



# ACNOA

SPECIAL  
EDITION

REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

M A G A Z I N E

OLYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

## AFRICA LIGHTS UP THE SEINE







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE .....	6-9
IOC PRESIDENT'S SPEECH .....	10-13
OG PARIS 2024 .....	14-17
AFRICA AT PARIS 2024 .....	18-69
ANOCA IN ACTION .....	70-78

**CONTENTS**



**ACNOA - ANOCA**



**AFRICAN  
NOCS**



# Africa was Heroic in PARIS!

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Summer Olympic Games, held from 26 July to 11 August 2024, wrapped up in the French capital, with their share of satisfaction for some and disappointment for others. After two weeks of competition, sweat, tears of joy and pain, the curtains were drawn on this great event that brought together athletes across the globe.

Paris 2024 showed the world that, notwithstanding the multiple conflicts among world powers or among communities, Olympism is more essential than ever, more vital than ever in bringing together men and women from all over the world, physically and symbolically, in the quest for medals forged in the metal of dialogue and peace.

It would be difficult at this stage to fully assess Africa's participation in these Games. Nevertheless, we can begin by agreeing on some of the highlights of our continent's presence in Paris. We lived some unforgettable moments at the

competition venues, marked by fraternity, a wonderful atmosphere, colourful crowds, etc. These Games are bound to make history. The Africans who participated for the first time made some exceptional discoveries. Once again, Paris 2024 showed us that Olympism is more vital than ever in bringing together men and women across the world.

As we are all aware, Africa's medal haul rose a bit from 37 to 39. It is for this reason that we have such high regard for all the athletes who defended the values of our Continent. Each of them worked hard and put in the greatest effort to win a medal; some were able to realise their dream, others were not as successful. Many of our athletes staged impressive performances and demonstrated incredible ability against their fellow competitors. The diversity of the countries that won medals and the disciplines in which medals were won shows that our sporting potential remains very high. However, beyond the figures and sports achievements, it is obvious that in Paris, Africans were in tune with Coubertin's trilogy: 'Excellence, Friendship, Respect!

Let me now address the athletes who represented Africa at the Paris Games.

Dear athletes,

We are immensely proud of your first-class performance at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. The feats performed by each and every one of you have gone down in the annals of history. Your participation in Paris 2024 was historic! You were Africa's torch-bearers at this major competition and on the international stage.

To you, I say THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS! You demonstrated both courage and ingenuity, showcasing the full range of your talents in various disciplines. Some of you won major medals, while others did not, and this is very much in keeping with the spirit of Olympism. Fair play was what you shared in common. A fine illustration of your state of mind, which makes you true African heroes. We are all proud of your outstanding performance, which aroused admiration and was a source of pride for the



Paris 2024 showed us that Olympism is more vital than ever in bringing together men and women across the world.



entire continent. I congratulate your coaches, real professionals who were able to provide you with the necessary motivation and boost your performance. They were at the top of their game. We urge them to stay the course, building their capacities every day, with the aim of equipping you with the technical and sporting skills that will continue to make you top-class athletes.

Dear athletes and coaches, we will support you, strongly and confidently, as we have always done, in the upcoming Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and in all future international competitions. With IOC support, ANOCA will mobilise all resources to support athletes, their coaches and African sport. Our potential remains immense. Together, we will intensify our collaboration to raise our profile as a continent of champions.

I CONGRATULATE and THANK all the 54 NOCs! You effectively implemented our preparation plan for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Your commitment to making Africa's participation a resounding success was remarkable and a clear demonstration of your managerial skills, which meet the modern criteria of sports governance. Your efforts have been commendable, proactive and effective.

ANOC.TV



To you, I say  
**THANK YOU** and  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
You demonstrated both  
courage and ingenuity,  
showcasing the full  
range of your talents in  
various disciplines.

African sports confederations and federations have been at the forefront, and I encourage them to stay the course, with the spirit of solidarity that drives the African Olympic and Sports Movement.

A big THANK YOU to all the African countries that mobilised the financial and logistical resources needed to support the delegations of African athletes and officials!

The entire African continent, through my humble voice, would like to thank the French people, under the leadership of His Excellency Emmanuel MACRON, for their legendary hospitality, which once again stood out at Paris 2024, where no effort was spared to give a solemn, global zest to this great celebration of world sport. The French Minister of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games and the President of the French Olympic and Sports Committee were the driving force behind the project.

The Paris 2024 Organising Committee was perfect, with our dear friend, Tony ESTANGUET, as central coordinator. We would like to thank the entire Committee for their exceptional presence, which was marked by rigour and professionalism as well as for the many unforgettable memories.

To my friend the IOC President, Dr Thomas BACH, I extend my sincere congratulations on the extraordinary success of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Let us join forces and show that, together, we can build a better world through sport and the Olympic values that make the planet a global community. The Olympic Games are essential and vital for humanity.

And to you, dear members of the great African Olympic family, there is no gainsaying that not everything was smooth for Africa in Paris. We need to prepare more seriously for future major events.



An event as prestigious and galactic as the Olympic Games cannot succeed without multidimensional and rigorously coordinated preparation. We need to start thinking about the 2028 Games immediately. We must avoid the practice whereby some countries start preparations in the course of the year of the Games, because this state of affairs cannot produce convincing results. It is a whole 4-year Olympic cycle where everything has to be prepared meticulously and in advance. Everything needs to be planned. Certain issues need to be addressed right now, because the hierarchy of nations reminds us every four years that the medal rankings are not a matter of chance. These include: the targeted athletes, their potential, who will coach them, the resources needed to ensure their performance, monitoring and guiding these athletes along the right path, funding these preparatory activities, etc...

We should of course turn the page on the Paris Olympic Games in our respective countries, but each NOC's participation in these Games must obligatorily be assessed. In each country, all sports movement stakeholders must make an uncompromising assessment of their participation in the Paris Games, because accountability demands that we sit down together to take stock. The results achieved at these Olympic Games must be reviewed, and it is only after this essential assessment that each country will be able to see where it succeeded and where it failed. This concerns everyone, Governments, NOCs, national sports federations, who contribute to this assessment. Only then will we be able to prepare for future events. Los Angeles 2028 beckons already!

Sincerely,

**Mustapha BERRAF**

IOC Member  
President of ANOCA

# Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Paris 2024

Hello Paris! Hello France!

Dear athletes,

Dear President of the Republic of France, Mr Emmanuel Macron,

Dear Chair of the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, my fellow Olympian and dear friend, Tony Estanguet,

Dear Mayor of Paris, Mrs Anne Hidalgo,

Your Excellencies,

Dear Olympic friends,

Finally, the moment has arrived: welcome to the Olympic Games Paris 2024!

My heartfelt thanks go to our gracious French hosts. Thank you for welcoming us in such a spectacular way. The Olympic flame will make Paris and all of France shine even brighter.

We are deeply grateful to all our French friends. First and foremost to the President of the French Republic. All our gratitude also goes to the public authorities at all levels as well as the Paris 2024 Organising Committee, under the excellent leadership of my fellow Olympian, Tony Estanguet. You are bringing our Olympic Agenda reforms to life by making these Games wide open. All of us will experience Olympic Games that are more inclusive, more urban, younger and more sustainable – the first Olympic Games with full gender parity on the field of play.

Special thanks go to the thousands of volunteers. Thank you for your commitment. Your smiles make us fall in love even more with Paris and France.

Our thanks also go to whole team of the Organising Committee, of the public services and to everyone who is contributing to make these Olympic Games an unforgettable experience.

What better place than Paris, to share this magic of the Olympic Games with the whole world.

Paris, the birthplace of our founder, Pierre de Coubertin, to whom we owe everything.

Paris, City of Light, where he created the modern Olympic Games.

Paris, City of Love.

Thank you, France, for this magical welcome.

Dear fellow athletes,

This is the pinnacle of your Olympic journey. You have come to Paris as athletes. Now you are Olympians.

Stepping into the Olympic Village, you realise like generations of Olympians before: now I am part of something bigger than myself. Now we are part of an event that unites the world in peace.

In our Olympic world, there is no “global south” or “global north”. We all respect the same rules and each other. In our Olympic world, we all belong.

As Olympians, we care for each other. We do not only respect each other, we live in solidarity with each other. All of you have experienced this and benefitted from our Olympic solidarity on your long journey to finally becoming Olympians. This solidarity is made possible through the generous support of all our Media Rights Holders and TOP Partners. All together, we thank them and everyone who supported you on your Olympic journey.



Our thanks also go to whole team of the Organising Committee, of the public services and to everyone who is contributing to make these Olympic Games an unforgettable experience.



In a world torn apart by wars and conflicts, it is thanks to this solidarity that we can all come together tonight, uniting the athletes from the territories of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.

Welcome to the best athletes of the world - welcome, Olympians!

Some may say, we in the Olympic world, we are dreamers.

But we are not the only ones.

**And our dream is coming true tonight:** a reality for everyone to see. Olympians from all around the globe, showing us what greatness we humans are capable of.

“

Let us celebrate this Olympic spirit of living life in peace, as the one and only humankind, united in all our diversity. ”





**So I invite everybody:** dream with us. Like the Olympic athletes, be inspired with the joy that only sport can give us. Let us celebrate this Olympic spirit of living life in peace, as the one and only humankind, united in all our diversity.

**This is why tonight, with my heart full of emotions, I invite the whole world:** let us celebrate this joy of sport together with all the athletes. Have faith in the future. Together, let us celebrate the best of our shared humanity.

Long live the Olympic Games! Long live France!

Now I have the great honour of inviting the President of the French Republic, Mr Emmanuel Macron, to declare open the Games of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympiad Paris 2024.

**Thomas BACH**  
IOC President



## Paris 2024

# Africa lights up the Seine

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Summer Olympic Games of the modern era were held in Paris, France, from 26 July to 11 August 2024. Africa was at the heart of the event, and realised its Olympic dream with a total medal haul of 39, two more than the 37 won in Tokyo during the XXXII Olympiad.

These Games were a real jamboree, more than just a race for medals. They also afforded an opportunity for participating athletes and their coaches to showcase the values of Olympism. Africa's participation in Paris was truly honourable, both on and off the tracks and pitches. A real melting pot of nations, Paris 2024 was not just a race for glory and medals but also a celebration of the values ethics, fair play, respect for the opponent, a healthy way of life and modesty.

