

One World, One Muaythai - A Legacy in Motion

Annual Report 2023



FOREWORDS HONORARY PRESIDENT	3
FOREWORDS DIRECTOR GENERAL	4
LOOKING AHEAD	5
MUAYTHAI SETS THE WAY TOWARDS OLYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS 2024	6
2023 AT A GLANCE	7
30 Years of Muaythai Excellence and Unity	7
European Games	8
2023 Youth Championships	9
2023 World Combat Games	9
2023 Mediterranean Muaythai Championships	10
European Muaythai Federation's elections	11
2023 European Championships and Antalya Open	11
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & EDUCATION	13
Youth Development and Education	13
Gender Equality and Inclusion	13
Cultural Preservation and Promotion	14
MUAYTHAI FOR FAIR PLAY	15
Educational Initiatives and Workshops	15
Recognition of Fair Play	15
Development of Technical Officials	15
Commitment to Ethical Standards	15

FOREWORDS | HONORARY PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues, partners, and members of the global IFMA community,

It brings me immense joy to share with you the IFMA 2023 Annual Report, commemorating not only a year of exceptional progress but also a milestone in our federation's journey—thirty years of shaping the global identity of Muaythai.

This anniversary year has been one of exceptional achievement and reflection. From hosting the IFMA Senior World Championships in Bangkok, our spiritual home, to proudly debuting Muaythai at the European Games in Kraków, we've witnessed our sport flourish across new stages and reach broader audiences than ever before.

Muaythai stood tall once again at the 2023 World Combat Games in Riyadh, where cultural richness and athletic excellence merged in a spectacular demonstration of what our sport represents. The IFMA Youth World Championships in Antalya welcomed an extraordinary gathering of young athletes, affirming our unwavering investment in the next generation.

As we look back on 2023, what resonates most is the spirit of cooperation, integrity, and mutual respect that defines our community. These shared values continue to guide our work in anti-doping, athlete welfare, education, and good governance—

ensuring that Muaythai remains a role model within the international sports movement.

Looking ahead, IFMA remains steadfast in its vision to nurture a dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable future for Muaythai. With the support of our growing membership and valued partners, I am confident that our shared efforts will continue to elevate our sport to new heights on the global stage.

Thank you for standing with us—your dedication is the foundation upon which our accomplishments are built. Let us move forward together with renewed purpose and unity.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sakchye TAPSUWAN

Honorary President, International
Federation of Muaythai Associations
(IFMA)

FOREWORDS | DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear colleagues, partners, and members of the IFMA family,

As we reflect on 2023, it is clear that this year stands as one of the most dynamic and transformative periods in IFMA's history. While our President has already reflected on the monumental achievements and historic milestones, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the operational efforts, partnerships, and strategic direction that allowed those moments to materialize.

Behind every championship ring, every cultural showcase, and every athlete's triumph lies the tireless work of our administration, technical teams, commissions, and national federations. The seamless execution of the 30th Anniversary Senior World Championships in Bangkok, our historic inclusion in the European Games, and our strong presence at the World Combat Games were all made possible through careful planning, cross-continental collaboration, and a shared vision that unites our global network.

This year also reaffirmed our commitment to values-driven leadership. We continued to embed integrity, gender equity, safeguarding, and environmental responsibility into the fabric of all IFMA operations. The Youth World Championships in Antalya reflected not only the future of our sport but the future of leadership—diverse,

inclusive, and driven by values as much as performance.

We have deepened our educational platforms, enhanced our digital reach, and expanded our services to better support our members. Through collaboration with partners such as WADA, ITA, and the Olympic Movement, we've ensured that our athletes compete in clean, fair, and respectful environments.

The success of 2023 is not defined by what happened in the spotlight—but by the unity, professionalism, and purpose behind it. It is thanks to each of you—our members, coordinators, volunteers, and supporters—that IFMA continues to set a benchmark for what sport can accomplish when it is guided by principle and delivered with passion.

As we look ahead, our focus remains sharp: to grow Muaythai responsibly, to serve our athletes better, and to ensure IFMA continues to thrive as a global leader in both sport and governance.

