

INTERNATIONAL TUG OF WAR SPORT NEWS

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Welcome to South Africa

It is with great anticipation and pleasure that I welcome all participants and spectators to the **2018 World Championships** in Cape Town. Also with some anxiousness given that it is my home country that hosts this year's event.

This will be the 5th event at TWIF level that is hosted by South Africa and we are looking forward to great hospitality and an excellent week of tug of war in one of the iconic cities of the world.

Cape Town, South Africa with its many attractions is renowned for its natural beauty. With the backdrop of Table Mountain, the 2018 venue in Camps Bay is just around the corner from the Cape Town Waterfront and Robben Island. So apart from looking forward to top class performances on the competition field, all visitors should have ample opportunity to explore the delights in and around the Cape Peninsula. Please make sure that you optimise your visit by making use of the various opportunities that showcase this special part of the world.

My very best wishes to all the participating teams and countries, as well as to all the TWIF officials who will run the event. I trust that you will all experience a great event and that everybody will be a winner.



Anton Rabe.

Photo: Eddie van Raamsdonk



IS A MEMBER OF

**MISSION STATEMENT**

As an International Federation our mission is to provide the structure and good governance necessary for the well-being and development of the sport of Tug of War throughout the world.

Our Primary Objective is to attain a sufficiently high level of excellence and universality to expedite our acceptance by the International Olympic Committee as a sport within the programme of the Olympic Games, a status held by our sport in the early years of the 20th century.

Let's treat each other with respect and dignity and continue to set the benchmark for world class performance, appearance and behaviour both on and off the competition field.

I also wish to thank the South Africa organisers. It is clear that they have looked at the smallest detail whilst the communication to TWIF and the potential visitors has been excellent prior to the competition. The run-up to the event has not been without its challenges given the prolonged drought in the Western Cape which required a change of venue. Luckily the water situation is much more favourable than it was a few months ago, but visitors should still please use water sparingly.

Travel safely and welcome to South Africa.

ANTON RABE*President*



World Championships Outdoor Cape Town

The 24th Tug of War World Championships is being hosted by South Africa this year, and will be held on the sports grounds of the Camps Bay High School from 19 - 22 September 2018.

LESLEY CARSTENS

Organising Committee
Cape Town 2018

This is the 5th time that it is being held in South Africa - the last time was in Pretoria in 2010. The grounds are situated in a particularly beautiful area of Cape Town - with the famous Table Mountain as a backdrop and a fantastic view of the Camps Bay beach on the other side of the field. Camps Bay is situated approximately 15 minutes drive from Cape Town itself, and within easy reach of many other beautiful and interesting tourist sites and venues.

Five hotels have already been fully booked, all of them in the Cape Town area itself. A close distance away is the Victoria and Albert Waterfront with fantastic shopping opportunities and plenty of restaurants – all of International standards. The cable car is an easy way to get to the top of Table Mountain with a fantastic view over the entire peninsula. For those who prefer

more physical activities, there is a hiking tour up to the top of Table Mountain, but this can be treacherous and dangerous, and great care needs to be taken whilst hiking this trail.

So far, 20 countries from across the world have entered for the championships ... from Australia to Zimbabwe. The expectation is that at least 1000 athletes will travel to South Africa for this event. The Local Organising Committee have been very hard at work over the last year, especially these last few months, but they are confident that all athletes and spectators attending this event, will have the time of their lives ! So... see you in Cape Town !!!



SHELBY RICHARDSON

Chairwoman USATOWA

Larry Heindel USATOWA International Representative

It is with much regret that the USATOWA (United States Amateur Tug of War Association) is accepting Larry Heindel's resignation as International representative to TWIF. Larry's association with USATOWA is longstanding. Larry started competing in the late 1960's with Monroe Machine and Weld. He also competed with Monroe Trucking, Teds Sports and on several closed teams representing the USA. Larry competed in the 1984 World Championships in Oshkosh winning a Bronze in the OM720 and a silver in the OMCTWT. Larry also competed in the World Games in London in 1985. He traveled to Japan in 1988 to the Goodwill games of TOW. He actively pulled until 1992. Larry became USATOWA's rep in 1990 and has since held this position. TWIF officials claim that Larry is their longest/oldest representative. Larry is a retired TWIF International judge and is currently a judge with USATOWA.



