within the organisation. And we are very close to the lifters. We can easily talk to each other and understand each other. The atmosphere is breathtaking due to all involved from all countries. Let's keep it that way.

All the above things I think we achieved in Porto. For example time schedule was on the minute all the time and there was not one protest regarding the judging.

But not everything is perfect:

We could have planned the dates better. Now we had a loss of lifters due to the IKMF Worlds only two weeks after. Next year we can make better plans than the plans for merging the two organisations seems to be a reality in the near future.

We have not total equality yet in the lifting disciplines. But we are close. This is my heart issue and I have worked for this for about five years now. Some weeks before the Europeans, I went out on the internet and asked the female lifters all over the world what you wanted from our organisation. After all, it is the women that do the lifts. So on the last committee meeting we voted for double 24's for women and snatch only for men, which I am very grateful for. That's what they wanted.

Some think we should have more women in the deciding committee. Now we're only men. I agree. But now the situation is at it is for a while. And we don't have no more votes than they have. So they all can still come up with suggestions and opinions like everyone in the committee. On my own part, I feel sometimes that I fight more for women in this sport than most women do. So I'm absolutely on their side. I'm on everybody's side. And in the end, if we do a bad job, we won't be staying in the committee for long. We will be outvoted in the next election.



The sport is growing but we have some European countries that are divided internally. Wich is sad. I will try to work with those countries and their representatives so we can work in the same direction and, hopefully, get them to come to Ireland and Ukraine with a full team so they can experience how a big championship is really supposed to be arranged.

More decissions will be taken during next year. For example, only two kb for women in all diciplines, do we change the year span for veteran and cut down weight classes instead, should we adjust weights for veterans, why do women get veterans at 35, not 40 etc. The discussions has already started in the internet and I follow them closely. I am very happy to know there are so many engaged lifters out there.

The first year of the WKSF was a succes. 2019 is going to be even better with everybody's help.

So thank you all and see you soon out on the field.

Only forward! Solo avanti!

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