

A Year of Connection, Commitment, and Cultural Strength

Annual Report 2024



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FOREWORDS | HONORARY PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues and friends,

2024 has been a year marked by steady evolution, new standards, and deeper global integration for the IFMA family. Rather than focusing on celebration, this year was about consolidation—strengthening our foundations and shaping a more unified, inclusive future for Muaythai.

We saw the sport return to its roots with the Senior World Championships in Patras, Greece—linking Muaythai's aspirations to the spirit of Olympia. At the same time, the Youth World Championships in Bangkok broke new ground with the introduction of the All-Inclusive Nationals, which brought para-athletes and adaptive divisions into the heart of our competitive structure, not as a side note but as a natural part of the same platform.

In parallel, our involvement in Paris during the Olympic Games sent a strong message—not just of visibility, but of substance. Through structured training, outreach programs, and cultural engagement, IFMA demonstrated that Muaythai brings more than performance to the table; it brings depth, relevance, and value to the global sporting community.

Equally important was the formalization of the "One Standard Muaythai" grading system—a significant shift toward long-term consistency in technical education

and coach development. This step, paired with the outcomes of our General Assembly in Bangkok, signals our readiness to enter a new phase: one rooted in transparency, athlete protection, and long-term strategic growth.

We are not chasing moments—we are building legacy.

To every athlete, official, volunteer, and partner who contributed this year: thank you. Your commitment drives the integrity and future of Muaythai.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sakchye TAPSUWAN

Honorary President, International
Federation of Muaythai Associations
(IFMA)

FOREWORDS | DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear IFMA community,

Each year presents its own rhythm. 2024 has been defined by implementation—turning plans into action, strengthening systems, and refining how we work together across all levels of the federation.

What stood out this year was not one single event, but the consistency with which our teams delivered across the board. From the early Nordic and African Championships to our major world events in Patras and Bangkok, operations were precise, standards upheld, and feedback applied in real time. This is the result of improved coordination, better tools, and most importantly, committed people across our global network.

We made meaningful progress in areas that don't always make headlines but are crucial: expanding the reach of the OSM grading system, growing participation in our education and officiating programs, and deepening federation-to-federation cooperation. We've also raised expectations around safeguarding, inclusion, and accountability—not as boxes to tick, but as day-to-day priorities in event delivery and federation governance.

Our presence at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games was a step forward—not symbolic, but strategic. It allowed us to test how we present ourselves in

Olympic spaces and reinforced why Muaythai has a place within them. We know where we stand, and we know what's next.

2024 has reminded us that long-term growth depends on strong systems, informed people, and steady leadership. I would like to thank our national federations, commissions, volunteers, and the many individuals behind the scenes who made this year work—and work well.

We carry this momentum into the next season with clarity, structure, and shared purpose.

Warm regards,



Charissa TYNAN

IFMA Director General

LOOKING AHEAD

As IFMA prepares for the year ahead, 2025 promises to be a year of growth, visibility, and continued commitment to values that have guided the federation for over three decades.

The upcoming calendar is built around key international events that will serve both the development and visibility of the sport. Among the highlights:

- ❖ The IFMA World Championships will return to Türkiye, bringing together athletes from across five continents to compete at the highest level.
- ❖ The World Games in Chengdu, China, will once again include Muaythai, giving athletes a chance to represent their countries in one of the most prestigious multi-sport events outside the Olympics.
- ❖ The Youth World Championships will take place in the United Arab Emirates, with a continued focus on inclusion, education, and cultural exchange.
- ❖ The Islamic Solidarity Games, hosted by Saudi Arabia, will see Muaythai featured alongside other Olympic and non-Olympic sports.
- ❖ The CISM Military Challenge will further highlight the connection between Muaythai and military values—discipline, honor, and respect.

In parallel, IFMA will launch the International Standard Grading System for Muaythai in mid-2025. This structured pathway for athletes, coaches, and officials will support

technical consistency and educational access across all member federations.

