

ATHLETES' COMMISSION 2025 ELECTIONS CANDIDATES



WORLD
ATHLETICS



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**THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.**

As outlined in the Athletes' Commission Nomination Form, the contents of this document have been solely written and provided by the respective candidate. Its contents have not been edited in terms of content and merely received editorial revisions for readability and design purposes.

MY OBJECTIVES:

TO ENSURE THAT THE ATHLETES' COMMISSION AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF ATHLETES FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS TO MAINTAIN A FAIR PLAYING FIELD AND REDUCE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SPORT.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I'm passionate about giving back to the sport that has shaped my life and advocating for the voices of athletes at every level. Based on my personal experience in the Middle East and in countries affected by conflict, I believe in the transformative power of athletics at the personal, local, and international levels, and the importance of making athletics accessible in all countries. As an Olympian, I have a deep and personal understanding of the challenges that many athletes face on and off the field, especially in underrepresented and developing countries. I believe that the Athletes' Commission plays a vital role in ensuring that all international athletes' well-being, rights, and perspectives are at the center of decision making in international athletics, and I am committed to contributing to this mission.



**MO'ATH
ALKHALWALDEH
JORDAN**

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
ARABIC,
ENGLISH**

**ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:
MARATHON,
HALF MARATHON**

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:
COMPASSIONATE
RESILIENT
DRIVEN**

What skills and knowledge I bring:

As an Olympian and active athlete, I understand the challenges, sacrifices, and needs of athletes at every stage, especially those from underrepresented, developing, and middle-income countries. My focus is on ensuring that athletes' voices are not only heard but truly integrated into decision making in international athletics, and on conveying athletes' perspectives to decision makers. To achieve this, I bring strong leadership, communication, and problem-solving abilities, shaped by years of experience in both sports and international development work. I am experienced in bringing together diverse groups for productive engagement across cultural and language divides, and in finding concrete solutions through community dialogue. As a coach for youth and runners of many levels, I am also a skilled and empathetic listener and communicator.

Sports career:

Championships, Games, and Major Events Participation:

- 2024 Summer Olympics – Paris, France
Men's Marathon – Represented Jordan
- 2023 World Athletics Championships – Budapest, Hungary
Men's Marathon – Represented Jordan

Special Awards & Recognitions:

- 2017 Athletes in Excellence Award – Recognized by the Foundation for Global Sports Development for exceptional community service and dedication to youth development through sport.
- 2016 Rodale 100 Honoree – Named among 100 individuals worldwide for impact in health, wellness, and social change.
- 2015 "50 Most Influential People in Running" – Recognized for contributions to the sport and its global development. Featured in Runner's World Magazine – Highlighted for advocacy and leadership in distance running.
- 2008-2012 Full Athletic Scholarship Recipient – Earned a full scholarship through athletic excellence to pursue Bachelor's and Master's degrees in the United States at the New York Institute of Technology.

Professional career / sport administration:

Mo'ath Alkhalwaldeh brings together elite athletic experience with leadership in sport-based development, peace building, and research for social change. His career reflects a deep belief in the power of sport not only to achieve personal excellence, but also to drive meaningful impact at the community, national, and international levels.

At Princeton University, Mo'ath supports public opinion research in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) on critical

issues such as youth engagement, gender equality, economic development, governance, and migration. This research helps regional governments to better support citizens' needs in an effective and equitable way and amplifies the voices of the region's youth population.

Mo'ath also served as the Head Coach of Princeton University's Running Club, mentoring student athletes and building an inclusive and supportive team culture to help students reach their potential in cross country and track. As Head Coach, Mo'ath demonstrated his commitment to fostering athletes' development, well-being, and long-term personal growth both on and off the track.

In Jordan, Mo'ath led programs for Generations For Peace (GFP), a Jordanian non-profit organization providing sport for peace programs for children and youth in the Middle East and North Africa. Mo'ath worked directly with sport federations, Olympic committees, and local partners in Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe to integrate peacebuilding approaches into sport programs for youth. Using sport-based curriculum, structured games, and activities, Mo'ath led programs supporting interpersonal conflict resolution, dialogue, and social inclusion in conflict-affected areas.

As a GFP program leader, Mo'ath also trained and mentored youth leaders, coaches, and national sport federation representatives to continue to use sport as a means of promoting tolerance and fostering understanding between groups.