Africa's participation at this event was multidimensional. Beyond the tracks and pitches, where athletes performed better than in Tokyo, winning 39 medals compared to 37 in the Japanese capital, the continent also showcased its dynamism and rich cultural diversity to the world remarkably, particularly during the parade of the opening ceremony on 26 July, where delegations were clad in attires inspired by their heritage. Africa had real exposure and used these Games as a platform to communicate its uniqueness to the global community.

African athletes excelled, strongly competing against and even challenging the traditional sports powerhouses in disciplines in which they previously held sway. The performance of 21-year-old Letsile Tebogo of Botswana, who won gold in the men's 200 metres, a first for Africa, shattered the notion that sprint events were reserved for specific countries. Other notable successes included Algeria's Kaylia Nemour, who became the first African to win a medal in gymnastics, clinching gold in the uneven bars. This achievement marks a significant milestone for gymnastics development on the continent. Also, the diversity of African countries that won at least one medal, 12 in all, is a genuine reason for satisfaction. Though it is the same number as in Tokyo 2020, there is reason to be satisfied.

Africa's participation at this event was multidimensional. Beyond the tracks and pitches, where athletes performed better than in Tokyo...

Overall, Africa came back home from the Olympic Games Paris 2024 with 39 medals, 13 gold, 12 silver, and 14 bronze, won by 12 nations. This represents an improvement compared to the previous edition (37 medals). Once again, Kenya (17th in the world rankings) topped the African rankings, thanks to its dominance in distance events, followed by Algeria (39th), which made a significant impact, and South Africa (44<sup>th</sup>), which confirmed its position among Africa's top medal-winning nations at the Olympic Games.

As is often the case, athletics remains Africa's primary source of medals. The impressive performances of Faith Kipyegon, Emmanuel Korir, Joshua Cheptegei, and Soufiane El Bakkali confirmed that distance events continue to be the continent's stronghold. However, it should be noted that this dominance is being challenged, as evidenced in Paris, where the USA and European nations are increasingly contesting Africa's traditional superiority in distance events.





Furthermore, training of coaches should be prioritised to ensure athletes are given the best possible guidance.



Africa's success at the Paris Games was no coincidence. Coordinated by ANOCA, the continent prepared meticulously as various stakeholders spared no effort to see African athletes shine in the French capital. ANOCA, governments, continental sports confederations, national Olympic committees, and national sports federations were all deeply committed to the «Africa on the Road to Paris 2024» project. They created an enabling environment for athletes to fulfil their dreams and reach their full potential.

According to several observers, Africa's 39 medals in Paris should be surpassed at future Games, notably at Los Angeles 2028. To compete at the highest level, African athletes require quality infrastructure. Investments in modern training centres and access to state-of-the-art equipment are crucial for optimal preparation. Partnerships with nations having advanced infrastructure could provide foreign training opportunities. Africa abounds with natural sporting talent, but it must be identified early and nurtured. National sports federations should invest in budding talent identification programmes, particularly in rural areas where potential often goes untapped. Furthermore, training of coaches should be prioritised to ensure athletes are given the best possible guidance.



## Africa at Paris 2024

# Individual performances that did Africa proud

Africa took part alongside the other continents in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Games in Paris, France and bagged a total of 39 medals, including 13 gold, 12 silver and 14 bronze. Many of its worthy representatives did the Continent proud by displaying their talent at this global event. A recap of some of those stunning performances.







# Africa gives **Imane Khelif** a hero's welcome

On 9 August 2024, at the age of 25, she became Olympic champion by winning the first gold medal for Arab and African women's boxing. Back in her native continent, she was decorated on 14 August by the President of the Republic of Algeria, His Excellency Abdelmadjid Tebboune, with the National Order of Merit and raised to the rank of Ahid.



Algeria's Imane Khelif mounted the highest rung of the podium, as she clinched gold in the women's -66 kg boxing category on Friday, 9 August 2024, after beating China's Liu Yang, the reigning world champion. The Algerian boxer, who made History and carried the day by unanimous decision, was determined to hang the gold around her neck as she set foot in the famous Philippe Chatrier court.

She was cheered to a deafening roar with shouts of: *'Imane, Imane...!'*, which punctuated the three rounds of the match during which the Algerian was more relaxed and hit with greater force, despite the hate campaign against her following her victory by forfeiture in the last 16 on Thursday 1 August against Italy's Angela Carini.

Algerians from all walks of life acted in solidarity with her, angered by the fact that her father was obliged to show her birth certificate to journalists to prove that his daughter was born a girl.

The strongest support and show of solidarity came from the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa through its President, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, who denounced this attitude, which ANOCA considered utterly unjustified and irresponsible, following the untoward remarks of the International Boxing Association, IBA, against Imane KHELIF. President Berraf urged the brilliant athlete, who is the pride of the African Olympic and Sports Movement, to continue competing with a cool head. And was she outstanding!



President BERRAF thus pledged his full support, even as he requested all of Africa to stand by her on the eve of her boxing final: *“Our support for Imane KHELIF remains unwavering and total. Fortunately, she remains strong and focused on her sports objective. This makes her a great professional. She is talented and has a big heart. She’s our champion. She has our unfailing support. We request Olympic Africa as a whole to stand by Imane, like one man, for a final victory in the boxing tournament against the Chinese boxer Liu Yang.”*

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) offered the same moving support to the boxer in a message from President Thomas BACH on 3 August 2024, who said: *“Following your fight on Thursday, allow me to*

*offer you my support after what must be a very difficult time. Far too many people saw the poor treatment you were subjected to just for participating in an Olympic competition and pursuing your Olympic dream.*

*No athlete should be subjected to such attacks, and I hope that you will be able to ignore these attacks and continue to compete in boxing despite this unwarranted attention. In the meantime, members of the IOC protection team are in touch with you to offer our total support and to provide you with various tools to help you protect yourself. At this particular time, I would like to express my affection for you and I enjoin you to remain strong and concentrate on your sports performances. All my best wishes.”*



I received a warm welcome today. All Algerians have the right to rejoice and enjoy themselves.



Imane Khelif's equally moving response was not long in coming, in the boxing ring, when she won the most precious and coveted metal of all, gold. She could then speak up proudly: *"I'm a strong woman with special powers. From the ring, I sent a message to those who were against me,"* she declared after holding back her tears as she stepped on the podium, before adding: *"I've been subjected to attacks and a fierce campaign, and this is the best response I can give. The answer has always been in the ring. I am fully eligible to take part, I am a woman like any other. I was born a woman, I lived as a woman and I competed as a woman."*

Given a hero's welcome and celebrated as such on her return home by thousands of Algerians, the Olympic champion expressed her deep gratitude for the honour bestowed on her by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Abdelmadjid Tebboune. The President welcomed the three Algerian Olympic Games Paris 2024 medallists (Imane Khelif, Kaylia Nemour and Djamel Sedjati) at the El Mouradia Presidential Mansion, in the presence of Lieutenant General Saïd Chengriha, Chief of Staff of the People's National Army. Algeria waited twelve years for an Olympic

gold medal. After Taoufik Makhoulfi in 2012 in the 1,500m, Algerians came back from the Paris Olympics with a huge harvest, a bronze medal won by Djamel Sedjati and two gold medals hauled by gymnast Kaylia Nemour and boxer Imane Khelif.

On her Facebook wall, Imane Khelif shared photos of the memorable ceremony, accompanied by a message in which she said: *"Today, I had the honour of being decorated by the President of the Republic, H.E Abdelmadjid Tebboune, with the medal of Commander of the National Order of Merit."*

Then it was the turn of her native Tiaret, where Imane Khelif was acclaimed and welcomed as a heroine by jubilant crowds, gold medal around her neck. Thousands of Algerians crowded the headquarters of the wilaya of Tiaret from morning, shouting *"Imane Khelif, Imane Khelif, Imane Khelif.."* As the Olympic champion appeared, the fans exploded with joy, chanting *"one, two, three, viva l'Algérie,"* and gave their heroine and members of her family a standing ovation.

*"I received a warm welcome today. All Algerians have the right to rejoice and enjoy themselves,"* said the 25-year old. *"Even the President of the Republic is actually Imane Khelif's biggest supporter, which shows that the State and the people are all behind sport. I'm convinced that sport is a message for people,"* she enthused.

The Olympic champion made no secret of her delight at the triumphant welcome from her native Tiaret, saying: *"The pictures are telling, great joy indeed. All the families of Tiaret are out in the streets. I'm delighted. I hope I can bring some happiness of my own. This is our big night. I'm used to being welcomed in Tiareti, but this is beyond anything I could have imagined. It's incredible!"*

# Letsile Tebogo

## A Continental Rocket

The Motswana, who clocked a scintillating 19s46 in Paris, became the first African to win the Olympic 200 m title. Letsile Tebogo, who inscribed his late mother's initials and date of birth on his spikes, sprang a surprise, edging two Americans in the final at the Stade de France.



He had time to beat his chest twice just before crossing the line, and perhaps to think about anything other than his victory in the 200 m event, the first for an African sprinter at the Olympics. At age 21, Letsile Tebogo, born in Kanye, a small town in southern Botswana, became the fifth all-time performer in the half-lap by winning in 19s 46 (+0.4m/s) ahead of Americans Kenny Bednarek and Noah Lyles.

This Olympic 200 m event was highly competitive, amidst the din of the crowd at the Stade de France. It was one of the tightest and fastest in history, with four runners below 20 seconds, Letsile Tebogo setting the pace. The event was unprecedented, as was the 100 m race, four days earlier, where all the runners finished in under 10 seconds.

*“When I beat Noah in the semi-finals a day before the final in 19s96 against 20s08, I started to think seriously about winning the final,”* said the athlete trained by Kebonyemodisa ‘Dose’ Mosimanyane, for whom this final was a wonderful event. To the delight of the inhabitants of the unheralded little town of Kanye, with a population of 47,000, in the south of Botswana, at the gateway to the Kalahari Desert, where Botswana’s first gold medallist and Africa’s first 200 m Olympic champion, Letsile Tebogo, was born on 7 June 2003. A 21-year-old speedster who, thanks to this feat, had just stamped his foot on world sprint for several years to come.

Tebogo’s victory was beyond question, as he was previously runner-up in the 100 m and bronze medallist in the 200 m event at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest. In his suave, seemingly effortless style, he caught up with Bednarek as they got to the home stretch and gradually took, then extended his lead, confirming the extent of his talent, spotted when he won two world junior 100 m titles in 2021 and 2022.

“When I beat Noah in the semi-finals a day before the final in 19s96 against 20s08, I started to think seriously about winning the final.”

