



NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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A Milestone for Gambian Sports Leadership

AG.ED - MAHMOUD L. JAWLA

The National Sports Council extends its heartfelt congratulations to the newly elected executives of both the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) and the Gambia Wrestling Association (GWA) following their recent elective congresses. These democratic exercises are not just a testament to the transparency and accountability in our sports governance but also a reflection of the collective commitment to nurturing the growth of sports in The Gambia.

The GNOC's congress, held under the theme of continuity and innovation, has ushered in a team poised to strengthen our representation on the international stage while advancing Olympic sports locally. Their mandate carries the immense responsibility of empowering Gambian athletes, ensuring they compete on an equal footing with their peers worldwide. The NSC remains committed to working closely with the GNOC to achieve these shared goals, fostering an environment where sports excellence thrives.

Similarly, the Gambia Wrestling Association's elective congress marked a significant moment for one of the nation's most culturally resonant sports. Wrestling is deeply embedded in our heritage and serves as a unifying force across communities. The newly elected GWA executives have the critical task of not only preserving this tradition but also modernizing its administration and infrastructure to enhance its appeal locally and internationally. The NSC pledges its support in ensuring the sustainable development of wrestling and the welfare of its athletes.

These congresses highlight the power of collaboration, transparency, and democratic processes in sports administration. The journey ahead demands diligence, strategic planning, and the unwavering dedication of all stakeholders. The NSC calls on the new executives to embrace inclusivity, prioritize the development of athletes, and uphold the principles of good governance.

To the sports associations, federations, and every individual dedicated to the advancement of sports in The Gambia: let these congresses inspire us to collectively aim higher, foster unity, and commit ourselves to excellence. Together, we can build a future where Gambian sports achieve unprecedented heights, both regionally and globally.

The National Sports Council reiterates its readiness to support and collaborate with all stakeholders in our shared vision of making The Gambia a hub for sports development and a beacon of athletic pride in Africa and beyond. Congratulations once again to the GNOC and GWA executives on this well-deserved achievement.

Mahmoud L Jawla



Bai Dodou Jallow Elected GNOC President as New Executive Leadership Emerges

Bai Dodou Jallow, the President of the Gambia Volleyball Federation, has been elected as the new President of the Gambia National Olympic Committee (GNOC) for the 2025-2028 quadrennial. Jallow secured 26 votes in a tightly contested election, defeating Muhammed M. Jagana, who garnered 21 votes. Jallow's victory marks a significant turning point for the GNOC, as he takes the helm of the organization. In his acceptance, Jallow pledged to strengthen the Olympic movement and foster a robust era of sports development across The Gambia.

Other Leadership Positions

Lamin King Colley was elected unopposed as the 1st Vice President of the GNOC, securing the position without contest.

For the 2nd Vice President position, Bakary K. Jammeh emerged victorious with 29 votes, defeating Saul Frazer, who secured 18 votes. Jammeh will serve in this role for the 2024-2028 term.

In the highly anticipated election for Secretary General, incumbent Yorro Njie retained his position with 30 votes, beating his challenger Fatima Badjie, who received 17 votes.

For the Treasurer position, Bai Madi Ceesay secured a decisive victory with 33 votes, while Mass Manjang managed 14 votes. Ceesay will oversee the financial affairs of the GNOC for the next four years.

Board Members

The election also brought three new board members to the GNOC executive committee:

- Bakebba Susso (32 votes)
- Abdoulie M. Kah (31 votes)
- Amie Jabang (33 votes)

Other contenders included Timothy Colley (18 votes), Momodou S. Ceesay (14 votes), and Gheran Senghore (13 votes).

A New Chapter for The Gambia's Olympic Movement

The elections, held during the GNOC Congress, mark a renewed focus on strategic leadership and collaboration aimed at elevating The Gambia's participation and performance in international sports. With Bai Dodou Jallow at the helm and a new executive in place, the GNOC is set to embark on a transformative journey to enhance the Olympic movement and solidify The Gambia's presence on the global sporting stage.



National Sports Council Observes Gambia Wrestling Association Elective Congress

The National Sports Council (NSC) played a pivotal role as observers during the Gambia Wrestling Association (GWA) elective congress held on Saturday, 30th November 2024. The congress, which brought together 104 out of 109 delegates, marked a significant milestone in Gambian wrestling, electing Matarr Saine as the new president.

Saine secured 63 votes to defeat his opponent Omar Saidykhan, popularly known as “Double Less,” who garnered 41 votes. In a commendable act of sportsmanship, Saidykhan declared the elections free and fair, congratulated Saine, and announced his and his team’s withdrawal from contesting the remaining positions. This move paved the way for the unopposed election of the rest of the executive committee.

The newly elected GWA executive committee includes:

- President: Mr. Matarr Saine
- First Vice President: Mr. Basiru Mbye
- Second Vice President: Mr. Ousman Njie
- Secretary General: Mrs. Aisatou Njira BN Corr
- Assistant Secretary General: Mr. Ebrima Marong
- Treasurer: Mr. Barrow Cessay
- Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Ndey Fatou Secka
- Auditor: Mr. Samba Njie
- Public Relations Officer: Mr. Ebrima Jatta

Representing the NSC at the congress as official observers were Program Manager Ebrima Secka, Communications and Public Relations Manager Sara Camara, and Desk Officer for Wrestling Alhaji Abdoulie Bojang. Their presence ensured transparency and underscored NSC’s commitment to fostering fair and democratic processes in sports governance.