The federation will also build on its partnerships with WADA, United Through Sports, and other international organizations to continue delivering clean sport education, safeguarding, and social programs, including the expansion of Sport Is Your Gang into new regions.

Internally, IFMA will continue its work on governance, compliance, and federation development through regional coordination and ongoing support for national structures.

2025 will not only be a competitive year—it will be a year for reinforcing our foundations, expanding our reach, and staying grounded in the principles that define Muaythai.

2024 AT A GLANCE

IFMA Senior World Championships – Patras, Greece

| Patras, Greece

The IFMA Senior World Championships 2024 took place in Patras, Greece, bringing together over 1,500 participants from more than 100 countries. The event not only showcased high-level competition across elite and U23 divisions, but also connected the global Muaythai family to the roots of Olympic sport in the historic setting of Greece.

Patras delivered a vibrant tournament environment with world-class competition in both combat and Wai Kru divisions. For the first time, the One Standard Muaythai (OSM) grading system was integrated into a senior world championship, offering technical assessments and coach certification on-site. This move reflected IFMA's commitment to athlete education and long-term sport structure.

Educational sessions ran alongside the tournament, covering athlete safeguarding, anti-doping, mental health, and sport integrity. The IFMA Athletes' Commission hosted open meetings, giving athletes a platform to speak directly to federation leadership. New tools for athlete feedback and representation were piloted successfully.

Importantly, the 2024 IFMA General Assembly was held during the championship, welcoming Bosnia & Herzegovina and Guinea as full member federations. Governance reforms and updates to the IFMA Constitution were passed, reinforcing transparency, athlete representation, and the federation's global expansion.

Greece, with its symbolic connection to ancient sport and the modern Olympic Movement, was a powerful host. The championship was a high point in IFMA's international calendar, delivering excellence in event management, competition, and global unity. As athletes and teams left Patras, they carried not only medals but the sense of shared momentum for Muaythai's future.

IFMA Youth World Championships

| Bangkok, Thailand

Returning to Bangkok, the heart of Muaythai, the 2024 IFMA Youth World Championships gathered over 100 countries in an event that blended elite competition with youth empowerment and education. More than 1,500 athletes participated across multiple age divisions, with competitions held in both combat and Wai Kru disciplines.

This year's edition introduced a landmark addition—the All-Inclusive Nationals, featuring divisions for para-athletes and those with special needs. It was a bold and necessary step toward

full inclusion in IFMA competition and was met with enthusiastic support from teams, families, and partners.

Off the mats, the event was rich in learning opportunities. IFMA hosted a wide range of seminars including clean sport education, social media conduct, mental health awareness, and the importance of athlete voice. Hundreds of young athletes also took part in the global Khan grading exams, with more than 500 passing Khan 1–3, helping standardize the development pathway worldwide.

A new initiative—the Youth Team Leader Program—was launched, empowering selected athletes within each delegation to take on peer-support and mentoring roles. The initiative was aimed at fostering leadership, accountability, and camaraderie among the youth.

Cultural performances, daily Wai Kru tutorials, and interaction with Thai masters reinforced the importance of tradition. The championships were not only about who won but how the sport is passed on to the next generation.

Bangkok 2024 was not just a competition—it was a celebration of diversity, determination, and the future of Muaythai. It reinforced IFMA’s position as a values-driven organization, placing education and inclusion at the center of everything it does.

Muaythai at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

| Paris, France

During the Olympic Games in Paris, IFMA took an important step toward greater international recognition with a dedicated showcase of Muaythai through cultural, educational, and athletic events.

From August 2–9, the Muaythai House at the Teddy Riner Arena became a hub of activity, offering coaching seminars, cultural performances, safeguarding workshops, and youth activities. Open to both Olympic visitors and the local public, the Muaythai House provided a space to learn, train, and celebrate the values of Muaythai in an Olympic atmosphere.