The legendary victory on 8 August 2024 was a real thunderbolt in the Paris skies, when Letsile Tebogo came out of the bend on the same line as the Americans. It even looked like time had been suspended! Then the Botswana wonder boy unleashed the power in him and pulled away irresistibly, his rivals in thrall, all admiring this feat; he even took the liberty of beating his chest where his heart was, before crossing the finish line. Very much like a slap in the face of his fellow competitors, real icing on the cake, he won, beating his personal record, which is also the African record.

Tebogo runs above all, in memory of his mother, who died in May 2024 of a terrible cancer at age 43. His spikes bear her initials and date of birth and, shortly after his victory, he dedicated this exceptional 200 m race to her by raising his hands to the sky: *“Everything I do is not for me, it’s for her”*, he explained in mid-July at the Monaco meeting. On 8 August 2024, after his incredible feat, he once paid tribute to his late mother: *“After she passed on, I didn’t do anything for nearly a month, I couldn’t come to terms with the reality*



*that she was gone. She's with me every step of the way on the track, and having her by my side provides a lot of motivation for me. She watches me run, and she's very, very happy. I chose her date of birth, not the date of her death, which would have hurt too much."*

The life of this young sports prodigy is an African fable, the beautiful story of an exceptionally talented kid. He runs fast, very fast, but tells himself that this is above all a good asset for playing football. Until the age of 16, when an athletics coach, Kebonyemodisa Dose Mosimanyane, spotted him. He soon entered him in races in Africa and then in the world junior championships. He immediately smashing competition and breaking records. Before he was 19, he ran 100 m in under 10 seconds and also shone in the 200 m race. He trained in South Africa, in Potchefstroom, near Johannesburg.

Before this meeting, Letsile Tebogo had never thought he could become a sprinter. Like many Africans, he felt that his continent was reserved for long distances. In every interview, as he did with the newspaper *Le Monde* in August 2023, Letsile Tebogo always reaffirmed his pride in the emergence of African sprint. *"We're like brothers in the army,"* he explained at the time. We help each other. We are fighting because we want to change the narrative and put Africa at the centre of world sprint.

Back home, Letsile Tebogo's stunning performance was greeted with a celebration worthy of a national hero on Tuesday 13 August 2024, which was declared a public holiday by the Government. More than 30,000 Batswana gathered at the Botswana National Stadium, in Gaborone, to welcome their heroes and share in the pride of the country following their team's successful campaign. President Masisi also promised to reward all members of the team who took part in the Paris Olympics for their efforts and dedication.



*“It was a proud moment to see thousands of people who had come out for me. There was also the support and love of neighbouring countries, and of the African continent, which was extraordinary for me,”* recalled Letsile Tebogo, before concluding his season at the Diamond League finals in Brussels on Saturday 14 September. It’s a feat that Tebogo was already proud of on the evening of his Paris triumph: *“It means a lot to the African continent. Now we can see that Africa exists on the world sprint map, we had to send out a lucid and clear message.”*

Admittedly, neither Usain Bolt’s world record (19s 19) nor his Olympic record (19s 30) were beaten in Paris. Yet Letsile Tebogo is ahead of the Jamaican’s times at the same age. *“Usain Bolt has become a living legend. I want to leave my own legacy. When I die, I want people*

*to know who Letsile from Botswana, or Kanye to be precise, was,”* prophesied back in 2023, the man who is establishing himself more than ever as one of the world’s new athletics greats.



► **Letsile Tebogo**

“I don’t want to reign alone; I want Africa to reign.”



Letsile Tebogo recently made history for Botswana and Africa. He became the first gold medallist from his country, winning the 200m Olympic event at the Stade de France. At just 21, he could as well one of the prominent faces of athletics by dint of his incredible talent. His impressive time of 19.46 seconds is a new African record.

Tebogo went through a particularly difficult year, marked by the loss of his mother in May 2024.

### **Olympic Champion... What does this mean to you?**

It means a lot to me, to the African continent, and to everyone who supported me in achieving this title.

### **For Africa, this is a historic victory..**

It's very important. Many people doubt African athletes, making them doubt themselves. I wanted to ensure that this would no longer be the case and that everyone recognizes the African continent.»

### **Your mother passed away this year, was this victory dedicated to her?**

*«This victory means a lot to me... If it weren't for my team, I wouldn't have participated in the Olympics. When I learned of my mother's passing in May, I considered quitting the season and my career. My team encouraged me to take it one day at a time and pushed me to persevere. I'm grateful to them.»*

### **Was your mother instrumental in your athletic career?**

*«She was there from the beginning. She encouraged me to pursue athletics instead of football, which was my initial interest. She supported me through tough times, showed me the way, and made me realize my potential.»*

What's next? At 21, you have the potential to dominate athletics.

*«Africa can reign supreme in athletics. I don't want to reign alone; I want Africa to reign. I've been underestimated many times, never considered a potential winner... Tonight was about setting the record straight and changing perceptions.»*

# Soufiane El-Bakkali

This second consecutive Olympic title won at the Paris 2024 Games places Morocco's runner in a class of his own as the very first athlete to achieve such a feat over this distance for almost a century. Soufiane El-Bakkali joins the closed circle of legends in this discipline, a true icon for Morocco and the entire African continent.

First back-to-back  
3000m steeplechase  
champion in 92 years



**T**he name, Soufiane El-Bakkali, the undisputed 3,000m steeplechase king at the Paris Olympics is now etched in gold in the history of Morocco and world sport. Olympic champion in Tokyo in 2021 and two-time world champion, El-Bakkali confirmed his 3,000-metre steeplechase dominance by bagging another gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. After clocking an impressive 8:06.05 on 7 August 2024, he once again defended his title as the undisputed king of this event, achieving an unprecedented feat dating back to close to a century.

Thanks to this second consecutive Olympic title, he is now a member of a very select group of athletes, being the first back-to-back winner over this distance almost a century later. He joins the closed circle of 3 000-metre steeplechase legends. This victory in Paris is more than a gold medal for Morocco's runner; it confirms his supremacy in the discipline.

Arriving Paris 2024 as reigning Olympic champion was no easy task for Soufiane El-Bakkali. Expectations were high, and the spotlight was on him. True to his character, he was able to turn the pressure into motivation. El-Bakkali held sway over the 3,000-metre steeplechase final from start to finish. With his flawless tactical strategy and perfect control of his pace, he crossed the finish line with a time of 8:06.05, leaving his rivals, including the Kenyans and Ethiopians, to struggle for the other podium places. "I trained hard for this. After Tokyo, I wanted to prove that I wasn't just a one-time champion, but that I deserved my place among the greatest", he said after the race, showing his humility and his determination to stay at the top.

What sets El-Bakkali apart from his rivals is his ability to manage his energy perfectly throughout the race. Unlike other runners who burn out too early or wait for a final sprint, he knows how to find the

right balance. His running style is extremely smooth, enabling him to jump over hurdles and water with uncanny ease. His light, springy stride makes him very formidable in the final laps of the track, where he can pull ahead or catch up in no time.

His mental strength is also one of his greatest assets. El-Bakkali stands out thanks to his composure; he is able to remain focused and calm even at the most crucial moments. He once again showed this ability in Paris, controlling the race from the outset before making his decisive breakaway in the final two laps.

Besides his sporting achievements, Soufiane El-Bakkali has become an icon for the entire African continent and a true national hero for Morocco, where he was exceptionally received in audience on 14 August at the Royal Palace in Tétouan by His Majesty King Mohammed VI, who awarded him a befitting title. His journey, marked by hard work, perseverance and humility, inspires many young athletes to follow in his footsteps. He is also a living proof that the wildest dreams can become reality, with discipline and determination.

His popularity spans far beyond the borders of his home country. In Africa, he is seen as a model of success, an athlete who has defied all odds and made in-roads into the established hegemony of Kenyan runners for instance. His victories are celebrated not only for their impact on sport, but also for their symbolic dimension.

Soufiane El-Bakkali has already won two Olympic titles and several world championships, but he has no intention of stopping there. At just 28, he is still at the peak of his career and aspires to continue shining on the international stage. His next objective could be to break the 3,000-metre steeplechase world record currently held by Qatari Saif Saaed Shaheen in 7:53.63. Although this record has remained unbroken since 2004, El-Bakkali has shown that he is capable of

I believe that nothing is impossible; every race is a new opportunity, and I will continue to fight to be the best I can be.

great things. *“I believe that nothing is impossible; every race is a new opportunity, and I will continue to fight to be the best I can be,”* he said in a recent interview.

Soufiane El-Bakkali has already made athletics history with his two Olympic gold medals and a string of world championship titles. He embodies the rebirth of Morocco’s mid-distance running, once dominated by icons such as Hicham El Guerrouj, and shows that Morocco is still a land of champions. His legacy is not limited to his sporting achievements.

Born on 7 January 1996 in Fez, Morocco, Soufiane El-Bakkali comes from a humble background. He developed a passion for athletics at a very early age, encouraged by those around him who quickly spotted his natural talent for running. At the age of 15, he began training seriously and specialised in mid-distance events, particularly the 3,000 metres steeplechase, a demanding discipline that requires endurance, speed and agility.

He made his debut on the world stage in 2014 at just 18 when he took part in his first international competitions. Although he was still very young, he



was already making quite an impression with his ease and potential. His first major breakthrough came at the Rio Olympics in 2016, where he finished fourth, narrowly missing out on the podium. This apparent failure only boosted his determination to reach the top.

His career took a decisive turn at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2021. Having put in several years of relentless effort and steady progress, he finally won his first Olympic gold medal, with a time of 8:08.90. It was a historic victory. El-Bakkali broke Kenya's 40-year long dominance in the steeplechase.

Speaking after his victory in the Paris Olympics, he said: "I was one of the favourites, but I didn't put myself *under much pressure. My last results were very good - I won the World Championships in 2022 and 2023. I had worked out several scenarios for this final with my coach, Karim Tlemçani. A fast race, but also a slower, tighter race, with some clashes. There were very good rivals and it was a hard-fought final with a*

*lot of clashes. You had to be strong physically, but also mentally and morally. I managed my race well, I was ready for the fight and I fought hard. I wanted the gold medal, not the silver or bronze."*

With the same euphoria of victory, he added: "*When I crossed the finish line, I felt a very great joy, perhaps even greater than in 2021, in Tokyo, because I was the first person to achieve the feat of being a back-to-back Olympic steeplechase champion in the distance for almost a century. It's even harder to win back-to-back gold medals. I thought it was awesome. I thought about Morocco, its flag and my family. It was like a dream. I couldn't wait to get on the podium and hear the national anthem of Morocco."*

Soufiane El-Bakkali's name will be associated not only with his gold medals, but also with the hope and inspiration he sowed throughout his career. One thing is certain: the legend of the 3000-metre steeplechase king is far from over.