Larry Heindel

While talking to Larry about his involvement in tug of war, he asked me if I was writing his obituary? Of course, after a bit of laughter, I thought yes, I am writing an obit. Larry's resignation is indeed an end of an era. To pin down all the projects Larry worked on for USATOWA is a difficult task. He is our drug officer, as well as attending USATOWA events to judge. Larry worked endlessly on all four of the World Championships in which USATOWA hosted in addition to doing his duties as representative. The USATOWA is thankful to Larry and his family for all the time, effort and dedication that he has given USATOWA and to the sport of tug of war.

As our Association celebrates 40 years, we, as members of TWIF appreciate people like Larry who have laid excellent groundwork for us to follow. The new TWIF representative for the USATOWA is Bill Gallagher.

A History of the **United States Amateur** **Tug of War Association**

SHELBY RICHARDSON
Chairwoman USATOWA

Robert Pulfer of Verona, Wisconsin formed the United States Amateur Tug of War Association in 1978. Bob, a native of Switzerland had visited his homeland and had witnessed the World Championships of Tug of War. Bob came back to the States excited to form an organization enabling the USA to compete in the Tug of War International Federation World Championships. Bob formed a committee to help organize the group. This group became a recognized organization in the state of Wisconsin and soon USATOWA became a recognized member of TWIF.



Robert Pulfer

Above: USATOWA's M640k team. Left: Coach Glen Johnson instructing his team.

THE FIRST MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THE 1978 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE:

Dave Outhouse, Gary Wille, Larry Clements, Tony Schmitt, Dave Etkcher, Randy Hanson, Keith Dieter, Mark Mayer, Dave Wahl, Steve Acker, Leo Spahn, Rod Voss, Craig Rhiner, Jon Onsager, Tom Naatz, Armand Meier, Rudy Kopp (*Manager*), Glen Johnson (*Coach*), Robert Pulfer (*Founder and President of the USATOWA*), Norman Legler (*Supporter*), Kathy Meier (*Supporter*) and Kevin Speich (*Substitute*).

The first year the Association sent a team to the World Championships was in 1978. These Championships were held in Dundalk Ireland. The team consisted of members from the Black Hawk Tug of War League and others from around Wisconsin. Robert, Glen Johnson and Norman Legler traveled from team to team to find the right members to form this team. The Black Hawks represented the USA in two Open classes at the Championship. The desire to compete on the World level fueled the teams of USATOWA. The USA has had teams in the World Championships every year since 1978.

Tug of War was one of the founding sports of the World Games. The USA hosted the first World Games in 1981. USATOWA has had representation in the World Games since that date.

USATOWA has had great success in the Outdoor World Championships with medals won in 1986, 1990, 1998, 2002 and 2004 in the closed competition. World Games medals were won in 1993 and 2001. Indoor Tug of War teams have won medals in 2002, 2004 and 2006. In 2002 the International Olympic Committee recognized TWIF. This is the first recognition of the IOC since the removal of the sport from the games in 1920.

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USATOWA hosted the 1984, 1998, 2004 and 2014 World Championships. All of these accomplishments came from the desire to compete on the World level.

At the 1978 Championship, friendships were formed with the Northern Ireland team. In 1979 the Ballyhagen team came to the USA. They were the first European team in over 75 years to visit the USA. USATOWA bestowed the honor of Honorary Lifetime Members to this club.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB:

Cathal McKeever, Noel Collins, Leo Collins, Ken Hill,
Ken Crousier, Robert Campbell, Patrick Kernan,
Patrice Ogorman, Sean Cunningham,
Shamus Cunningham, Marty Lavery, Frank Powell,
Ernie Hartley, Billy Bernard and Alan Walker.