The congress signifies the beginning of a new chapter for Gambian wrestling under the leadership of Matarr Saine, whose tenure is expected to further elevate the sport. On behalf of the outgoing executive led by Serign Modou Faye, congratulations were extended to the new leadership team, wishing them a successful and impactful tenure in office.

The NSC remains steadfast in its mission to support and oversee the development of sports associations, ensuring they operate with accountability, inclusivity, and excellence.

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Coach Daniel Nyaki Completes International Coaching Course in Hungary

Basketball coach Daniel Nyaki has successfully completed an International Coaching Course at the Hungarian University of Sports Science.

This milestone was made possible through the support of the Gambia National Olympic Committee under the Olympic Solidarity program. Nyaki joins a growing list of Gambian coaches who have benefited from similar training opportunities, further strengthening the country's coaching capacity.



Gambia Women's Basketball Team Clinches Bronze at Dakar en Jeux!

The Gambia women's basketball team has won the bronze medal at the Dakar en Jeux Basketball Tournament after an impressive 19-13 victory over Algeria. In a game filled with energy and determination, The Gambia bounced back from earlier narrow defeats to secure a podium finish.

This hard-fought win not only brings pride to the team but also marks a significant achievement for Gambian basketball on the regional stage. Congratulations to the players and coaches for their incredible performance and resilience throughout the tournament! [#Dakar2026](#) [#Gambia](#)



NSC Acting Executive Director Mahmoud L. Jawla Opens FIVB-Backed Volleyball Coaches Training

The Acting Executive Director of the National Sports Council (NSC), Mahmoud L. Jawla, has officially launched a 10-day intensive volleyball coaching training program in collaboration with the Gambia Volleyball Federation (GVBF) and the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) Empowerment Program. The training, which focuses on beach and indoor volleyball coaching techniques, began on November 28, 2024, at the Friendship Hotel in Bakau and will run until December 7, 2024.

In his opening remarks, Jawla underscored the importance of the initiative for volleyball development in The Gambia. He took the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected GNOC President, Bai Dodou Jallow, and his executive team, while also acknowledging Pa Baboucarr Barrow's recent achievement of completing a Level 3 coaching certification in Thailand.

"This is the second engagement of the Ministry of Youth and Sports through the National Sports Council in supporting the Gambia National Volleyball Federation to train coaches. Within six months, Pa Baboucarr Barrow and Amadou Jarju have benefited from this support," Jawla said.

He highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to sports development under Hon. Minister Bakary Y. Badjie, noting significant investments in sports federations. Jawla praised the FIVB Empowerment Program as a transformative initiative for advancing coaching expertise in The Gambia and beyond.

"The government of The Gambia is proud to associate with this important occasion, which represents a significant milestone for volleyball in the country. The FIVB Empowerment Program is a commendable initiative aimed at transferring critical knowledge, and the Gambia Volleyball Federation is on the right track," he stated.



Spurs Crowned Champions of Serekunda East Africell-Sponsored League Cup Final

The Serekunda East Mini Stadium buzzed with excitement on Sunday as football fans gathered to watch Team Spurs face Gohh Bi in the Africel-sponsored league cup final. Representing the National Sports Council, Communications and PR Manager Sara Camara attended on behalf of the Council and the Honorable Minister for Youth and Sports.

Team Spurs secured an early 1-0 lead in a fiercely contested match, holding off Gohh Bi's spirited comeback attempts to claim victory. The event also honored local legend Joe Kalamba, who tearfully received a standing ovation while presenting the league trophy, highlighting the community's passion for football and its grassroots champions.

Gambian Judokas Shine at Dakar African Open 2024

Apaye Junior Gibba and Baboucarr Mendy have put The Gambia on the map with remarkable performances at the ongoing Dakar African Open Judo Championship 2024, taking place in Dakar, Senegal.

Gibba clinched a silver medal, while Mendy earned a bronze medal in their respective categories, marking a proud moment for Gambian judo enthusiasts.

The victories highlight the rising prominence of Gambian athletes in international judo. Their exceptional display of skill and determination has not only brought medals home but also inspired a new generation of judokas in the country.

The Gambian delegation has expressed optimism about the weekend's senior category events, with hopes of adding more medals to the nation's tally.



Regional Committees Elected Across The Gambia in Pictures





€3,500 Boost from Ministry of Youth and Sports to Mobilize Fans for Gambia's Crucial AFCON Qualifier Against Comoros

In a spirited show of support, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through the National Sports Council, has once again stepped in to ensure the senior Scorpions feel the power of their fans during the critical Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against Comoros at Stade Municipale de Berkane. Through the Gambian Embassy, the Ministry has disbursed €3,500 to Hon. Saikou Marrong to mobilize fans, following the vibrant backing that fueled the team in their last encounter.