A full-page photograph of Beatrice Chebet, a Kenyan long-distance runner, celebrating on the track. She is wearing a red and orange patterned singlet with a white Nike logo, a Kenyan flag, and the word 'KENYA'. A white bib with 'PARIS 2024' and 'CHEBET' is pinned to her chest. She is also wearing a red and purple skirt and a colorful beaded bracelet. Her expression is one of intense joy and surprise, with her mouth open and hands raised near her head. The background is a blurred stadium filled with spectators.

# Beatrice Chebet

## Queen of the track at the OC Paris 2024

At just 24, the double gold medallist at Paris 2024 staged a champion's performance in a career that was already promising for this young Kenyan, who has written one of the most glorious pages in the history of African athletics by finishing at the top of the podium in the 5,000-metre and 10,000-metres events. A double performance that has not only enabled her to seal her place among the legends of long-distance races, but also to mark the advent of a new generation of Kenyan runners on the world stage.

There is no gainsaying that the Olympic Games Paris 2024 were a turning point in Beatrice Chebet's career. She made history by establishing herself as the undisputed queen of long-distance races, with two gold medals in the 5,000 m and the 10,000 m respectively.

In the 5,000 m, Chebet got her Olympic campaign off to a spectacular start. In the final, she set the pace from the beginning, controlling the race with remarkable authority. Thanks to a blistering speed in the final 400 m, she outpaced her rivals and crossed the finish line with so much ease, bagging her first gold medal in Paris. Her time of 14'37"15 put her ahead of her Ethiopian opponents, who are always impressive in this discipline, and thus claimed a coveted title.

Chebet's performance was no less impressive in the 10,000 metres. Competing against top-class opponents, she demonstrated exceptional endurance, managing the race excellently. In the final on Friday 9 August, Chebet ran with incredible tactical intelligence, finishing with a stunning performance of 30'43"25 to grab her second gold medal. This historic double in the long-distance events made her one of the heroines of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

With two gold medals at Paris 2024, Beatrice Chebet demonstrated that she is not just an upcoming star, but an athlete at the top of her game. In the future, she will likely be aiming for other historic feats, particularly at the World Athletics Championships and the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. She has immense potential, and many experts believe that she still has several years left at the highest level. Chebet's victories in Paris are proof that Kenyan athletics is still at the top of the world, and that new talents like her will continue to shine on the international stage.

One of the characteristics that distinguishes Chebet from her opponents is her competitive mentality. After her victory in the 10,000 m, Chebet in all humility demonstrated her selflessness and greatness of mind when she said: *"It's not just physical strength that allows you to succeed, it's also mental strength. On this track, I'm not just running for myself, but for my country, for the young girls who*





*dream of becoming champions. If I can do it, they too can do it.”*

Chebet thus sees herself not just as an athlete, but as a role model for future generations, particularly for young African women who aspire to excel in fields where men have always held sway.

At just 24, Beatrice Chebet already boasts an impressive track record, and many would agree that

her rise to prominence has only just begun. Her victories in Paris are the result of a combination of raw talent, hard work and uncompromising discipline. She trains in the high plateaus of Kenya, an environment that has forged some of the greatest long-distance race champions in history, like Eliud Kipchoge and David Rudisha.

Chebet trains under the supervision of the emblematic coach Patrick Sang, who is also behind the success of

Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge. Under his guidance, she honed the skills that proved vital in Paris: speed, strategy and the ability to manage races tactically.

Her performances are not an isolated event, but part of Kenya's rich tradition in long-distance races. For several decades, Kenyan athletes have dominated long and mid-distance events on the international stage. Her victories in Paris are reminiscent of those of legends such as Vivian Cheruiyot and Tegla Loroupe, who paved the way for a new generation of athletes.

Kenya continues to produce world-class runners thanks to a unique blend of genetic talent, high altitude for training and a deeply entrenched sports culture. Chebet's performances at the Paris Olympic Games are therefore a natural continuation of this tradition, to which she brings her own touch of modernity, rigour and passion.

Beatrice Chebet was born on 5 March 2000 in Bomet County, Kenya, a region renowned for producing some of the world's greatest long-distance runners. From an early age, she stood out for her exceptional running talent. Her meteoric rise began on the international stage in 2018 when she bagged the gold medal at the IAAF World Junior Championships in the 5,000-metre event in Tampere, Finland. The victory signalled her future success, but few expected her to rise so quickly to the top of world athletics.

Her talent for long-distance races was also showcased at the 2019 World Cross Country Championships, where she won the gold medal in the junior category, confirming her place among the rising stars of world athletics. Her spectacular performances on the track and in international competitions quickly attracted the attention of observers and experts. In 2022, Beatrice Chebet continued to progress, clinching silver at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, in the 5,000-metre event. Although this medal was

“It's not just physical strength that allows you to succeed, it's also mental strength. On this track, I'm not just running for myself, but for my country, for the young girls who dream of becoming champions. If I can do it, they too can do it.”

a landmark achievement, it was in Paris, at the 2024 Olympic Games, that Beatrice reached her peak.

Beatrice Chebet is without doubt one of the iconic figures of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Her two gold medals in the 5,000 m and the 10,000 m events are the crowning achievement of several years of hard work, determination and passion for long-distance races. With her talent and commitment, she embodies the future of Kenyan and world athletics, inspiring millions of youths to pursue their dreams with the same passion and dedication, as acknowledged by herself after her victory: *“Dreams are never too big. As long as you have the determination and faith, everything is possible.”*

# Tatjana Smith

## Olympic Dream comes true for the 100m Breaststroke Queen

South African swimmer, Tatjana Smith made history at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 as she won the gold medal in the 100 m breaststroke event. From Tokyo to Paris, her inexorable progress is a journey towards excellence, culminating in a long-cherished Olympic dream in Paris.



Tatjana Smith's victory at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 was not only the crowning achievement of many years of hard work, but also demonstrated her incredible resilience and ability to overcome adversity. After winning silver over the same distance in Tokyo in 2021, Smith bounced back stronger than ever, and finally grabbed gold that she had long coveted.

On 29 July 2024, at La Défense Arena, Tatjana Smith triumphed in a breath-taking race to win her first Olympic gold medal. She finally achieved her Olympic dream by winning gold in the 100 m breaststroke. The race was spectacular, with the intensity discernible throughout the 100 m. Smith, known for her strength and impeccable technique, managed to take a slight lead from the start, maintaining her pace while having her sights firmly set on her opponents. But it was in the last five metres that Smith demonstrated her true talent. With a final burst of energy, she snatched victory in a thrilling finish, narrowly edging out her rivals to clinch gold.

Her time, 1'04»33, set a new personal best, confirming that she was at her peak. This performance was particularly impressive because it came against a backdrop of intense pressure. Smith was not only competing for herself, but also for an entire nation that was hoping to see her triumph. Her victory was hailed not only by her fellow South Africans, but also by the international swimming community.

Paris 2024 may not be the end of Tatjana Smith's story. After her victory in the 100 m breaststroke, she focused on another ambitious goal, winning gold in the 200 m breaststroke, a distance that requires even more endurance and strategy. If she had achieved this double, she would have become one of the few swimmers in history to have won both breaststroke distances at the same Olympic Games. *"I know it will be a huge challenge, but I'm ready. I'm here to give all my best and see how far I can go,"* she had declared

“She has always insisted that she comes from a small country with few resources, but that has never stopped her. If the will is there, and one works hard, anything is possible.”

after her victory in the 100 m breaststroke. Though she failed to win gold (she ended up with silver), this winning mentality is what has always distinguished Smith from other swimmers. She always yearns for more successes, constantly seeking to challenge her limits to achieve new records.

Tatjana Smith's victory at the Paris Olympics is much more than just a gold medal. It embodies hope and inspiration for millions of young South Africans. In a country where sport is often seen as a means of social emancipation and development, Smith's success is a glaring example of the possibilities that exist for those who invest in their passion with discipline and perseverance.

From her debut, Smith has always shown unwavering dedication to her sport. She often trains in difficult conditions, far from the ultra-modern infrastructure of her American and European opponents. *But instead*



*of seeing this as an obstacle, Smith has used it as extra motivation. In her interviews, she has always insisted that she comes from a small country with few resources, but that has never stopped her. If the will is there, and one works hard, anything is possible.*

Her journey inspires not only young swimmers, but all African athletes who see her as a role model for success on the world stage. As a woman, Smith is also a powerful symbol for young African girls, showing that women can not only compete, but also excel in sports traditionally dominated by men.

Tatjana Smith (née Schoenmaker) was born in Durban, South Africa, on 9 February 1997. From an early age, she showed a keen interest in swimming, a very popular sport in her native country. As she grew up, her natural talent and discipline quickly attracted the attention of local coaches. In 2013, at age 16, she made her debut on the international stage, qualifying for the FINA Junior World Championships. It was the beginning of what was to become an exceptional career.

From that moment, Smith lined a string of stunning performances at international competitions. In 2017, she took part in her first FINA World Championships in Budapest, where she finished fourth in the 100 m breaststroke, just a fraction off the podium. But far from discouraging her, this near-victory spurred her to work even harder, propelling her to more spectacular performances in the years to come.

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2021 were a turning point in Tatjana. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent postponement of the Games, she arrived in fine form, determined to represent her country at the highest level. In the 100m breaststroke final, Smith had a superb race, finishing second behind American

champion Lydia Jacoby. Her silver medal was a huge success for South Africa and a defining moment for herself. It showed her that she has the ability to compete with the world's best swimmers.

Yet, she saved the best for the last, as she beat Americans Lilly King (silver) and Annie Lazor (bronze), to bag home gold in the 200-metre breaststroke event. Despite this great feat and her joy for winning both the silver and gold medals, Tatjana Smith knew she could still do better. In a post Tokyo interview, she said she was proud of what she achieved in Tokyo, but said she knew she could go even further. It was with this mind-set that Smith began her preparations for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.





# Ahmed Elgendy

## In the Modern Pentathlon Hall of Fame

By bringing home Egypt's first gold medal in this Olympic event at the Paris 2024 Olympics, Elgendy has gone down in the annals of the Olympic Games, thereby becoming both a national and continental hero, a role model for young African athletes.

