



March 2019

# WEIGHTLIFTING WILL SHINE IN SAMOA !

From the 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July, Samoa will be the host for the 2019 Commonwealth Senior, Junior and Youth Championships, the 2019 Oceania Senior, Junior and Youth Championships and just as important the 2019 Pacific Games.

The Oceania Championships for Senior and Junior - this event will be a Gold Tier qualification event for Tokyo. Whilst the Commonwealth Senior Championships and the Pacific Games will be Silver Tier qualification events for Tokyo. For this reason, we expect over 400 lifters to participate. The Tuaniamoto Sporting Complex will be where most of the sporting events for the Pacific Games will be held, including weightlifting.

**Commonwealth Senior & Junior Championships**



**SILVER QUALIFICATION EVENT**



**SAMOA WEIGHTLIFTING STADIUM**

**Oceania Senior & Junior Championships**



**GOLD QUALIFICATION EVENT**

The weightlifting stadium in Apia is unique in the weightlifting world. It was specially built for weightlifting with a seating capacity of 3000. Since it was built, four major international events have been held successfully. It started in 2006 with the Pacific Rim International. In 2007 the Pacific Games and also in 2007 the IWF World Cup and Commonwealth and Oceania Championships were held. In 2012 the Commonwealth and Oceania Championships and Olympic Qualification event were held at the venue. At each event the stadium was fully packed. And we have no doubt that this July, there will be no difference.

### Accommodation in Samoa :

All countries of the Commonwealth have received a news bulletin regarding the accommodation details for the Championships in Apia. We would strongly recommend that you book your hotel as early as possible in order to avoid any disappointment.

### CHRISTINE GIRARD – OLYMPIC CHAMPION

History was made when Christine Girard of Canada was awarded two Olympic Medals at a ceremony in Ottawa recently. She received the Gold Medal from the London 2012 Olympic Games (after reanalysis of doping samples) and also a Bronze Medal from the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.



On behalf of the CWF and all the clean lifters of the world, congratulations to Christine Girard on these much deserved awards. It is unfortunate that Christine needed to wait almost 10 years from Beijing and 6 years from London to receive what was rightfully hers in the first place.

## NEWS AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH



**The Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires** saw India winning a gold medal in the 62kg category for boys with young Jeremy Lalrinnunga totalling 274kg. A great performance from this young weightlifting star.

Other countries from the Commonwealth competing in weightlifting at the Youth Olympic Games were Uganda, Australia, Mauritius, Nauru, Cameroon, South Africa, Pakistan, Samoa, Great Britain, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Nigeria, Malta, and Ghana.

### Jeremy Lalrinnunga -India

- **The Senior World Championships held in Ashgabat** with the new bodyweight categories being introduced for the first time, saw quite a few Commonwealth countries taking part. They included Mauritius, Malta, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Great Britain, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, and Nigeria.
- Since the Senior World Championships in Ashgabat, there has been a number of international tournaments held, which included participation of Commonwealth countries. **At the 5<sup>th</sup> Qatar Cup International**, three Commonwealth nations took part – India, Pakistan and South Africa.
- **At the 5<sup>th</sup> International Solidarity Championships** held in Cairo, we saw Pakistan, Cameroon and Bangladesh taking part.
- And the latest, at **the EGATS CUP in Thailand**, which was a Silver Tier qualification event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, saw Papua New Guinea, India, Kiribati, New Zealand, Australia, Nigeria, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh, and Canada taking part.

## SAMOA LIFTERS IN CHINA

With the assistance of the People's Republic of China, Jerry Wallwork the President of the Samoa Weightlifting Federation and a squad of twenty lifters plus other officials, have spent four weeks in China training with top Chinese lifters. We know that this training camp will further assist the Samoan weightlifting team in preparation to the Pacific Games and the Oceania and Commonwealth Championships to be held in Apia, Samoa from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> July.



**Samoan and Chinese weightlifters and officials in China**

### **MALAYSIA WEIGHTLIFTING :**

The new President of the Malaysian Weightlifting Federation is Datuk Haji Ayub bin Rahmat. The new General Secretary is Roslan bin Othman. On behalf of the CWF we wish both gentlemen a successful term of office.

### **INDIA WEIGHTLIFTING:**

Birendra Prasad Baishya, President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation, Vice President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation and IWF Executive Board Member has been appointed Chef de Mission of India to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. This is a great honour not only for Birendra personally but also Indian weightlifting. I am sure the appointment reflects on the outstanding success of the Indian weightlifters in the last few years under the very capable guidance of Birendra Prasad Baishya.

### **CAYMAN ISLANDS:**

The CWF is delighted to hear that Cayman Islands Weightlifting held its first national championships after a long hiatus from the sport. We very much look forward to see the lifters from the Cayman Islands competing at international events in the future.

### **FIJI weightlifting :**

For the first time ever, the World Junior Championships will be held in the Oceania region, in Fiji. The Championships will be held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June at the National Sports Complex in Suva. Please note that the closing date for the final entries is the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The Junior World Championships is a Gold Tier qualification event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.



**Paul Coffa MBE**  
**Secretary General CWF**



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