On August 5 and 6, Muaythai took the stage at Club France with two days of exhibition matches featuring athletes from 24 countries. These bouts were not just about sport—they celebrated tradition and unity, drawing thousands of spectators and engaging the global sporting community.

The “One World One Muaythai” charity seminar brought together icons of the sport—including Buakaw, Jimmy Vienot, and Iman Barlow—who led sessions and supported a community outreach initiative for people in need in Paris.

The Paris showcase proved that Muaythai has the organizational capacity, cultural strength, and international following to stand proudly on the Olympic stage. It was not only a

promotional effort but a meaningful statement of where the sport is heading.

Pan American Muaythai Championships

| Ottawa, Canada

The 2024 Pan American Muaythai Championships in Ottawa were a key highlight for the Americas, uniting 16 nations in a highly competitive and inclusive event. The tournament featured elite divisions across male and female weight classes and emphasized equality, athlete development, and regional solidarity.

Laura Burgos of Mexico retained her WMC Pan American Title with a dominant performance, while the USA's Tierra Brandt captured the WMC World Title at 57kg. The event was a strong display of female talent and the growing depth of the sport across the continent.

Seminars on athlete rights, clean sport, and officiating standards took place alongside the competition. Continental federation representatives also held a planning session to outline shared goals for the next quadrennial, including greater investment in youth programs and technical official training.

The event was a testament to IFMA's long-term development work in the region, and Ottawa proved to be an enthusiastic and capable host city.

Antalya Open Cup and Mediterranean Championships

| Antalya, Turkey

Held in January, the Antalya Open and Mediterranean Championships gathered over 550 athletes from 30+ delegations. It provided an accessible competition platform at the start of the calendar year for both elite and grassroots-level athletes.

The event highlighted the strength of Mediterranean cooperation, with technical meetings hosted to improve alignment between national federations. The dual format—combining an Open Cup and a regional championship—allowed for deeper participation and valuable international experience, especially for emerging youth talent.

Off the ring, federation leaders continued conversations on strengthening the Mediterranean Muaythai calendar, including pathways toward multi-sport event integration.

UPHOLDING FAIR PLAY AND INTEGRITY

In 2024, IFMA reinforced its position as a leader in clean sport and fair play through targeted education and robust implementation of anti-doping and ethical conduct frameworks. Central to this effort was the continued partnership with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International Testing Agency (ITA), which supported the delivery of updated courses and resources tailored to Muaythai athletes.

A major step forward was IFMA's endorsement and promotion of WADA's updated ADEL Youth Education platform. During the IFMA Youth World Championships in Bangkok, youth participants were introduced to the ADEL modules, ensuring early exposure to the principles of clean sport, health-based decisions, and personal responsibility. Coaches and team leaders were also required to complete anti-doping training prior to registration at major events, further embedding education into the competition framework.

"Play True Day" 2024 was celebrated across IFMA's digital platforms and onsite activations, emphasizing athlete voice and ethical sport values. Athletes and coaches from all five continents took part in awareness campaigns, reaffirming the importance of integrity not just in results, but in daily behavior, preparation, and team culture.

Additionally, the IFMA Whistleblower's Box continued to be a confidential and

accessible channel for athletes and officials to report suspected violations of the IFMA Code of Ethics, including harassment, abuse, manipulation of results, and other misconduct. The safeguarding team, active at all major championships, worked closely with local stakeholders to protect athlete well-being and address any issues in real time.

These combined efforts reflect IFMA's commitment not just to rule enforcement, but to fostering a sport culture grounded in respect, transparency, and athlete-centered ethics.

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION AND SPORT

IFMA's focus on youth empowerment took center stage in 2024, not only through competition but through integrated education, cultural connection, and leadership development. The Youth World Championships in Bangkok—attended by over 3,000 athletes from 93 nations—were a clear demonstration of how Muaythai can serve as a powerful tool for shaping the next generation of leaders.