At the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Egypt's Ahmed Elgendy made history by winning the first gold medal for his country's National Olympic Committee (NOC) in modern pentathlon. His masterful performance in Paris was the culmination of years of effort, sacrifice and perseverance. Thanks to his exceptional career, Elgendy has become not only a national hero, but also a role model for young African athletes aspiring to shine on the world stage.

### A Talent Born in Egypt

Born on 1 March 2000, Ahmed Elgendy grew up in Cairo, where he quickly demonstrated outstanding sporting skills. From an early age, he was interested in sport, and his natural drive and determination set him apart from the rest. This raw talent earned him a spot on the coaches' radar, who saw a unique potential in him. The modern pentathlon, a discipline that combines fencing, swimming, horse riding, running and shooting, seems to be just the thing for him. The event requires not only exceptional physical ability but also mental resilience, tactical skills and versatility that few athletes possess. Elgendy had them all.

### Road to the top

Elgendy made his international debut in 2017, where he quickly rose through the ranks of the modern pentathlon. His determination and hard work led to several medals in junior category competitions, including a gold medal at the Junior World Championships in 2018. This early success revealed what a promising athlete Elgendy was, and observers began to believe in his potential to shine on the Olympic stage.

In 2021, at the Tokyo Olympic Games, Elgendy made a remarkable breakthrough by winning the silver medal in modern pentathlon. In doing so, he became the first Egyptian and African to reach the podium in this discipline. This result was a catalyst for his career,

I want to show the young people of my country that with passion and dedication, they can achieve their dreams, regardless of the path they choose.

boosting his confidence and motivation to reach the top at the next Olympic Games. His achievement in Tokyo put the spotlight on modern pentathlon in his native country and inspired many young Egyptians to take an interest in this relatively unknown discipline.

“Winning a silver medal in Tokyo gave me the conviction that anything is possible. It motivated me to work even harder to go for gold,” Elgendy said in an interview after the 2021 Games.

### Paris 2024: the Crowning Moment

The Olympic Games Paris 2024 represented a golden opportunity for Elgendy to fulfil his ultimate dream of winning Olympic gold. Right from the start of the competition, he demonstrated unrelenting concentration and resolve. Thanks to his rigorous preparation, he mastered the various modern pentathlon events with consummate confidence.



In fencing, he established himself as one of the best, accumulating valuable points. In the swimming event, his technique and speed kept him in the lead. Then, in the horse riding event, he kept his cool, clearing the obstacles without any penalties. Finally, in the combined shooting and running event, Elgendy excelled, showing impeccable control of his shooting while maintaining a frantic race pace. It was in this last event that he definitively took the lead over his fellow competitors, crossing the finish line first and winning the gold medal in the process.

His final time and score in the modern pentathlon are proof of Elgendy's versatility and total commitment to the sport. By winning gold, Egypt's first in the modern pentathlon, Elgendy stamped his name in the annals of the Olympic Games.

### **A Model for an Entire Generation**

Ahmed Elgendy's feat in Paris is not limited to his victory. He is also an inspirational role model for an entire generation of young Egyptians and Africans. His journey, characterised by challenges and successes, shows that determination and hard work can lead to success, even in a discipline as challenging as the modern pentathlon.

*"I want to show the young people of my country that with passion and dedication, they can achieve their dreams, regardless of the path they choose,"* he said after his victory in Paris. This quote inspires many young sportsmen and women to hold strong, even in less familiar or more demanding disciplines.

The fact that Elgendy managed to triumph in an event as technical as modern pentathlon testifies not only to his natural talent, but also his ability to overcome obstacles. He had to learn to juggle several disciplines, each requiring specific skills and rigorous training. But thanks to his iron will, he has risen to the highest level of world competition.

### National Hero

In Egypt, Ahmed Elgendy's victory was celebrated as a national feat. The Egyptian media hailed his exceptional performance and sports fans welcomed him back as a hero. His success is seen as a victory for the whole country, a symbol of the importance of investing in young athletes and promoting less publicised sports.

Elgendy is now an emblematic figure in Egyptian athletics specifically and African sport in general. His personal success story shows the extent to which sport can be a vehicle for national pride and social change. As the first Egyptian to win Olympic gold in modern pentathlon, he has not only written his own chapter in sports history, but has also paved the way for future generations.

### On Course for New Challenges

Aged just 24, Ahmed Elgendy still has many years ahead of him to continue shining on the world stage. His next goal is undoubtedly to consolidate his domination of the modern pentathlon and defend his Olympic title at the Los Angeles Games in 2028. In addition, he could aspire to further world titles and break records, both for himself and for his country.

His ability to adapt and excel in such a wide range of events shows that Elgendy is an exceptional athlete with boundless potential. His commitment to remaining at the top of his sport is clear, and he has already proven that he has what it takes to continue to dominate modern pentathlon.



*“I’m only at the beginning of my journey. My dream is to continue making history, for myself and for my country,”* he said, looking to the future with ambition and determination.

### Conclusion

Ahmed Elgendy is much more than an Olympic champion. He is a symbol of excellence, resilience and passion for sport. His victory at Paris 2024 is the culmination of years of hard work, and it paves the way for new ambitions for the future. His journey inspires not only young Egyptians and Africans, but sports fans the world over.

Ahmed Elgendy's name will remain engraved in the history of the Olympic Games and in the hearts of Egyptians as that of an athlete who defied the odds to fulfil his dream, while carrying the hopes of an entire nation on his shoulders.

# Faith Kipyegon

## Empress of the 1500m at the OC Paris 2024

From humble beginnings, the Kenyan athlete born into a modest family, Faith KIPYEGON, was able to rise to the top of world athletics, culminating in a historic treble at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, thanks to key successes that have made her an inspiration to young people in Africa and across the globe.





In Paris, KIPYEGON once again proved that she is one of the greatest mid-distance runners in history, winning her third consecutive gold medal in the 1500 m race, after her victories in Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, stamping her name in gold letters in the world athletics hall of fame. This dazzling performance, accompanied by a new Olympic record, confirmed KIPYEGON as an exceptional athlete capable of maintaining elite-level performance for close to a decade.

The Olympic Games Paris 2024 were an opportunity for her to reassert her dominance on the world's middle-distance scene. As the world 1500 m and mile (1609 m) record holder, KIPYEGON arrived in Paris aiming for an unprecedented feat: winning a third consecutive gold medal in the 1500 m, a tactically complex and extremely competitive race.

In the 1500 m final on Saturday 10 August 2024, KIPYEGON not only triumphed once again but did

with great mastery, shattering the previous Olympic record in 3:50.58. Her race was a display of strategy and patience, as she maintained a steady pace before accelerating in the final 300 m lap, with her rivals unable to match her speed and energy.

With this third gold medal, KIPYEGON became the first woman to win three Olympic titles in a row over this distance, propelling her into the ranks of athletics legends, alongside iconic figures such as Hicham EL GUERROUJ and Sebastian COE, who dominated the men's event.

Beyond her athletic prowess, KIPYEGON is also a source of inspiration for young people, particularly young African women. She embodies the values of hard work, perseverance and resilience. In an interview after her victory in Paris, she stated: *«My journey hasn't always been easy, but I believe that every trial, every challenge, has made me stronger. I run for myself, but also for all those young girls who, like me, dream of achieving the impossible. If I could do it, they can too.»*

After putting her career on hold to give birth to her daughter in 2018, she came back stronger than ever, proving that motherhood and top-level sports performance are not incompatible. Her triumphant return to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where she defended her title, was one of the most inspiring moments of the Games.

KIPYEGON's success is based on several key factors. Firstly, her natural talent for mid-distance running is undeniable. From her first steps on the international stage, it was crystal clear that she possessed a rare combination of speed and endurance, an essential quality for excelling in the 1500 m. Her ability to manage races strategically, to keep an eye on her rivals and to accelerate at the right moment, is one of the characteristics that has kept her on top of this discipline for almost a decade.



My journey hasn't always been easy, but I believe that every trial, every challenge, has made me stronger. I run for myself, but also for all those young girls who, like me, dream of achieving the impossible. If I could do it, they can too.



Secondly, her training has played a pivotal role in her success. She trains in the famous Kenyan town of ITEN under the guidance of Dutch coach Patrick SANG, himself a former world-class mid-distance runner. SANG has helped her hone her technique, build her endurance and perfect her running strategies. Their partnership has been one of the most successful in recent athletics history.

Finally, KIPYEGON has incredible mental resilience. She is known for her ability to stay poised and focused, even in moments of huge pressure. On the starting blocks, she looks level-headed, and thus, able to adapt quickly to changes in the race and maintain remarkable consistency in her performances.





With her three Olympic gold medals, KIPYEGON has already secured her place in the history of athletics as one of Kenya's most successful athletes and a source of national pride. However, her impact extends far beyond the track. As a mother and champion, she embodies the power of determination, hope and self-confidence.

Marked by moments of doubt and triumphant comebacks, her journey inspires not only sportsmen

and women but also all those who pursue their dreams amidst adversity. Her historic treble at Paris 2024 is both a memorable achievement and a reflection of the inner strength and fighting spirit that characterise this great champion.

KIPYEGON is much more than an outstanding athlete. She is a living legend, an inspiration to millions of young people around the world and an ambassador for sports values. By winning her third straight gold



“  
It doesn't matter  
where you come from,  
what matters is what  
you carry in your heart.  
And in my heart, there  
has always been the  
dream of becoming  
the best.”

”

medal in the 1500 m at the Paris 2024 Olympics, she did not only make history but also reminded the world that the most ambitious dreams can become reality with hard work, faith and perseverance.

In her own words: *«It doesn't matter where you come from, what matters is what you carry in your heart. And in my heart, there has always been the dream of becoming the best.»* With these words, she leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

She was born on 10 January 1994 in Bomet County, Kenya into a modest family and grew up in the heart of the Rift Valley, a region that has produced some of the greatest long and mid-distance race champions in history. KIPYEGON demonstrated an exceptional talent for running from an early age and, at 15, she began to stand out in school competitions, where her natural aptitude for speed and running strategy was already evident.

Her international career really took off in 2011 when she won the gold medal at the Junior World Cross Country Championships. The following year, in 2012, she made her Olympic debut in London at the age of 18, finishing fifth in the 1500 m final. Although still young, this experience was critical in the development of her career, offering her the opportunity to compete with the cream of the world's female runners.

However, her breakthrough came in 2016 in Rio, where she won her first Olympic gold medal in the 1500 m, beating title holder Genzebe DIBABA. Her victory in Rio marked the start of her reign over this distance, a reign she would strengthen in Tokyo in 2020 by defending her Olympic title brilliantly and that would be crowned with the historic third successive title at the Paris 2024 Games.