With sincere appreciation,



Charissa TYNAN

IFMA Director General

LOOKING AHEAD

As IFMA closes an impactful and milestone-filled 2023, the federation is already preparing for an exciting calendar of events and initiatives in 2024. With global participation and development at the core of its mission, IFMA's upcoming activities will span every continent—further strengthening its commitment to sport, culture, education, and inclusion.

Below are the key events and highlights set for 2024:

Nordic Championships | Skövde, Sweden

The Nordic region will kick off the year with top athletes from Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland competing for regional titles and international qualification points.

African Championships | Casablanca, Morocco

Africa's Muaythai community will gather for a major continental event promoting sport development and unity across the region.

Senior World Championships | Patras, Greece

One of IFMA's flagship tournaments, bringing together elite athletes from over 100 countries. This event will also include the General Assembly and a full schedule of education, safeguarding, and development programs.

Youth World Championships | Bangkok, Thailand

Returning to the birthplace of Muaythai, this event will focus on youth empowerment, technical education, and cultural exchange for the next generation of athletes.

Pan-American Championships | Curitiba, Brazil

The Pan-American Muaythai community will unite in Brazil for regional titles and to expand the sport's reach across the Americas.

With these events, IFMA continues to strengthen its global presence while upholding the sport's traditions and commitment to excellence. 2024 promises to be another year of growth, unity, and opportunity for the worldwide Muaythai family.

MUAYTHAI SETS THE WAY TOWARDS OLYMPIC GAMES IN PARIS 2024

As the world turns its eyes toward Paris 2024, IFMA is preparing to showcase Muaythai on one of the most prestigious global stages—the Olympic Games. While not yet an Olympic medal sport, Muaythai will be present in Paris through a series of high-impact cultural, educational, and sport-focused initiatives, reinforcing its alignment with the values of the Olympic Movement.

In August 2024, IFMA will host the Muaythai House in Paris, in collaboration with the Royal Thai Embassy and the Thai community in France. The Muaythai House will serve as a hub for cultural engagement and sport development, offering coaching and educational workshops, youth activities, and community outreach. Training sessions and masterclasses will be led by Thai Masters and international champions, covering topics such as safeguarding, anti-doping, athlete mental health, and sports nutrition.

One of the central highlights will be the Muaythai Showcase at Club France, where athletes from all five continents will perform exhibition matches in front of thousands of Olympic visitors. With over 100,000 daily visitors expected, this event offers an unparalleled opportunity to promote Muaythai's athletic and cultural identity to a global audience.

In addition, IFMA will organize the “One World One Muaythai” charity seminar, bringing together legendary athletes and fans for a day of solidarity and social impact. Proceeds and donated goods will go toward supporting vulnerable communities in Paris, exemplifying Muaythai's role as a tool for positive change.

These events will mark a new chapter in Muaythai's journey toward full Olympic inclusion. By blending tradition, education, social values, and international cooperation, IFMA aims to position Muaythai as not only a world-class sport—but one that embodies the spirit and ideals of the Olympic Games.

2023 AT A GLANCE

30 Years of Muaythai Excellence and Unity

| Bangkok, Thailand

In 2023, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary—a milestone that reflects three decades of dedication to the growth, development, and international recognition of Muaythai as both a competitive sport and a cultural treasure.

Founded in 1993, IFMA has grown from a small collective of national federations into a globally respected organization with over 140 member countries across all five continents. The federation's journey has been one of inclusion, integrity, and impact—promoting gender equality, fair play, and cultural heritage while aligning with the core values of the Olympic Movement.

The 30th anniversary was commemorated in grand fashion during the 2023 IFMA Senior World Championships in Bangkok, Thailand—the birthplace of Muaythai. The event not only showcased elite-level sport but also served as a living tribute to the federation's evolution, spirit, and global family. Special ceremonies and cultural showcases were integrated throughout the championship to honor IFMA's legacy and the many individuals and organizations who contributed to its journey.

Highlights of the celebration included a historical exhibition displaying archival photos and memorabilia from IFMA's early years, a tribute to past and present leaders, and a moving cultural performance that paid homage to the roots of Muaythai in Thai tradition. The atmosphere was one of unity, pride, and reflection—bringing together athletes, officials, and supporters from across generations.

