MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Special Olympics, Inc.

AND

The International Powerlifting Federation

Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") is established between Special Olympics, Inc ("Special Olympics"), and the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF). This document serves as a renewal and update of the pre-existing MoU originally signed in 2013, formalizing their continued shared commitment to the advancement and promotion of powerlifting for individuals with intellectual disabilities worldwide.

1. Background

WHEREAS the mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports, including powerlifting, for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The organization's mission is to offer sustained opportunities for participants to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and foster friendships and understanding within their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the broader community.

WHEREAS The International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) serves as the recognized global governing body for powerlifting. Its mission is to advance, regulate, and promote the sport of powerlifting internationally, ensuring high standards, inclusion, and opportunities for all athletes, regardless of ability. The IPF is committed to fostering a safe, fair, and supportive environment for athletes to reach their full potential.

2. Purpose

This MoU outlines the principles and frameworks guiding the cooperation between Special Olympics Inc. and IPF. The central purpose is to define, enhance, and formalize their partnership, ensuring clarity of roles and responsibilities, and maximizing the development and visibility of powerlifting among Special Olympics athletes. The scope further includes technical development, education, advocacy, and joint events.

3. Principles of Cooperation

3.1. Mutual Respect and Shared Values

Both organizations agree to foster a relationship built upon respect, inclusivity, and a shared commitment to empowering athletes with intellectual disabilities.

3.2. Athlete-Centered Approach

The partnership prioritizes the needs, aspirations, safety, and well-being of athletes always.

3.3. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building

The organizations will actively exchange expertise, best practices, and educational resources to ensure the highest quality in powerlifting training, coaching, and competition.

3.4. Promotion and Advocacy

Both parties will collaborate in advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the value of inclusive powerlifting and to promote opportunities for participation globally.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Special Olympics

- Provide strategic leadership and global coordination to support the development and growth of powerlifting opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- Support the delivery of regional and World Games competitions in collaboration with organizing committees, National programs, and partnerships.

- Provide technical guidance, coach and competition resources, and sport development support to strengthen quality and consistency across Special Olympics powerlifting programs.
- Utilize IPF International Category Referees for officiating Special Olympic Powerlifting Events
- Facilitate collaboration and alignment with IPF on technical standards, rules, event planning, education, and promotional initiatives.
- Promote inclusive sport opportunities and support the engagement of stakeholders, partners, and National programs to expand participation and sustainability in the sport.

4.2. International Powerlifting Federation (IPF)

- Offer technical expertise, standardized rules, and coaching education to Special Olympics powerlifting programs.
- Support the development of officials, referees, and volunteers for Special Olympics powerlifting events.
- Promote the inclusion of Special Olympics athletes and events within the broader IPF community.
- Facilitate access to IPF-sanctioned competitions and development opportunities as appropriate.
- Special Olympic athletes are not subject to payment of participation fees at IPF events.
- IPF agrees that athletes competing in the Special Olympics division of an IPF competition will not be subject to any drug testing requirements

4.3. Joint Responsibilities

- Establish joint committees or working groups as needed to oversee the implementation of special Olympics program within the IPF and review progress.
- Coordinate joint events, workshops, and awareness campaigns.
- Share research, data, and innovative practices to improve the quality and reach of powerlifting programs.

5. Governance and Communication

5.1. Meetings

Regular meetings, at least once in person annually, will be convened to evaluate collaboration, share progress, address challenges, and set future objectives.

5.2. Amendments

Any changes to this Memorandum must be agreed to in writing and signed by authorized representatives from both organizations.

6. Term and Termination

6.1. Termination

Either party may terminate the MoU upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party.

6.2. Review

The MoU will be reviewed annually and may be renewed or revised upon mutual agreement.

7. Intellectual Property

Each Party retains all rights in its own names, logos, marks, and other proprietary materials (collectively, "Marks").

Special Olympics acknowledges IPF's exclusive right, title and interest in and to its trademarks, trade names, service marks, logos, designs, program and event names, identifications and other proprietary rights and privileges owned by IPF (the "IPF Marks").

IPF acknowledges Special Olympics' exclusive right, title, and interest in and to its trademarks, trade names, service marks, logos, designs, program and event names, identifications and other proprietary rights and privileges owned by Special Olympics (the "Special Olympics Marks").

The Parties grant to each other a non-exclusive, revocable, royalty-free, limited license to use approved IPF Marks and approved Special Olympics Marks for the purpose described in this MOU and as otherwise agreed to in writing. All uses of each Parties' respective Marks shall be subject to the prior written approval of the proprietary Party.

The Parties further acknowledge that they shall refrain from using or referring to the names, trademarks, trade names, logos, or other identification of the other Party without obtaining the prior written consent of the other Party in (a) any advertising publicity or promotional materials in any form or media channels, (b) in any manner that may express or imply any endorsement by the other Party, or (c) in any manner not approved in advance, in writing. Both parties acknowledge that the only exception to this conditions will be instant social media publications related to SOI events.

Upon expiration or termination of this MOU for any reason, each Party shall immediately cease all use of the Marks of the other Party. Any use of the Marks of the other Party, other than as expressly authorized hereunder, is strictly prohibited.

8. Costs and Expenses

Each Party is responsible for its own costs and expenses related to the activities under this MOU, unless the Parties agree in writing to share or allocate costs.

9. Confidentiality

The Parties recognize that during the Term of this MOU Agreement, they may have access to information which is confidential or of a proprietary nature to the disclosing party, including, but not limited to, membership/athlete lists and personal data, technical, marketing, product, and business affairs, and proprietary and trade secret information, whether oral, graphic, written, electronic, or in machine readable form ("Confidential Information"). The parties agree to keep all Confidential Information strictly confidential and not to use or disclose the Confidential Information to others without the disclosing party's prior written consent. If a receiving party is required to disclose Confidential Information by law or order of a court, administrative agency, or other governmental body, then it shall provide the disclosing party with prompt notice of the order or requirement, so that the disclosing party may seek a protective order or otherwise prevent or restrict such disclosure. The terms of this Agreement shall remain confidential unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the parties or as required by law. Both parties agree that all information obtained or shared will be subject to GDPR regulations

10. Independent Entities

The Parties understand and agree that they are and shall remain separate entities. This MOU does not create a partnership, joint venture, agency, employment relationship, or fiduciary duty. Neither has the authority to bind or act on behalf of the other. Nothing in this MOU shall be interpreted or deemed to require or creates an exclusive relationship between the Parties.

11. Governing Law and Dispute Resolution

The mutual cooperation between the parties is based upon mutual confidence and trust. The parties will make all efforts to resolve any dispute which may arise between them, amicably and in good faith.

12. Final Provisions

Any changes and/or modifications to this MoU must be in writing in order to be valid. If individual provisions of this MoU should be or become invalid, null, or void, this shall not affect the remaining provisions of this MoU. The parties shall then replace any invalid, null, or void provision with a provision that best reflects the economic objective of the MoU and the intention of the Parties.
The Parties acknowledge that giving and taking bribes can lead to criminal proceedings in accordance with applicable law.

13. Entire Agreement

This MOU constitutes the entire understanding between the Parties regarding the subject matter and supersedes all prior discussions or understandings.

14. Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives of Special Olympics and the International Powerlifting Federation have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the date specified below.

Special Olympics Inc.

Lou Lauria, Chief,
Sport & Competition,
Special Olympics

International Powerlifting Federation

Sigurjón Pétursson,
President,
International Powerlifting Federation