# Kaylia Nemour

## First African Female Gymnast to clinch Olympic Gold

At the tender age of 18, the Algerian star who rewrote history at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 has not only etched her name in the annals of Algerian sport, but has also opened up a new era for gymnastics in Africa, becoming a symbol of hope for young athletes and a role model for all young girls who aspire to shine in disciplines traditionally dominated by other regions of the world.





The history of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 was marked by some remarkable performances, but none more so than that of Kaylia Nemour. Becoming the first African female gymnast to win an Olympic gold medal, Nemour has left her footmarks on the new era of African gymnastics that unfolded in Paris. *“It was a dream for me to be able to represent Algeria. I wanted to demonstrate that we have talent, that we can succeed at this level, and I’m proud to have been able to prove it”*, she stated after her triumph at the Paris Olympics.

And indeed, the Paris 2024 Olympics served as a springboard for Kaylia Nemour to reach the pinnacle of her career. Right from the qualifiers, she established herself as a serious contender for the title. She impressed as much by the difficulty of her routines as by her ease in executing highly complex movements with grace and assurance. Her natural charisma and impeccable technique captivated spectators and judges alike.

In the finals, Kaylia Nemour put in a breath-taking performance that earned her first place. Be it on the beam, uneven bars or floor, she put together perfect routines, combining power and elegance. Her star move, a difficult combination on the bars, flawlessly and remarkably executed, earned her a standing ovation from the audience and high marks from the judges. She ultimately won gold and became the first African female gymnast to achieve such a feat.

It was a victory that resonated far beyond Algeria’s borders. For the first time, an African athlete from a country where gymnastics infrastructure and resources are still limited succeeded in beating the historically dominant nations in this sport. Kaylia Nemour is thus becoming a symbol of hope for young African athletes and a role model for all girls who aspire to shine in disciplines traditionally dominated by other regions of the world.



Kaylia Nemour's victory at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 is much more than a personal success. It symbolises a new era for gymnastics in Africa, a continent where the sport is still developing. Kaylia's performance not only proved that African athletes can compete with the best, but also generated huge excitement about gymnastics in her country and across the entire continent.

The impact of her victory is reflected in the many initiatives that have sprung up in Algeria since her triumph. Gymnastics academies have been established

to train the next generation, and Algerian sports authorities have promised to provide more resources to support the country's budding talents. Kaylia herself has become an ambassador for gymnastics in Africa, and she uses her fame to encourage young girls to embrace the sport. *"I want to be an example for young girls in my country and in Africa. I want to show them that anything is possible with hard work and determination,"* she said in an interview after her victory.



It was a dream for me to be able to represent Algeria. I wanted to demonstrate that we have talent, that we can succeed at this level, and I'm proud to have been able to prove it.



At barely 18, Kaylia Nemour is at the beginning of what promises to be an exceptional career. Buoyed by her Olympic title, she is already preparing for the next major international competitions, with the ambition of defending her title and continuing to push back the boundaries of her sport. Her resolve to keep improving and reach new heights makes her one of the most promising athletes of her generation.

But beyond the medals, Kaylia also aims to promote gymnastics in Africa. She aspires to use her platform to encourage the creation of better infrastructure for young African athletes and to promote equal opportunities in sport. Her victory at Paris 2024 has opened up a new avenue, and she intends to build on this momentum.

Kaylia Nemour may have reached the top in Paris, but her journey has not been without challenges. Her early years in gymnastics were marked by many hours of daily training, personal sacrifices and a relentless commitment to her sport. She has had to overcome

injuries and moments of doubt as well as juggling the high expectations and pressure of representing two nations.

Kaylia's mental fortitude has been a key factor in her success. Always determined to improve, she has turned every obstacle into an opportunity for growth. Her coaches describe her as an incredibly focused and disciplined athlete, capable of handling the pressure of major competitions with astonishing maturity for her age.

Born to an Algerian father and French mother on 8 September 2006 in Aix-les-Bains, France, Kaylia Nemour grew up in an environment that encouraged her to explore her sporting talents from an early age. She has always felt a deep connection with her Algerian roots, a bond she has sought to honour by representing Algeria on the world stage. She began artistic gymnastics at the tender age of six, a demanding discipline that combines grace, strength and exceptional coordination.

Kaylia quickly stood out for her immense potential. Her movements are suave and precise, and she demonstrates a rare ease on the various gymnastics gear. Her passion for gymnastics grew over the years, and she made her debut in local competitions before making a name for herself at the national level. While she continued to train with a steely discipline, she became a key figure in junior competitions in France, racking up titles and perfecting her art.

In 2023, Kaylia Nemour made a decision that would change her life and that of Algerian sport. Although courted by the French federation, she chose to represent Algeria, a choice motivated by her attachment to her origins and her desire to fly the colours of her father's country. This choice marked a major turning point in her career, and she quickly became a source of pride for Algeria, a country where gymnastics had never before had an Olympic champion.





## Conclusion

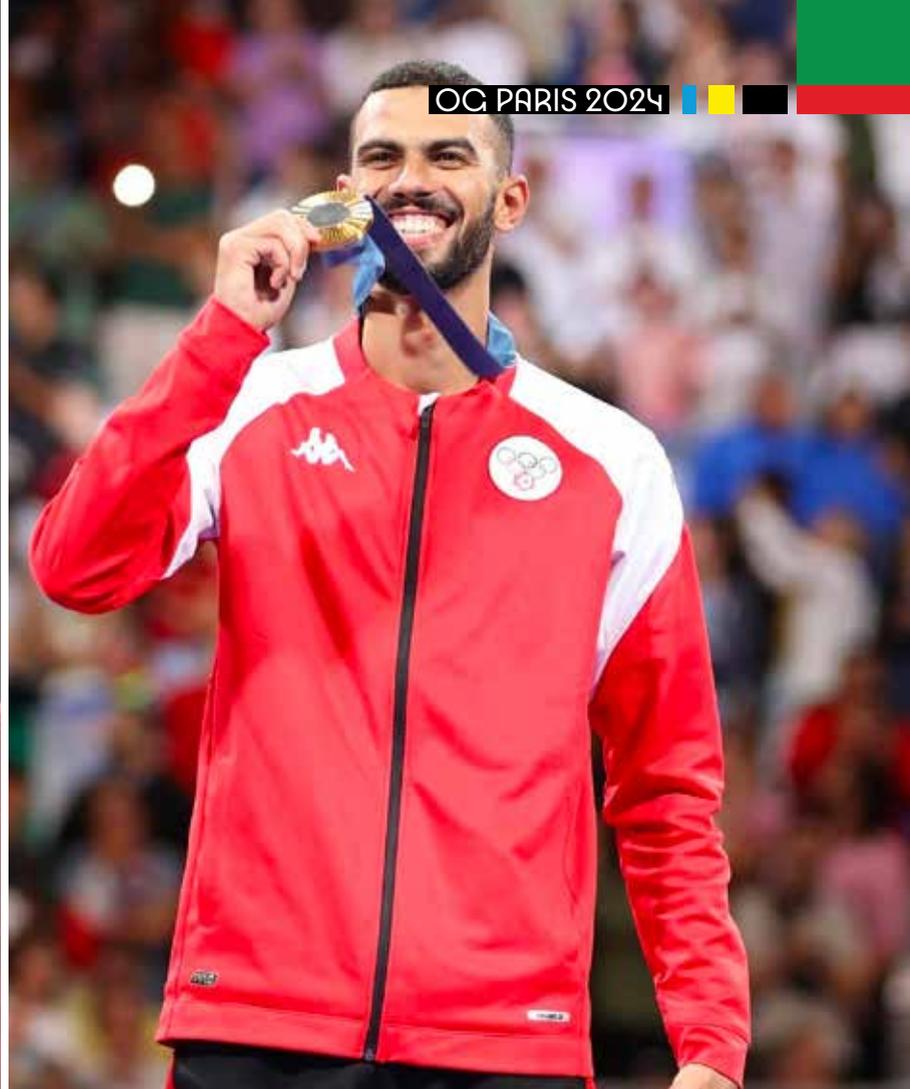
Kaylia Nemour is more than just an Olympic champion, she is a pioneer, a source of inspiration for millions of young people the world over and, above all, a symbol of Africa's rise to prominence in international sport. Her journey, marked by hard work, determination and passion, is proof that dreams can come true, even when they seem to be far-fetched. With her stunning performances at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, she proved that Africa has a place on the podium and is ready to compete with the world's best in gymnastics.

Her victory is just the beginning of a phenomenal story, and the entire world is waiting to see just how far this young Algerian star will go.

# Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi

## Tunisia's First Gold Medallist in Taekwondo

Mounting the highest rung of the Olympic podium at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 in the taekwondo event, the new king of this discipline not only made history by becoming the first Tunisian to win a gold medal, but also etched his name in gold letters in the annals of African sport.



**T**he Olympic Games Paris 2024 have made Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi the new taekwondo ambassador in Tunisia, Africa and the world.

The young champion, whose sporting career continues to soar, has shown that even the most ambitious goals can be achieved with determination and rigour. His triumph in Paris caps years of dedication and hard work, and he is now seen as a role model for young Tunisian and African athletes.

It was expected that Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi would make a spectacular comeback at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, with gold as his ultimate goal. Tunisia's champion demonstrated an unrivalled technical and tactical level throughout the qualifiers, making him

the odds-on favourite. He arrived in Paris focused, ready to grab the gold medal.

Jendoubi demonstrated incredible mastery of his taekwondo techniques during the competition. With his speed, sharp reflexes and ability to read his opponents he was able to dominate every bout. Jendoubi remained calm and focused in the final, against a formidable opponent, taking advantage of every opening to gain the upper hand. In a moment of grace, he clinched the long-awaited victory, becoming Tunisia's first Olympic gold medallist in taekwondo.

Thanks to this victory, Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi has not only made Olympic history, he has also paved the way for other young Tunisian athletes who dream of shining on the international stage.

Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi's victory is not just a personal success, it is also a watershed moment for Tunisian sport. As Tunisia's first Olympic champion in taekwondo, he inspires a whole generation of young Tunisian and African athletes. His success shows that, against all odds, it is possible to compete with the cream of world athletes and bring home prestigious titles.

Jendoubi embodies the spirit of an extraordinary athlete and sees his success as an opportunity to inspire and motivate other young people to pursue their sports dreams: *"I want young people in my country to know that anything is possible. If I can make this dream come true, they can too,"* said the champ.