This year, IFMA elevated its youth education program with a series of parallel workshops focusing on clean sport, mental health, responsible digital behavior, leadership, and values-based decision-making. Daily sessions were delivered by experts from WADA, Safe Sport organizations, and the IFMA Youth Advisory Council, and were open to athletes, team officials, and parents.

The event also hosted Khan Grading exams for more than 500 youth athletes, reinforcing the structured technical pathway supported by the One Standard Muaythai system (OSM). Young athletes didn't just fight—they progressed through ranks, learned about the sport's cultural roots, and gained a clearer view of their future path in Muaythai.

A new initiative launched in 2024—the Youth Team Leaders Program—appointed peer-selected athletes in each delegation to assist with communication, logistics, and group

cohesion. These team leaders received special training and acted as youth ambassadors throughout the championship, helping IFMA promote values such as fairness, support, and mutual respect within national teams.

By combining world-class youth competition with structured educational outreach and leadership opportunities, IFMA continues to champion sport not just as an arena of medals, but as a vehicle for life skills, cultural exchange, and social development.

PROMOTING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND REHABILITATION

In 2024, IFMA expanded its long-running commitment to social responsibility through new partnerships and deeper community-based projects. Central to this year's focus was the continued implementation of the "Sport Is Your Gang" program—an initiative that uses Muaythai to engage youth from vulnerable communities and support rehabilitation through structure, mentorship, and cultural pride.

A highlight of 2024 was the launch of a partnership with Samui District Prison in Thailand, where Muaythai was formally introduced as part of the rehabilitation program for incarcerated individuals. Through regular classes led by certified IFMA instructors and support from social workers, inmates were offered not only physical training but a path to reintegration, self-discipline, and mental resilience. This program is now being used as a model for similar collaborations in other regions.

In Paris, during the Muaythai Showcase at the Olympic Games, the "One World One Muaythai" Charity Seminar added another layer to the federation's social impact. Attended by Muaythai icons and thousands of fans, the seminar invited participants to bring hygiene products and non-perishable food items in exchange for entry—these were later distributed to organizations serving the city's unhoused population.

Across its member federations, IFMA also provided toolkits and support to replicate grassroots initiatives, whether in refugee camps, rural communities, or urban outreach centers. The focus was clear: Muaythai is more than a sport—it is a platform for healing, empowerment, and second chances.

IFMA's ability to bridge sport and social impact reflects its unique position as a values-based federation. In 2024, these programs served as powerful reminders of Muaythai's ability to transform lives far beyond the competition ring.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARANCY

Good governance remained a strategic pillar of IFMA's operations throughout 2024, with several initiatives reinforcing the federation's commitment to accountability, transparency, and inclusive leadership.

At the 2024 IFMA Annual General Meeting in Bangkok, a series of key motions were passed to modernize the IFMA Constitution and streamline decision-making within the Executive Board. These reforms focused on greater clarity of roles, continental empowerment, and stronger enforcement of compliance criteria for national federations.

The IFMA Election Committee continued its oversight role during national and continental elections, ensuring that voting processes remained democratic, well-documented, and inclusive. Additionally, IFMA introduced updated reporting procedures for regional commissions to improve consistency in financial and operational reporting.

A revised Safeguarding and Ethics Policy was presented, consolidating IFMA's obligations around child protection, gender equity, anti-harassment protocols, and internal grievance procedures. These policies are now mandatory for national federations to adopt, and safeguarding officers are required to be present at all IFMA-sanctioned events.

One of the key strategic outcomes of 2024 was the launch of a four-year development plan (2024–2028), which outlines investment in youth programming, digital transformation, sustainability initiatives, and event standardization. The plan was developed through a consultative process with member federations and endorsed by the General Assembly.

Transparency was also enhanced through public publication of committee appointments, election results, and updated statutes—reinforcing IFMA's role as a modern, well-managed, and globally recognized sports organization.

By aligning with the best practices of the Olympic Movement and ASOIF, IFMA continues to lead by example, ensuring that growth is not only ambitious—but responsible, inclusive, and accountable.

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