Mo'ath's leadership in GFP and his collaboration with sport federations across the MENA region highlight his ability to leverage his elite sport experience to support development and peacebuilding work. His career demonstrates a unique blend of athletic achievement, community leadership, and commitment to using sport as a force for positive social change, particularly for youth in the MENA region.

**THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.**

MY OBJECTIVES:

**I WANT TO HELP IMPROVE
THE SPORT FOR THE
ATHLETES.**

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I believe that the sport of athletics is facing a period of major changes. I want to be a voice of the athletes and make sure that the sport is facing a direction that improves our situation. I enjoy discussing the future of the sport and I want to be in a position where I can help.



**ANDREAS
ALMGREN
SWEDEN**

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

**SWEDISH,
ENGLISH**

ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:

**1500M, 3KM, 5KM, 10KM,
ROAD RACING**

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:

**ANALYTICAL
CONSIDERATE
DRIVEN**



ATHLETES' COMMISSION

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I am a very driven person, not just on the track and road. I studied engineering and mathematics at the university, I've worked in finance and as a software developer in sports tech. I would argue that I have a very broad background and can analyse topics from different perspectives. In addition, I'm easy to work with and good at cooperating. My experience, both on and off the track, will bring a positive impact to the athletics community.

Sports career:

- World Athletics Championships 2015, 2023
- Paris 2024 Olympic Games
- European Championships 2014, 2022, 2024
- European Record 10km Road
- European Record 5000m (12:44.27)
- 10000m: 26:52.87
- Half Marathon 59:23

Professional career / sport administration:

- No prior experience in sport administration.

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

I WILL STAND FOR THE EDUCATION AND PROTECTION OF ATHLETES' RIGHTS, SAFEGUARDING MECHANISM, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO COMPETE, WOMEN'S HEALTH, AND SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSITION FROM THE JUNIOR TO SENIOR CATEGORY.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

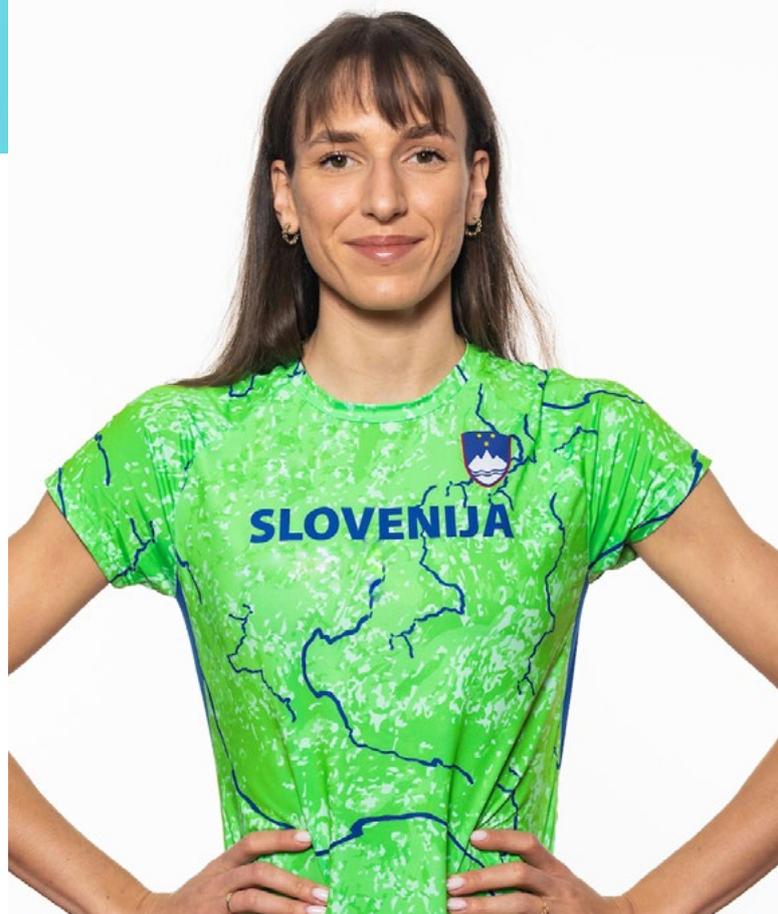
The candidacy to participate in and work in the Athletes' Commission comes as a natural decision for me, as it is something that directly concerns me as an athlete, as well as combines two of my biggest interests: athletics and law.