Behind this resounding victory lies a story of perseverance and sacrifice. Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi has not had an easy journey. Like many African athletes, he had to overcome obstacles in terms of logistics, funding and training. The lack of resources, particularly in terms of sports infrastructure, has often made it difficult for him to prepare for international competitions.

Jendoubi was able to overcome these difficulties thanks to his determination and the support of his close ones. He also counted on his coaches and the Tunisia Taekwondo Federation, who recognised his potential and helped him to reach the top. These challenges have forged his character and enabled him to develop resilience, which is a major asset in international competitions.

Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi received a hero's welcome on his return to Tunisia after his victory in Paris. The Tunisian sports authorities hailed his performance, and many tributes were paid to him for representing Tunisia with flying colours on the international stage. His feat was covered by the world's media, showcasing Tunisia's talent in an event often dominated by Asian and European countries.



The key to success is to believe in yourself and never give up, no matter what challenges you face. That's how you can achieve great things.



Jendoubi is now an ambassador for taekwondo, not only in Tunisia, but across the world. He uses his fame to promote the sport and encourage young people to join in. He hopes that his success will attract more support and attention to taekwondo and to sport in general in Tunisia. He also hopes to contribute to the development of taekwondo in his country by training the next generation of Tunisia's champions.

Born on 1 June 2002 in Rades, Tunisia, Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi showed interest in martial arts from an early age. His agility, strength and competitive spirit set him apart from an early age. He took up taekwondo at the age of six, a sport that requires not only outstanding technical mastery but also a mind of steel. His stellar performances in local and national competitions soon caught the attention of his coaches.

After joining taekwondo clubs in Tunisia, Jendoubi quickly proved that he was no ordinary athlete. Thanks to his talent at a tender age and unwavering commitment, he became a key figure on the national scene before making his debut on the international scene.





At the age of 19, he stunned the world by winning a silver medal at the Tokyo 2021 Olympic Games, becoming the first Tunisian to stand on the Olympic podium in this event. This success made him a national hero, but he knew that his ultimate dream was to win gold. *“Tokyo taught me to dream bigger, but above all to understand that gold is within reach if you really want it and work hard to achieve it,”* he said after his feat.

Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi is only 22 years old, and still has many years of competition ahead of him. It is very likely that, with his outstanding talent and unshakeable determination, he will continue to shine on the international scene and defend his Olympic title at the next Games. But beyond his individual successes, Jendoubi wants to contribute to the growth of taekwondo in Tunisia and the development of young athletes.

His dream is to see Tunisia become a leading nation in taekwondo, and he is convinced that this is possible with greater support from the sports authorities and

civil society. He also hopes that his story will inspire other African athletes to believe in their abilities and fight to achieve their goals, even in less popular events. *“The key to success is to believe in yourself and never give up, no matter what challenges you face. That’s how you can achieve great things”*, he said after his victory.

Mohamed Khalil Jendoubi is much more than just an Olympic champion. He is a symbol of hope and excellence for a whole generation of young Tunisian and African athletes. His victory at Paris 2024 shows that, against all odds and obstacles, it is possible to compete with the best and bring home prestigious titles.

Thanks to his talent, determination and commitment to promote sport in Tunisia, Jendoubi has a bright future ahead of him, both in sports and in his personal life. His performances at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 will be remembered as a key moment in the history of sport in Tunisia and Africa.



## Team Kenya treated to a hero's welcome

**On their return from the Paris Games, Team Kenya was honoured by the entire nation during a ceremony presided at by the Head of State, His Excellency William Ruto, who called for continuous improvement in order to build on Kenya's success at previous Olympic Games in a highly competitive environment.**

**A**t the welcome ceremony held in honour of Team Kenya's participation in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 at State Lodge, Eldoret, Kenyan President, His Excellency William Ruto, acknowledged the unwavering

commitment and sacrifices made by athletes, stating that it was a moment of national pride to see the country's flag hoisted and to listen to its national anthem. He said: *"Even in the face of challenges, our athletes never lose sight of the finish line and always strive for glory to the tape."*

While paying tribute to the outstanding performances of Team Kenya, President Ruto also acknowledged the team's immense potential. He highlighted the increasing competition from countries with skills similar to those of Kenya: *"Our athletics are increasingly under encroachment from countries that have studied, learned and perfected our skills to our*

*detriment,” he stated. Faced with these challenges, the President called for greater collaboration to improve the situation of sport in Kenya. President Ruto furthered that: “As a Government, at both national and county levels, we must scale up our deliberate collaboration with all stakeholders, such as sports federations, to develop a sports policy framework that will address these gaps. This will help us to progress our sport ecosystem to the place where we all want it to be. Sometimes we never understand the sacrifices that are made, the commitment that is put in place, and the*

*determination over many hours, many days, weeks, months, and years for one to do that final minute dash and win... Our pride doesn’t end there. As a country, we have set our standards and expectations extremely high when it comes to gold and championships and tournaments.”*

Suffice it to note that upon their return home from the Olympic Games Paris 2024, and once they landed at Eldoret airport, they were welcomed by government representatives led by Sports Minister Kipchumba



Murkomen, the Governor of Uasin Gishu, Jonathan Bii, the Governor of Elgeyo Marakwet, Wesley Rotich, and the MP for Kapseret, Oscar Sudi, among others.

The team of athletes included triple Olympic 1500m champion Faith Kipyegon, double gold medallist, Beatrice Chebet and the 800m runner, Koitatoi Kidali. Other athletes were also present, including 800m gold medallist Emmanuel Wanyonyi, marathon bronze medallist Benson Kipruto, 5,000m silver medallist Ronald Kwemoi and two-time Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge.

Indeed, Kenya staged a sterling performance at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, especially in athletics. The country bagged a total of 11 medals: 4 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze. Kenyan athletes also broke records and confirmed the steady rise of the African continent on the world athletics stage. Moreover, Kenya won more medals than any other African country at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

This incredible performance is a source of pride for all of Africa, and particularly for Kenya and its President. While congratulating the athletes during the reception at the State Lodge, President Ruto underscored that their victories represent more than just medals: *“Your victories are not just medals that you carry. They are symbols of our national character, a testament to what we can achieve when we believe in ourselves... On behalf of every Kenyan, I am profoundly proud of you and grateful to you. You took the heart, soul, and spirit of your fellow countrymen to Paris and shone for our Motherland,”* the President insisted.

The Paris Olympics Team Captain, Mrs Faith Kipyegon, said that the athletes had given their best at these highly competitive Games. She thanked the Government for its support during the competitions and expressed her gratitude to the fans for their unwavering support throughout the Games: *“As team captain, I can say we gave it all but it was very competitive. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the*



... Our pride doesn't end there. As a country, we have set our standards and expectations extremely high when it comes to gold and championships and tournaments.



*team in Paris. We are so grateful for the support from the government, the Ministry and Athletics Kenya and our fans from all over the world,”* she concluded.

For his part, the Deputy President, Rigathi Gachagua, cautioned Kenyan athletes who triumphed at the Olympic Games to invest their prize money gainfully in order to avoid financial mistakes that could later reduce them to poverty. He said it would be a sad thing to see today's prize-winning athletes suffer in the future because they did not invest wisely. *“Please invest and invest well so that the name you carry is dignified in life. It will be very sad that after you have won medals at the Olympics, later on in life you start struggling. Please remember, invest well,”* the Deputy President insisted. He also urged parents and guardians to support budding athletes, and pointed out that the country could use the sports sector to create jobs and preserve lives.





It is worth noting the Government has always been criticised for failing to develop plans to help athletes manage their lives and thus languishing in poverty upon retirement.

In 2022, Susan Kamau, Chief Administrative Officer of Athletics Kenya, called on Kenyan athletes to register with the national organisation in order to benefit from a retirement plan.

While underscoring Athletics Kenya's desire to protect retired athletes from the financial problems caused

by illness and old age, Mrs Kamau listed cases where athletes had faced problems while on retirement and said: *"We have signed with the CPF to handle the athletes' pension plan. Coaches should encourage athletes to join the program. Next will be coaches and then leaders."* She further urged coaches to register officially with the local body in order to be officially recognised in their area of expertise.

The Sports Cabinet Secretary, Kipchumba Murkomen, announced plans to reorganise other sports disciplines. He pointed out that the country has





focused mainly on athletics, which explains why it was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> overall at the just ended Paris Olympic Games. In the light of the foregoing, the Cabinet Secretary promised to work with other sports federations in order to enable a good number of athletes to take part in the 2028 Olympic Games in the United States: *“Other countries are reaping so much gold, and it’s because they have many other things, even archery, we should be able to participate. We know where the problem is. It’s in the leadership of the federations. Most of the federations are not organised,”* he pointed out.

The Cabinet Secretary concluded by expressing his satisfaction with his country’s record as the best African nation and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the world in athletics, hoping that they would do even better at the next Olympic Games. However, this will require a public policy, he noting that they want to do their best to make sure that, as the country prepares for the next Games, all stakeholders can come together and ensure that more disciplines participate. He said that his dream, that of the government and that of the Kenyan people, is that before the next Games, more opportunities would have been given to young athletes, to explore their talent, to be able to conquer the world, and not just for the Games.

Ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the overall medal rankings, Kenya remains, as it was at the previous edition in Tokyo, the best African nation with 11 medals, including 4 gold, all won in athletics, particularly in the mid-distance events. Emmanuel Wanyonyi won the 800m title, while Beatrice Chebet clinched gold in the 5,000m and 10,000m, and Faith Kipyegon became Olympic champion in the 1,500m. She also won silver in the 5,000m, as her male counterpart, Ronald Kwemoi. In marathon, Kenya finished third on the podium with Benson Kipruto and Hellen Obiri in the men’s and women’s events respectively.



## African medal rankings at the Olympic Games Paris 2024

Gold  
Silver  
Bronze



PARIS 2024





RANK	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	 KENYA	4	2	5	11
2	 ALGERIA	2	0	1	3
3	 SOUTH AFRICA	1	3	2	6
4	 ETHIOPIA	1	3	0	4
5	 EGYPT	1	1	1	3
6	 TUNISIA	1	1	1	3
7	 BOTSWANA	1	1	0	2
8	 UGANDA	1	1	0	2
9	 MOROCCO	1	0	1	2
10	 CAPE VERDE	0	0	1	1
11	 CÔTE D'IVOIRE	0	0	1	1
12	 ZAMBIA	0	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>

## Olympic Solidarity Scholarships for the 2021-2024

# Quadrennial: invaluable support for African sport



Olympic Solidarity plays an essential role in sport development globally, and particularly in Africa. Through its initiatives, the IOC provides grants to hundreds of African athletes, offering them the opportunity to train, progress and be worthy ambassadors of their nations on the international stage. For the 2021-2024 quadrennial, 389 scholarships were awarded to African athletes, thus ensuring their participation in the Olympic Games and strengthening the sports movement on the continent.

