

TWIF

ROPE NEWS

AUGUST 26

Jost Waser held a training seminar in Israel

on the weekend of 18 & 19 July 2026. Due to many changes in the team of Israel, they will not be attending the World Outdoor Championships in Mossel Bay, but will concentrate on building up the new team in order to compete at future Championships.



In July the TWIF Secretary General Maaïke attended the IWG (International Women Global Summit on Women & Sport) that was held in Birmingham, UK.



Congratulations to Kathy Wells on her induction into the USA Tug of War Hall of Fame!

Since beginning her Tug of War career in the late 1970s, Kathy has made a lasting impact on the sport through her years of competition, service on the USA Tug of War Board, and more than 20 years of apparel design.

Congratulations on this well-deserved honour, Kathy!



Sport Unites Everyone:

An inclusive Tug of War Tournament took place in Azerbaijan



On 7 July 2026, a special *Inclusive Tug of War Tournament* for children with autism and with special needs was successfully held in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was organized by the Azerbaijan Tug of War Society with the support of the Baku City Youth and Sports Department and the Azerbaijan Autism Association. More than seventy children representing various rehabilitation, education and support centres participated in the tournament, demonstrating remarkable determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.

The primary objective was to promote the social inclusion of children with special needs through sport - Garmin, Azerbaijan, as the official supporting partner, presented special gifts to every participating child, bringing additional joy and unforgettable memories to the event.

Dr. Elnur Shikhaliyev, PhD President of the Azerbaijan Tug of War Sports Society Public Association, Vice-President of the European Tug of War Federation



Invitation to Nominate Athletes for the 2026 TWIF Outdoor Athlete of the Year
20th July 2026

Dear Member Associations,

The TWIF PR Commission is pleased to invite each country to nominate one male and one female athlete for the 2026 TWIF Outdoor Athlete of the Year competition. Beginning August 1, TWIF will launch a social media campaign showcasing each nominated athlete. Supporters from around the world will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite athletes through TWIF's social media platforms, helping us increase engagement and expand the global reach of tug of war in line with the objectives of The World Games. Please submit the following for each nominated athlete:

- 2-5 high-quality action and/or portrait photos
- A brief biography highlighting the athlete's achievements, years in the sport, and any notable accomplishments

The winners will be announced and presented with the prestigious TWIF Outdoor Athlete of the Year Award during the 2026 Outdoor World Championships in Mossel Bay, South Africa. We greatly appreciate your participation and look forward to celebrating the outstanding athletes who represent our member associations while continuing to grow the international visibility of our sport.

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

TWIF PR Commission

- Mrs. Maaïke Harvina - Chairwoman / Ecu
- Mrs. Christine Yang - Chinese Taipei
- Mrs. Rita Rose - United States
- Mr. Allan Kraft - England
- Mrs. Janine van der Werf - South Africa

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