I care deeply about the well-being and rights of athletes, especially those whose voices often go unheard. As someone who has experienced unequal opportunities related to coming from a small country, I know how important it is to advocate for fairness in access to competitions.

I also believe topics like safeguarding and women's health need more open discussion in sport, and I want to be a part of the change.



ATHLETES' COMMISSION



LIA APOSTOLOVSKI SLOVENIA

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

SLOVENE,
ENGLISH

ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:

HIGH JUMP

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:

DETERMINED
RELIABLE
EMPATHETIC

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I bring first-hand experience as an elite athlete, which gives me a strong understanding of the challenges athletes face on and off the field.

As an athlete, I recognise the importance of the establishment of the safeguarding mechanism, as a consequence of many verbal, physical, sexual, and psychological abuses in sports, which are issues that unfortunately still occur far too often today.

I recognise the importance of women's health, specifically sports gynaecology in (elite) sports; what was once a taboo is now a crucial part of the training process, and it is something that deserves its voice.

Coming from a small country, without a tradition of a higher rank of international competitions at home, I experience a difference in opportunities to equally compete and collect world ranking points, therefore I will stand for equal opportunities for all athletes, regardless of their country of origin.

As a young athlete, I understand the challenges of transitioning from the junior to senior category, and the importance of different kinds of support during this period, which should be properly organised.

Sports career:

- World Indoor Championships Bronze Medalist (Glasgow 2024)
- 2x World Championships Finalist (Oregon 2022, Budapest 2023)
- Diamond League Finalist (Brussels 2024)
- 2x European Championships Finalist (Munich 2022, Rome 2024)
- Slovenian Athlete of The Year 2024

Professional career / sport administration:

- Professional athlete
- Sports unit of the Slovenian Armed Forces

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

ADVOCATE FOR ATHLETE RIGHTS AND PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY IN A SAFE, INCLUSIVE SPORT.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I aspire to join the World Athletics Athletes' Commission to be an authentic voice for athletes, especially young girls who face unique challenges in sport. I am driven by a passion for gender equality, the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), and the creation of safe, inclusive environments. As a professional athlete, I bring firsthand experience and a deep understanding of athletes' needs and aspirations. With resilience and purpose, I advocate for their rights and well-being. Through mentorship, representation, and collaboration, I aim to help shape a more just and empowering future for athletics worldwide.



**JOAN
CHELIMO
ROMANIA**

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
ENGLISH, SWAHILI,
ROMANIAN (BEGINNER)**

**ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:
TRACK: 10KM,
ROAD: 10KM, HALF
MARATHON, MARATHON**

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:
AUTHENTIC
DRIVEN
RESILIENT**

What skills and knowledge I bring:

As a Kenyan-born, now Romanian citizen, I bring strong multicultural knowledge and insight into the challenges athletes face across different systems. I have excellent communication skills and public speaking experience. I'm a committed advocate for athlete rights and gender equality. I also bring years of mentorship experience, supporting athletes through both challenges and development. My lived experience as a woman, wife, and mother strengthens my ability to listen, understand, and lead with empathy.

Sports career:

- Multiple national record holder of Romania in marathon, half marathon and 10Km
- 2nd European Champion Half Marathon, Rome 2024
- Olympic Games in Paris 2024
- Major Marathons Top 8 London 2021, 2022, Tokyo 2019
- Winner of Paris Half Marathon 2024
- Winner of Seoul Marathon 2022, 2:18:04
- Half Marathon PB 1:05:04
- 2 x Boston Half Marathon Champion

Professional career / sport administration:

- Professional Athlete
- Co-founder of Tirop's Angels - a non profit organization that campaigns against gender-based violence
- Director of Kechei Centre, Iten
- Named by BBC as one of the Top 100 Women of the Year 2024

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

**ALL ATHLETES DESERVE
TO FEEL EMPOWERED TO
SPEAK UP.**

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

Athletes know what athletes need, better than anyone. We understand the difficulties of our sport and our opinions should be listened to. By being on the Athletes' Commission I can help create an environment where athletes can become better athletes.