IFMA President Dr. Sakchye Tapsuwan and Secretary General Stephan Fox both delivered heartfelt speeches, expressing gratitude to the global Muaythai family and reaffirming IFMA's mission to continue expanding opportunities for athletes, preserving cultural identity, and pursuing inclusion on the highest international platforms.

The 30th anniversary marked not only a celebration of IFMA's past but also a powerful statement of its readiness for the future—stronger, more united, and more global than ever.

2023 Senior World Championships

| Bangkok, THA

From May 3 to 13, 2023, Bangkok, Thailand, hosted the IFMA Senior World Championships, marking the 30th anniversary of the International Federation of Muaythai Associations. This milestone event brought together over 100 countries, showcasing the sport's global reach and cultural significance.

The championships featured intense competitions across various weight divisions. Notable highlights included Sweden's Mustafa Aboutaka securing the nation's first male gold medal in 19 years in the 75kg division, and the Philippines' Islay Erika Bomogao making history by winning the country's first-ever female gold medal in the 45kg category. In the 81kg male division, Iraq's Mustafa Al Tekreeti clinched gold in a closely contested bout against Moldova's Artiom Livadari. The event also saw the USA's Megan Washam triumph over Mexico's Laura Burgos in the female 54kg division.

Beyond the ring, the championships celebrated Muaythai's rich traditions. The Senior Female Wai Kru division saw Thailand's Thanawan Thongduang emerge victorious, while Hong Kong's Ka Chun Mok secured gold in the Senior Male Wai Kru 18-24 division, marking a historic achievement for the nation.

The event underscored IFMA's commitment to excellence, cultural heritage, and unity in sport. As athletes and fans departed Bangkok, they carried with them memories of a championship that honored the past and looked forward to a vibrant future for Muaythai.

European Games

| Krakow, POL

From June 25 to 28, 2023, Muaythai made its official debut as a full medal sport at the 3rd European Games held in Myślenice, Poland. This milestone event marked a significant achievement for the

International Federation of Muaythai Associations and the European Muaythai Federation, highlighting the sport's growing prominence on the international stage.

The competition featured 80 elite athletes from 23 European nations, competing across ten weight divisions—five for men and five for women. The event was lauded for its commitment to gender equality, with equal representation in all categories. The Myślenice Arena was filled to capacity, with enthusiastic spectators witnessing high-caliber bouts that showcased the athletes' skill and dedication.

Notable performances included Poland's Oskar Siegert, who secured a victory in the men's 67kg division, igniting the home crowd. France's Myriame Djedidi made history by winning the first female Muaythai match at the European Games in the 51kg category. In the women's 54kg division, Poland's Martyna Kierczynska triumphed over her Czech rival, Viktorie Bulinova, in a rematch of their earlier WMC World Title bout. Additionally, Turkey's Gulistan Turan edged out Slovakia's Monica Chochlikova in a thrilling contest between two world champions.

The event also featured cultural elements, with traditional Wai Kru performances and the presence of Muaythai ambassador Joanna Jędrzejczyk, a former IFMA World Champion and UFC titleholder. Her involvement underscored the sport's rich heritage and its connection to Polish martial arts history.

The successful integration of Muaythai into the European Games program was praised by the European Olympic Committees, affirming the sport's readiness for inclusion in major multi-sport events. This debut not only celebrated Muaythai's cultural roots but also set a precedent for its future in international competitions.

2023 Youth Championships

| Kemer, TUR

The 2023 edition of the IFMA Youth World Championships took place from 29 September to 8 October in the coastal city of Antalya, Türkiye, setting a new benchmark for youth participation in Muaythai. With over 100 countries represented, this event was the largest youth gathering in IFMA history, reflecting the remarkable expansion of the sport among young practitioners around the globe.

Held under the banner of unity, cultural respect, and excellence, the event offered more than just world-class competition. The opening ceremony was a colorful celebration of diversity, with performances and dignitaries honoring the role of youth in shaping the sport's future. From the very first day, Antalya radiated the energy and passion of thousands of aspiring champions.

