IF Sustainability Project

UWW MORE THAN MEDALS PROGRAMME
The world faces significant challenges across a wide spectrum of economic, social and environmental matters. The Olympic Movement has both an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to the global sustainability debate in line with its vision of “Building a better world through sport”.

With this in mind, and in response to Olympic Agenda 2020, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the International Federation (IF) Sustainability Project in 2016 to obtain an overview of IFs’ sustainability initiatives – identifying common topics, challenges and good practices while also sharing information among the IFs.

One outcome of the project was a series of case studies illustrating how IFs are actively contributing towards a more sustainable world.

As part of the IOC’s objective to “profile the role of the Olympic Movement in sustainability through the aggregation of information and collective reporting”, it was agreed that the identification and sharing of information contributes to the holistic integration of sustainability and should be continued. These case studies, which now also showcase National Olympic Committees’ (NOCs) best practices, form part of a strategic support system given to the Olympic Movement through the IOC Sustainability Strategy.

Each case study is aligned with one or more of the IOC’s five sustainability focus areas: infrastructure & natural sites; sourcing & resource management; mobility; workforce; and climate. They are also aligned with one or more of the United Nations’ (UN) framework of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide a common framework for organisations to explain how they plan to contribute to sustainable development and tackle the key global sustainability challenges. This framework is pivotal for the Olympic Movement – in September 2015, the UN General Assembly confirmed the important role that sport can play in supporting the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs.

“This sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognise the growing contribution of sport to the realisation of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.”

Paragraph 37, UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The IOC provides support to NOCs and IFs in the definition, design and development of their sustainability strategies.
MORE THAN MEDALS TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH SPORT EDUCATION

United World Wrestling (UWW) understands that engaging youth is fundamental to the long-term sustainability of wrestling development, and the More than Medals programme, launched in 2016, supports this. The programme includes training camps where dedicated educational sessions cover numerous topics including the importance of climate change. The series of camps target young athletes and their coaches/entourages using a holistic approach. Participants practise wrestling while receiving education on climate action with an emphasis on “participation, distinction and diversity”.

In 2019, the UWW joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Sports for Climate Action Framework alongside the IOC. As part of the activation, the UWW is now developing and implementing an even stronger educational aspect within the More than Medals programme to include UWW members. The aim of the programme is to:

- Undertake systematic efforts to promote greater environmental responsibility.
- Reduce overall climate impact.
- Offer education on climate action.
- Promote sustainable and responsible consumption.
- Advocate for climate action through communication.

Between May and August 2019, four More than Medals training camps were held around Sofia 2019.

WHAT’S MORE, AT EACH OF THE TRAINING CAMPS, THE UWW REDUCED PLASTIC WASTE BY INSTALLING WATER FOUNTAINS AND PROVIDING ALL PARTICIPANTS WITH PERSONALISED WATER BOTTLES TO KEEP AND REUSE.

EVALUATION


THE BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION

- Using sport to raise awareness, especially with younger generations, can help initiate environmental and social change.
- An IF can take responsibility for its own actions and contribute to tackling global climate action.
- Implementing sustainability measures can help reduce costs.