I want to grow our sport into a safer space for athletes, in competition and their training environment, with a strong focus on mental health and safeguarding. Ours is a truly global sport and I think it's important to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience it in the healthiest and safest way.



**LISANNE
DE WITTE**
THE NETHERLANDS

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

**DUTCH,
ENGLISH**

ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:

400M AND 4X400M

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:

**CARING
PASSIONATE
PERSISTENT**



ATHLETES' COMMISSION

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I've been in this sport for more than 15 years, which means I've got a deep understanding of athletics. I'm currently also the Chair of the Dutch Athletes' Commission and if I get elected, it would be my second term for the World Athletics Athletes' Commission. Both have given me a lot of experience in areas like safeguarding and governing that will help me in the Athletes' Commission. I'm a good teamplayer and I think I've got the ability to build relationships with individuals to advocate for athletes' interests.

Sports career:

- Olympic Silver medalist, World Champion, European Champion: 4x400 (2024, 2023, 2022)
- European outdoor & indoor Bronze medalist: 400m (2018, 2019)

Professional career / sport administration:

- Chair of Dutch Athletes' Commission
- BSc Communication Science

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

**TO REPRESENT AND
ADVOCATE FOR ATHLETES'
INTERESTS, FOSTERING
A SUPPORTIVE AND
INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
THAT PROMOTES GROWTH,
FAIRNESS, AND WELL-BEING
IN THE SPORT.**

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I want to be elected to the World Athletics Athletes' Commission to ensure that athletes' voices are heard and their needs are prioritized at every level of decision-making. I believe in creating an environment where athletes are supported, not just in their performance but also in their well-being and long-term careers. By working together, we can address challenges such as mental health, fair competition, and improved representation. I am passionate about advocating for positive changes that will benefit all athletes, regardless of background or discipline.



**RAMIL
GULIYEV
TÜRKIYE**

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

**TURKISH,
RUSSIAN,
ENGLISH**

ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:

100M, 200M, 4X100M

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:

**AMBITIOUS
POSITIVE
DECISIVE**

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I have good communication skills, understand athletes' needs, and am passionate about helping them work together. With experience in both individual and team sports, I understand the challenges athletes face in different events. I can listen, empathize, and fight for fair representation, which will help improve the World Athletics community. I also know about sports management and athlete support programs, so I can contribute to decision-making effectively.

Sports career:

- World Championships Gold London 2017
- European Championships 1xGold 2xSilver
- World University Games 1xGold 2xBronze
- Mediterranean Games 2xGold 5xSilver
- Islamic Games 3xGold 1 Silver
- Continental Cup 2xSilver
- Balkan Championships 10x Gold

Professional career / sport administration:

- I am the captain of the Turkish national team, the captain of the Turkish relay team, the head coach of the youth and junior relay team, and the manager of the youth team of Fenerbahçe Club.

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

**BRIDGE THE KNOWLEDGE
GAP BETWEEN
ADMINISTRATION AND
ATHLETES WITHIN
ATHLETICS.**

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

Many athletes seem to feel that there is a disconnect between administration and athlete. Often times, my coach and I are the ones fellow athletes and coaches alike turn to for updated information and direction in the sport. Being on the Athletes' Commission would allow me to continue helping, clarifying, and connecting the athletes to informational sources on a larger scale.



**THEA
LAFOND
DOMINICA**

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
ENGLISH**

**ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:
WOMEN'S TRIPLE JUMP**

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:
CHARISMATIC
DIPLOMATIC
DILIGENT**



ATHLETES' COMMISSION

What skills and knowledge I bring:

The skills I am able to bring to the Athletes' Commission are my strong people and public speaking skills. Being able to connect and make others feel comfortable enough to speak their mind is a beneficial when connecting to athletes and administration alike. I also have an intimate knowledge of the sport and thus am able to keep a finger on the pulse of athletics. Since I am one of the few athletes who represents herself in the sport, I have had many conversations with coaches, meet directors, officials, agents, and athletes. This has made for strong relationships but it also makes a unique insight to the sport that makes me privy to a multi lens view on situations in Athletics.