The United States Amateur Tug of War Association celebrated their 40 years of existence with an international Tournament On the weekend of 1st and 2nd September 2018 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Human rights of persons with disabilities

Persons with disabilities face discrimination and barriers that restrict them from participating in society on an equal basis with others every day. They are denied their rights to be included in the general school system, to be employed, to live independently in the community, to move freely, to vote, to participate in sport and cultural activities, to enjoy social protection, to access justice, to choose medical treatment and to enter freely into legal commitments such as buying and selling property.

A disproportionate number of persons with disabilities live in developing countries, often marginalized and in extreme poverty.

The protection guaranteed in other human rights treaties, and grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should apply to all. Persons with disabilities have, however, remained largely 'invisible', often side-lined in the rights debate and unable to enjoy the full range of human rights.

In recent years, there has been a revolutionary change in approach, globally, to close the protection gap and ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy the same standards of equality, rights and dignity as everyone else.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted in 2006 and entered into force in 2008, signalled a 'paradigm shift' from traditional charity-oriented, medical-based approaches to disability to one based on human rights.

FORMER UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, LOUISE ARBOUR, SAID,

"The celebration of diversity and the empowerment of the individual are essential human rights messages.

The Convention embodies and clearly conveys these messages by envisaging a fully active role in society for person with disabilities."

In our sport Tug of War it is not yet very common to have people in the team with special needs. But in relation to the article from the United Nations Human Rights and the changing world, we also think we have to introduce more people with disabilities into our sport and who knows to what competition level this can grow in the future. Sweden and Ireland have already introduced this in their countries and the articles on page 5 give you information about the structure and possibilities.

Information from the site
www.OHCHR.org
United Nations Human Rights





Club Orren Sollefteå.

MATS HAMBERG

President Tug of War Federation Sweden

◀ Tug of War Sweden

It is with great pleasure that I, as the new President of the Swedish Federation, take this opportunity to address you all. The General Assembly of the Swedish Sports Confederation has decided that each sports federation must develop and form their own strategy 2025 in line with the national one.

As Tug of War in Sweden was decreasing in numbers of members and clubs we decided to approach new members - sport clubs in schools and clubs for people with disabilities. A group of persons no-one had thought of when it comes to Tug of War. We started in one district and informed people about the sport and assisted them with training courses, equipment, how to apply for funds, etc.

The result was that nine new member clubs were started. Now we will assist these in organising local competitions. We will also try to spread this work to three other districts during 2018 and 2019, which will hopefully create local, regional and national competitions.

The targeted groups with intellectual disabilities do not usually need any extra equipment - but just some alterations with the rules. Will it be possible in the future to see competitions on

international levels for a person with an intellectual disability? We believe so! It may be possible to apply for funding through the European Committee (Erasmus + sport) and for co-operation between a number of countries and INAS-FID (International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability) and IPC (International Paralympic Committee).

I am looking forward seeing you all in Cape Town where I hope we can discuss future co-operation!



CATHY O'TOOLE

Irish Tug of War Association

◀ Tug of War Ireland

Cathy O'Toole, Irish Tug Of War Association, introduced Lakers* to Tug of War back in February 2016 with an exhibition and sampling day in our centre. The enthusiasm on the day led us to adding Tug of War training onto our weekly timetable from April 2016. The participants from all age ranges and abilities enjoy the class immensely, from the core training, the teamwork and the challenges they overcome each week.

Cathy has developed a great class which, along with the above, builds confidence and self-esteem. The class continues to grow from strength to strength and she has also introduced the team to open pulls in local competitions and at the ITOWA Nationals.

* Lakers Social & Recreational club is a community based sports, social and recreational club for children and adults with an intellectual disability. The club provides a wide range of sporting and educational services to members across Leinster from its centre in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Lakers has been in operation since 1989 and currently has 345 members ranging from 5 to 75 supported by 150 volunteers, 5 full-time and 11 part-time staff.