The competition arena was alive with action, spirit, and sportsmanship. Host nation Türkiye delivered a dominant performance, topping the overall team rankings. Thailand claimed the title of

Best Female Team, while Kazakhstan led the men's division. Promising talents such as Mustafa Eren Dogu (TUR), Kseniia Gritsmilia (AIN), and Sama Ibrahim (EGY) were honored for their standout performances, embodying the drive and discipline IFMA champions are known for.

But beyond medals, the event emphasized learning, leadership, and legacy. Referees, coaches, and youth delegates participated in educational workshops and the inaugural WMC Rules & Officiating Course—demonstrating IFMA's continued investment in knowledge-sharing and safe sport practices.

The 2023 Youth World Championships were more than just a tournament—they were a vibrant tribute to the next generation of Muaythai. With cultural exchange, educational development, and competition all woven into one extraordinary event, Antalya proved to be a fitting stage for tomorrow's leaders in the sport.

2023 World Combat Games

| Riyadh, KSA

From October 20 to 30, 2023, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, hosted the third edition of the World Combat Games, bringing together 1,650 athletes from 80 nations across 16 combat sports. Muaythai, under the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA), stood out by showcasing its rich cultural

heritage, commitment to inclusivity, and competitive excellence.

Muaythai's participation encompassed four disciplines: Combat, Wai Kru, Mai Muay, and Para Muaythai. The inclusion of Para Muaythai marked a significant milestone, aligning with IFMA's long-standing commitment to promoting inclusivity and providing opportunities for athletes of all abilities.

The cultural aspects of Muaythai were prominently featured. In the Wai Kru competition, Malaysia's Yan Jia Chi and Hong Kong's Mok Ka Chun secured top honors in the women's and men's categories, respectively. The Mai Muay division, a mixed-gender event, saw Filipino duos Yosorez Rhichein & Mallari Alyssa Kylie and Lampacan Ariel Lee & Delarmino Phillip clinch gold and silver medals.

The Combat discipline introduced the innovative "Super 4" format, offering athletes a second chance to compete for medals, thereby enhancing the competitive spirit and fairness of the event. Notable performances included Slovakia's Monika Chochlíková, who secured gold in the women's 51kg category, and Ukraine's Oleg Pryimachov, who earned silver in the men's 91kg division.

The event's success was further amplified by the enthusiastic support of local spectators at the King Saud University Stadium, reflecting the growing popularity and appreciation of Muaythai in the region. The 2023 World Combat Games not only highlighted the sport's competitive edge but also its

cultural depth and inclusive ethos, reinforcing Muaythai's position on the global stage.

2023 Mediterranean Muaythai Championships

| Loutraki, GRE

From November 2 to 5, 2023, the coastal town of Loutraki, Greece, hosted the inaugural Mediterranean Muaythai Games and Open Championships, marking a significant milestone in the sport's regional development. Organized by the Panhellenic Muaythai Federation (P.O.M.) under the auspices of the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA), the event brought together athletes from across the Mediterranean basin, fostering unity through competition and cultural exchange.

The championships welcomed participants from 12 nations, including Egypt, France, Italy, Spain, Iran, Kosovo, Congo, Cyprus, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Turkey. The opening ceremony featured a vibrant parade of athletes, traditional Wai Kru and Mai Muay performances, and the presentation of honorary plaques to national federation presidents by P.O.M. President Ioannis Papadopoulos.

Over the course of the event, athletes competed in both the Mediterranean Games and the Open Championships. The host nation, Greece, excelled by securing nine gold medals in the Mediterranean Games and an

impressive 20 golds in the Open Championships. Turkey and Morocco followed closely, each earning seven gold medals in the Games, while Turkey and Italy claimed three and two golds, respectively, in the Open Championships.

Beyond the competition, the event emphasized the importance of cultural heritage and mutual respect. The successful organization and enthusiastic participation underscored the potential for Muaythai's inclusion in future Mediterranean multi-sport events. As the championships concluded, organizers and participants alike expressed optimism for the continued growth of Muaythai in the region, envisioning more opportunities for athletes and deeper cultural connections through the sport.