Sports career:

- 2024 Olympic Champion
- 2024 Indoor World Champion
- 2x Commonwealth Medlaist
- National Award of Honor Recipient, Commonwealth of Dominica
- International Sports Ambassador, Commonwealth of Dominica

Professional career / sport administration:

- 6 years public school educator
- International Motivational Speaker

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

TO BE A STRONG VOICE FOR CLEAN SPORT AND ENSURE THAT ATHLETES' RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND COMFORT ARE ALWAYS AT THE HEART OF EVERY DECISION IN WORLD ATHLETICS.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I am running for the World Athletics Athletes' Commission because I deeply care about the people behind the performances - the athletes. I've already had the honour of serving on an Athletes' Commission, where I learned how powerful our voices can be when we speak up together. I want to continue this work —to fight for fair play, for athlete-first rules, and for a safe, respectful environment where we can all thrive. We deserve to be heard, protected, and part of the decisions that shape our sport.



ATHLETES' COMMISSION



**ANNA
RYZHKOVA
UKRAINE**

LANGUAGES SPOKEN:

**UKRAINIAN,
ENGLISH,
RUSSIAN**

ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:

**400M HURDLES,
4X400M RELAY**

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:

**EMPATHETIC
BRAVE
COMMITTED**

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I will bring the perspective of an experienced athlete who understands the everyday realities, challenges, and needs of our community. Having served on an Athletes' Commission before, I've gained experience in communication, advocacy, and working with sports organizations to turn athletes feedback into policy changes. I also have a strong commitment to clean sport and fair treatment for all, and I'm ready to speak up when something needs to change. My strength lies in connecting with people, listening deeply, and building bridges between athletes and decision-makers.

Sports career:

- Olympic bronze medalist London 2012
- Olympic finalist Tokyo 2020
- Olympic Games Paris 2024 - participant
- 4 times World Championship finalist 2013, 2019, 2022
- World (Continental) Cup bronze medalist
- 3 times European silver medalist 2012, 2014, 2018
- European bronze medalist 2022
- 2 times World University Games champion 2011, 2013

Professional career / sport administration:

- Head of Ukrainian Athletics Federation's Athletes Committee
- Member of National Antidoping center Athletes Commission
- Antidoping Ombudsman in Ukraine
- Member of NOC Athletes Commission

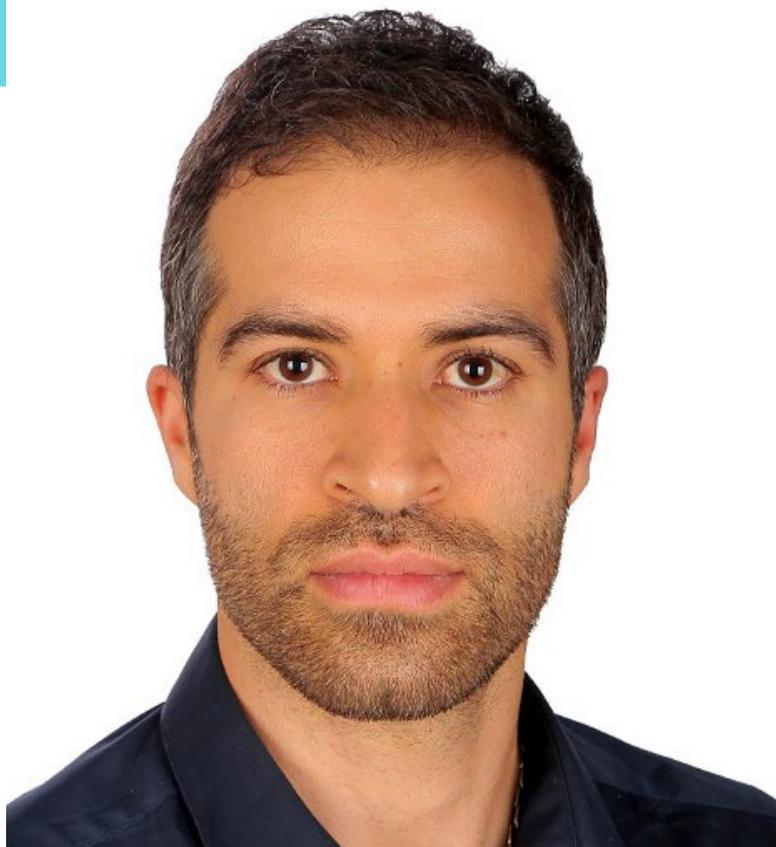
THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