Dedicated supporters will embark on an eight-hour journey from Rabat to Berkane, ready to energize the stadium with their passion. Their presence in the stands is expected to provide a significant morale boost for the Scorpions as they strive for victory on foreign soil.

This financial commitment underscores the Ministry's recognition of the essential role Gambian supporters play in inspiring the team, especially during challenging away fixtures. The traveling fans are anticipated to recreate a home-crowd atmosphere that could make all the difference in this decisive match.



Gambia Men's Basketball Team Wins Silver at Dakar en Jeux!

The Gambia men's basketball team has proudly claimed the silver medal at the Dakar en Jeux Basketball Tournament after a hard-fought final against Senegal, ending in a close 14-19 loss. Despite the result, the team showcased remarkable skill and resilience throughout the tournament, earning respect and recognition on the regional stage.

This silver win is a significant achievement for Gambian basketball, marking their dedication and progress. Congratulations to the players and coaching staff for an outstanding performance!
[#Dakar2026](#) [#Gambia](#)



Wrestling Revitalized: Regional Committees Elected Across The Gambia

November marked a significant step in the development of wrestling across The Gambia as stakeholders in various regions elected new executive committees to spearhead the sport's growth. Supported by the National Sports Council (NSC) and the Gambia Wrestling Association (GWA), these congresses highlighted unity and commitment to traditional wrestling.



Central River Region (CRR)

In Janjanbureh on November 17, 2024, the CRR elected a new committee, with most positions uncontested. Mamut Ceessay emerged as Vice Chairman after a closely contested vote. Wrestling Desk Officer Alagie Abdoulie Bojang urged collaboration with local authorities, citing CRR's deep-rooted passion for wrestling.



Upper River Region (URR)

On November 16, 2024, delegates in Basse unanimously elected Jewru Krubally as Chairman. The GWA and NSC reiterated their commitment to promoting wrestling in URR. Krubally pledged to prepare a competitive team for the upcoming National Youth Conference and Festival (NAYCONF).



North Bank Region (NBR)

In Kerewan on November 9, 2024, the NBR congress unanimously re-elected Amat Mboob as Chairman. GWA President Serign Modou Faye praised the region's stakeholders for their unity and pledged support for the committee's initiatives.



Lower River Region (LRR)

On November 10, 2024, stakeholders in Soma elected Mustapha Sabally as Chairman, with all positions unopposed. GWA President Serign Modou Faye applauded Sabally's efforts, including securing land for a wrestling arena, and urged unity to elevate the sport.



Gambia Scrabble Federation Hosts Mid-Monthly Tournament

Brusubi, November 16, 2024 – The Gambia Scrabble Federation (GSF) has launched its Mid-Monthly Scrabble Tournament at the Scrabble Headquarters in Brusubi, with the National Sports Council (NSC) playing a prominent role in the opening ceremony. Representing the NSC, Mr. Sara Camara, Communication and Public Relations Manager, delivered an address emphasizing the significance of the tournament in fostering mental agility, strategic thinking, and vocabulary development.

In his remarks, Mr. Camara commended the GSF for its dedication to advancing scrabble in The Gambia, highlighting its dual purpose as a competitive sport and a platform for intellectual growth and sportsmanship among participants.

The two-day tournament, comprising 20 games, began today with eight matches starting at 12:00 PM and will conclude tomorrow, November 17, with 12 final games commencing at 10:00 AM. The event is conducted under the latest World English Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA) Rules of Play and utilizes Collins Words 2019 (CSW19) for adjudication, ensuring the highest international standards of gameplay.

The NSC reaffirmed its unwavering support for all sports disciplines in The Gambia, recognizing scrabble's unique position as a blend of intellect and competition. Participants were encouraged to embrace the tournament with enthusiasm and camaraderie, as events like this contribute to the growth of the Scrabble community.

Representatives of the GSF, Mr. Conteh and Mr. Darboe, expressed their gratitude to the NSC for its steadfast commitment to supporting all sports disciplines in the country. They shared their excitement about the event, which promises to be both engaging and challenging for all involved.



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Gambia Handball Triumphs Over Guinea Bissau in Thrilling International Friendly Matches

On the weekend of November 2-3, 2024, handball fans gathered at the Independence Stadium in Bakau as The Gambia Handball Association hosted Guinea Bissau in a thrilling two-day international friendly series. The event, held at the stadium's handball courts, featured both U17 and U20 teams in spirited competition.

Day one saw a strong performance by The Gambia's U17 team, who set the tone with a commanding 31-15 victory over their Bissau counterparts. In the U20 category, the stakes were higher, and after a neck-and-neck match, The Gambia secured a narrow win, edging out Guinea Bissau 23-21.

The momentum continued on Sunday, November 3, with the Gambian U17s effortlessly sweeping Guinea Bissau aside with a 22-10 win. The final U20 game was a hard-fought battle. Despite Guinea Bissau's best efforts, The Gambia held their ground, eventually prevailing with a 29-26 score in a high-energy contest that kept spectators on the edge of their seats.

The weekend's matches underscored the rising talent in Gambian handball, marking another successful milestone for the country's sports community.

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