European Muaythai Federation's elections

In December 2023, the European Muaythai Federation convened an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) in Antalya, Turkey, coinciding with the European Senior Championships. This pivotal assembly focused on statutory elections and strategic planning for the federation's future.

The meeting commenced with formal proceedings, including a roll call, agenda adoption, and approval of previous minutes. Key discussions encompassed upcoming events, the rollout strategy for the OSM 2024, and plans for Single Elimination (WMC) Events &

Promotions. Reports were presented on the Mediterranean Championships & Open Cup in Greece, the Senior European Championships in Turkey, and the Antalya Open Cup.

The election results announced Hasan Yildiz (Turkey) as President and Davide Carlot (Italy) as General Secretary. Vice Presidents elected included Nadir Allouache (France), Ioannis Papadopoulos (Greece), Dmitry Putilin (Russia), and Detlef Turnau (Germany). The Executive Board comprised Duran Ebren, Nicole Kaiser, Dejan Mitrovski, Petr Ottich, Annu Kuzmuk, and Karoly Dudok (Hungary). President Yildiz outlined a comprehensive vision for European Muaythai, emphasizing increased participation, international presence, and new project collaborations. His strategic plan included short, medium, and long-term programs, focusing on task allocation among officials and participatory corporate work principles. Medium-term goals aimed to revive Muaythai in less active countries, while long-term plans involved establishing a four-year event calendar and the EMF-European Muaythai Federation Super League. Yildiz concluded by expressing gratitude for the support and commitment to the federation's common goals.

2023 European Championships and Antalya Open

| Antalya, TUR

From December 7 to 14, 2023, Antalya, Türkiye, hosted two major IFMA events:

the Senior European Championships and the Antalya Open Cup. The week-long tournament brought together athletes from over 30 countries and closed out the 2023 Muaythai season with strong performances and important meetings.

In the Senior European Championships, Ukraine took four gold medals, including one from Oleg Pryimachov in the +91kg division. Türkiye, as the host nation, had a successful showing across both events. Other strong performances came from Finland, Poland, and the Czech Republic, reflecting the continued development of Muaythai across Europe.

The Antalya Open Cup welcomed youth and development athletes from various regions, giving them a chance to gain experience in an international setting. Cultural sessions such as Wai Kru and Mai Muay workshops were also held to keep Muaythai's traditions visible throughout the event.

The European Muaythai Federation (EMF) also held its Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) during the championships, which included elections and strategic planning for 2024 and beyond.

Antalya once again proved to be a reliable host for international Muaythai, with well-run competitions and strong local support. The event wrapped up the year on a positive note for European Muaythai and laid the groundwork for future projects and competitions.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & EDUCATION

Youth Development and Education

Youth development remained at the heart of IFMA's mission in 2023, with a strong focus on empowering young athletes both in and beyond competition. The 2023 IFMA Youth World Championships in Antalya, Türkiye, was a key highlight, gathering over 1,500 athletes from more than 100 countries in what became the largest youth Muaythai event in history. The event was not only a platform for competition but also for learning, community building, and cultural exchange.

A core educational component of the event included workshops on topics such as clean sport, social media responsibility, athlete rights, and leadership. The IFMA Athletes' Commission led an open forum with youth delegates to engage young voices in sport governance and decision-making. The first-ever WMC Referee and Judges Course for youth participants was also held, offering early exposure to officiating and rules education, which supports IFMA's goal of nurturing well-rounded athletes and future sport leaders.

One of the most inspiring moments was the largest Khan 1 grading exam ever held, with over 1,200 youth completing

their first formal test in the IFMA curriculum—highlighting both technical progress and commitment to the sport's traditions. These efforts reflect IFMA's belief that youth development is not just about medals, but about building character, responsibility, and lifelong passion for Muaythai.

Gender Equality and Inclusion

In 2023, IFMA continued to lead by example in advancing gender equity and promoting inclusive participation across all levels of Muaythai. The historic debut of Muaythai at the European Games in Kraków was a defining moment, not only for competitive achievement but for gender balance—featuring five male and five female divisions, with full gender parity in athlete participation, medals, and visibility.