### **Olympic Solidarity: Cornerstone of the African Olympic Movement**

Olympic Solidarity's mission is to support sport development in developing countries, particularly those that do not have the necessary resources to finance the preparation of their athletes. The Olympic Solidarity scholarship programme is a key lever that enables many athletes to get to the highest level of international competition.



A main objective of the Olympic Solidarity scholarships is to prepare athletes for the Olympic Games.



This IOC support initiative is not limited to financial assistance, but also includes training opportunities, technical support and access to modern infrastructure. For Africa, where sports challenges are often related to poor infrastructure and the paucity of resources, Olympic Solidarity represents a lifeline for many athletes.

### **Impact of Solidarity Scholarships in Africa: Concrete reality**

With 389 scholarships awarded to African athletes during the 2021-2024 cycle, Olympic Solidarity played a decisive role in preparations for the Olympic Games Paris 2024. This helped athletes prepare effectively, with high-quality technical support and top-notch training conditions.

Olympic Solidarity scholarships are awarded to athletes who have the potential to qualify for the Olympic Games but who, without this support, may find it very difficult to reach their full potential. These scholarships cover various expenses, ranging from training costs to sports equipment and prepping competitions, ensuring that athletes concentrate solely on their performance.

For many African athletes, this support has been decisive. Not only has it propelled them to the world stage, but it has also helped them to prepare properly, just like their counterparts in nations with state-of-the-art infrastructure and funding.

### **Vital support for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 preparations**

A main objective of the Olympic Solidarity scholarships is to prepare athletes for the Olympic Games. For Paris 2024, the IOC, through Olympic Solidarity, stepped up its support for African athletes, helping them to qualify and represent their nations at the world's biggest sports event. The support was not only provided to elite athletes, but has also targeted a significant number of budding talents, offering them the opportunity to follow a training pathway tailored to their Olympic ambitions. Thanks to these grants, many athletes were able to participate in training camps abroad, work with renowned coaches and take part in international competitions, thus honing their experience and competitive mentality.

### **Examples of outstanding performances thanks to Solidarity Scholarships**

Among the 389 beneficiaries of Olympic Solidarity scholarships, several African athletes showed their worth at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. These athletes, who hail from various African countries, not only achieved stunning performances, but also inspired many youths across the continent.

For instance, Botswana's "Letsile Tebogo" bagged gold in the 200 metres at the Paris Games. Without Olympic Solidarity support, it is likely that this young talent would not have had access to the resources needed to hone his skills and compete with the cream of world athletes. His success is just one of many examples that testify to the direct and tangible impact of scholarships on African performances.



Another example is that of Ethiopian and Kenyan long-distance athletes, who continue to finish at the top of the podium, which is partly due to the support granted to help them train in the most appropriate conditions, whether locally or abroad.

### **Future objectives of Olympic Solidarity in Africa**

The 2021-2024 cycle has been a decisive period for Africa, and IOC's commitment through Olympic Solidarity continues to gain momentum. The achievements during this period reflect a sound strategy to support sports development on the continent, and to promote equal opportunities for African athletes on the world stage.

The future looks bright for African athletes, with prospects for closer collaboration between NOCs and Olympic Solidarity. The IOC intends to sustain its commitment by increasing the number of scholarships and support programmes to enable more athletes to have access to high-quality training and suitable infrastructure.

### **Importance of sustainable support**

Beyond the Paris 2024 Games, Olympic Solidarity's support is a sport development cornerstone in Africa. It is not just about preparing athletes for global competitions, but also to foster a sustainable sporting culture on the continent. This includes improving local infrastructure, training coaches and sports officials,



as well as promoting sport as an inclusive and social development tool.

The scholarship programme is therefore more than just financial assistance. It symbolises the Olympic Movement's commitment to promoting the values of excellence, respect and solidarity through sport, while offering African athletes the opportunity to achieve their Olympic dreams.

### **Conclusion: Incredible contribution to African sport**

Through its scholarships, Olympic Solidarity enabled many African athletes to take part in the Olympic Games Paris 2024, while strengthening unity

and giving African sport greater exposure on the international stage. With 389 scholarships awarded, the IOC, through this programme, demonstrated its unwavering commitment to sport development in Africa.

The future of African sport is bright and, thanks to initiatives such as the Olympic Solidarity, African athletes will continue to shine on the world stage, thus contributing to the growth of the Olympic Movement on the continent.

## ANOCA and the Olympic Games Paris 2024 Scholarship Programme

# Vital Support for African Athletes



**A**NOCA has, in recent years, distinguished itself by its ongoing commitment to the development of African athletes through its scholarship programme. Thanks to this financial and technical assistance, provided as part of the Olympic Games Paris 2024, 49 African athletes received grants to prepare effectively for the global event.

### **The Scholarship Programme: A Strategic Initiative for Paris 2024**

In 2022, ANOCA allocated \$2 million to a programme to help African athletes qualify, prepare for and participate in the Olympic Games Paris 2024. This sum was allocated through 49 grants, to help athletes

train in the best possible conditions and thus improve their performance. The programme was overseen by the Paris 2024 Commission, which was set up specifically to assess and monitor the implementation of the qualification objectives for African athletes.

A key aspect of this programme was the emphasis on disciplines in which African athletes have historically performed well, including Athletics, Boxing, Judo, Swimming, Taekwondo, Weightlifting and Wrestling. Building on an analysis of previous performances at the Olympic Games and major international competitions, ANOCA focused its efforts on these sports, and provided the athletes in question with the appropriate entourage.

## Selection Criteria and Inclusion of Other Disciplines

The scholarship programme was not limited to traditional sports. A strategic opportunity was also offered to athletes practising disciplines such as Modern Pentathlon and Shooting, provided they met certain strict criteria. For example, selected athletes had to have either won a medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games or be among the world's top 10 in their discipline by 31 December 2021. In addition, athletes already benefitting from the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship or other similar grants were not eligible, thus ensuring a fairer allocation of resources.

Meanwhile, ANOCA was flexible, including athletes who did not meet the initial criteria but showed promising potential for Paris 2024. This pragmatism helped to identify and support emerging talents, increasing chances of qualifying for the Olympic Games.

## Paris 2024: Positive Outcomes

33 of the 49 athletes supported by ANOCA scholarships qualified for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, a figure that testifies to the success of the programme. Among them, 8 athletes won a total of 10 medals, an impressive feat that shows how effective the financial and technical support provided was.

These athletes came from eight NOCs and competed in four different disciplines: Athletics, Modern Pentathlon, Swimming and Taekwondo.

In addition, six other athletes finished in the top 8 in their events, proudly representing Africa in sports such as Athletics, Weightlifting and Wrestling. These results show that, with the right support, and notwithstanding the paucity of resources in some countries, African athletes can compete with the best in the world.



Africa as a whole saw an improvement in its medal haul at the Games, with 39 medals won compared to 37 at Tokyo 2020. This progress is the result of many initiatives, including the ANOCA Scholarship Programme, but also the hard work of athletes, coaches and national federations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

Encouraged by these results, ANOCA intends to continue improving its Athlete Support Programme for future Olympic Games. Several areas for improvement have been identified among the recommendations made following the Paris 2024 Games:

- 1. Post-Games evaluation:** an in-depth analysis of participating NOCs should be conducted by the Development Commission and the Chairperson of the Paris 2024 Commission to identify areas that should be improved and the successes to be repeated at future Olympics.
- 2. Early talent identification:** to better prepare athletes for Los Angeles 2028, budding talent identification should be done well ahead of time to include them early enough in support programmes and ensure they are provided the necessary resources as from January 2026.
- 3. Compliance with deadlines by NOCs:** there should be stronger sanctions against NOCs that fail to submit their reports in time to ensure better administrative management and more efficient resource allocation.
- 4. Long-term commitment:** Athletes receiving the ANOCA grant must commit to not going on retirement prior to Los Angeles 2028 to put the investments in their preparation to good use and maximise their chances of winning medals in future Olympics.
- 5. Preparation for Brisbane 2032:** athletes with the potential to qualify for the Olympic Games Brisbane 2032 should be identified as soon as possible to begin preparations early.
- 6. Talent retention strategy:** ANOCA should develop a strategy to retain Africa's best talents and stop them from leaving to compete for other countries, given that the phenomenon of sports talent drain remains a current challenge for Africa. This will entail providing financial incentives and training opportunities on the continent to help reverse the trend.
- 7. Lobby for better conditions:** NOCs should intensify their lobby to secure better conditions for their best athletes. By offering athletes solid career prospects and attractive financial rewards, NOCs will be able to prevent early retirements and keep our talents within the Olympic fold.



### Conclusion: ANOCA, A Key Actor in African Sports Development

The ANOCA scholarship programme for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 once more revealed the relevance of organised support in the preparation of African athletes. With the award of 49 scholarships, including 33 qualifications and 10 medals won, the initiative proved to be effective, highlighting the need to pursue this effort for future editions of the Olympic Games.

Through this programme, ANOCA continues to play a critical role in the development of African sports talents, allowing the continent to compete with the world's great sports powerhouses. Banking on a long-term approach and enhancing talent identification could ensure Africa shines not only during future Olympics but also consolidate its position on the international sports stage.

## ROAD TO LA 2028

While celebrating all our achievements at the Paris Olympics, we must take up the challenge of doing better right now.

Our goal for LA 2028 is to increase our representation and success in a wider range of disciplines.

And the key lies in early preparation. We must draw up a comprehensive one-year training programme, while ensuring consistent capacity building for our athletes in various sports disciplines.













ACNOA - ANOCA



**UNITÉ,  
SOLIDARITÉ,  
FRATERNITÉ**

**UNITY,  
SOLIDARITY,  
FRATERNITY**



**Contacts**

[contact@afrcalympic.com](mailto:contact@afrcalympic.com)

 [www.africaolympic.com](http://www.africaolympic.com)

 [AcnoaAnoca](#)

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwVDOzHZQ8YNvI0SrI2ubA/videos>

 [AcnoaAnocalInfos](#)

 [acnoaanoca](#)

*Thank you*



PARIS 2024