**VOICE OF ATHLETES
AND WORK TOWARDS A
STRONGER, MORE EXCITING,
AND FINANCIALLY
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR
ATHLETICS WORLDWIDE.**

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

With over 20 years of experience in athletics, including international training camps, working with world-class coaches, and being part of elite teams across different countries, I have gained a deep understanding of the needs and challenges athletes face worldwide. As a professional sprinter who has competed at the highest levels, I want to represent the athletes' voice and ensure their concerns are reflected in the decisions that shape our sport. My goal is to contribute to a more inclusive, athlete-centered, and forward-looking future for global athletics. I believe collaboration and athlete-driven leadership are key to building a stronger, more exciting, and financially sustainable future for our sport.



**HASSAN
TAFTIAN**
IRAN

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
ENGLISH (FLUENT),
FRENCH (BASIC),
PERSIAN (NATIVE)**

**ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:
TRACK & FIELD – SPRINT
EVENTS, 100 METERS**

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:
DISCIPLINED
COLLABORATIVE
MOTIVATED**



ATHLETES' COMMISSION

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I bring a unique combination of experience as an elite sprinter, coach, and sport management professional. Competing in three Olympic Games and multiple World and Asian Championships has given me deep insight into the athlete's journey at every level. Studying sport management at the PhD level has also equipped me with the academic knowledge to contribute to policy-making and strategic planning within athletics. My roles as a coach, advisor, and member of Athletes' Commissions have sharpened my leadership, communication, and advocacy skills.

Sports career:

- 3-time Olympian (2016, 2020, 2024)
- Represented Iran 5 times at the World Athletics Championships
- 5-time Asian Athletics Champion
- Personal Best in 100m: 10.03s (Iranian national record)

Professional career / sport administration:

- PhD candidate in Sport Management, University of Tehran
- Member of the Athletes' Commission, National Olympic Committee of Iran
- Member of the Athletes' Commission, Iranian Athletics Federation
- Certified Athletics Coach by the Iranian Athletics Federation
- Coordinator of international training camps for elite athletes in France (2023–2024)

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
USE YOURS.
VOTE.

MY OBJECTIVES:

I AIM TO DRIVE INNOVATION AND FOSTER GLOBAL CONNECTIONS IN ATHLETICS, FOCUSING ON HOW THE SPORT INTEGRATES INTO COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE AND EXPLORING POTENTIAL ACTIVATIONS TO ENHANCE ITS IMPACT.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR ELECTION:

I would like to be elected to the World Athletics Athletes' Commission because of my deep connection to the sport and its transformative impact on lives worldwide. I am committed to ensuring that athletes are at the forefront of decision-making processes, advocating for their needs and perspectives. My passion lies in community involvement and representing a safe, fair, and equal playing field for all athletes.

I would like to work on special projects focused on fan engagement and finding ways to positively impact communities not traditionally involved with athletics. I believe that we can also launch certain projects within the current athlete community that will help athletes post retirement.



ATHLETES' COMMISSION



**GIA
TREVISAN
ITALY**

**LANGUAGES SPOKEN:
ENGLISH, ITALIAN**

**ATHLETICS DISCIPLINES:
400M, 4X400M
WOMEN'S RELAY,
4X400M MIXED RELAY**

**THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE ME:
ENTHUSIASTIC
AMBITIOUS
COLLABORATOR**

What skills and knowledge I bring:

I bring valuable skills and knowledge to the World Athletics Athletes' Commission through my current role in the Sport Competition Management department at LA28. This experience has provided me with insights into the intricate processes involved in organizing sports events, from planning to execution.

Additionally, I will continue to work with LA28 in partnership sales, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the sport business from both B2B and B2C perspectives. My background in athletics and involvement in the Olympic movement will help address key markers within the athlete commission.

Sports career:

- 2024 Paris Olympics
- 2024 European Championships
- 2023 World Championships Budapest
- 2022 World Championships Eugene
- 2022 Mediterranean Games Algeria
- 2021 Tokyo Olympics
- 2019 World Championships Doha
- 2019 European Team Championships Bydgoszcz
- 2018 European Championships Berlin

Professional career / sport administration:

- Currently working at LA28 in Sport Competition Management
- Moving to Partnership Sales for LA28 in July 2025-
- Digital Engagement background

THE ATHLETES'
VOICE MATTERS.
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VOTE.