IFMA's framework ensures that equal opportunity extends beyond athletes to referees, coaches, and sport administrators. Across major events, IFMA made sure to provide equal representation in officiating crews and decision-making panels, and several capacity-building workshops targeted female leadership and coaching development.

A groundbreaking step was the inclusion of Para Muaythai in the 2023 World Combat Games in Riyadh, demonstrating IFMA's clear commitment to inclusive sport. Athletes with disabilities competed with full visibility and recognition, reinforcing that Muaythai is a sport for everyone—

regardless of gender, ability, or background.

IFMA continues to embed gender equality and diversity into its policies, event structures, and daily operations, building a sport culture that reflects fairness, access, and opportunity for all.

Cultural Preservation and Promotion

Throughout 2023, IFMA remained deeply committed to preserving the cultural roots of Muaythai while showcasing its traditions on the international stage. Every IFMA event—whether regional or world-level—incorporated elements of Thai heritage, reinforcing the sport’s identity as both martial art and cultural expression.

The World Combat Games in Riyadh were a standout example, where Wai Kru and Mai Muay competitions were given prominent billing alongside combat divisions. Athletes performed choreographed routines rooted in ancient practices, judged not only for technical execution but for authenticity, rhythm, and respect. These performances served as powerful cultural ambassadorships, sharing the spiritual and ceremonial aspects of Muaythai with a global audience.

Similarly, at the Youth World Championships in Antalya, daily workshops on Thai language, etiquette, music, and ceremonial dress gave young athletes the opportunity to explore Muaythai’s cultural depth. The event also featured demonstrations and

exhibitions of traditional Thai dance, weapon forms, and storytelling—bringing the essence of Muaythai beyond the ring.

Through its work in cultural promotion, IFMA ensures that Muaythai’s identity remains intact as the sport continues to grow worldwide. This balance between tradition and progress is at the core of IFMA’s vision, keeping the spirit of Muaythai alive while opening it to new generations and cultures.

MUAYTHAI FOR FAIR PLAY

In 2023, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations reinforced its commitment to the principles of fair play, integrity, and ethical conduct, which are foundational to the sport of Muaythai. Through a series of targeted initiatives, educational programs, and recognition of exemplary behavior, IFMA worked diligently to uphold these values across all levels of competition.

Educational Initiatives and Workshops

A cornerstone of IFMA's fair play agenda was the implementation of comprehensive educational programs aimed at athletes, coaches, and officials. Notably, a three-day seminar in Bangkok focused on anti-doping awareness and athlete health, led by ITA Ambassador and IFMA Sport Director Janice Lyn. The seminar emphasized the consequences of doping and the importance of maintaining integrity in sport. Participants received certifications upon completion, underscoring IFMA's dedication to clean competition.

Recognition of Fair Play

IFMA continued to honor individuals and teams exemplifying fair play. At the 2023 Senior World Championships, Sayed Rohulla Mosawi from Afghanistan received the Fair Play Award for his outstanding sportsmanship. Similarly, at

the European Youth & U23 Championships, Team Greece was recognised as the Best Fair Play Team, highlighting the importance of respect and integrity in competition.

Development of Technical Officials

Ensuring fair and safe competition relies heavily on well-trained officials. In 2023, over 50 technical officials participated in IFMA's Referee and Judges (R&J) development programs, aiming to achieve International Technical Official (ITO) status. These programs focused on upholding the highest standards of officiating and reinforcing the principles of fairness and athlete safety.

Commitment to Ethical Standards

IFMA maintained its dedication to ethical accountability by providing clear channels for reporting misconduct. The organization's Whistleblower's Box allowed individuals to confidentially report violations, ensuring transparency and accountability within the sport. This initiative reflects IFMA's unwavering stance against discrimination, harassment, and abuse.

Through these concerted efforts, IFMA has demonstrated its steadfast commitment to fostering a culture of fair play, ensuring that Muaythai remains a sport rooted in respect, integrity, and excellence.

IFMA 2023 Annual Report

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