

TWIF

AUTUMN 2025

Greetings to everyone

It is hard to believe that we are already in October 2025, but as the outdoor season is coming to an end, we must reflect on both the GENSB tournament which took place in the Netherlands and the World Championships which took place in Nottingham, England.

Youths remain the future of our sport and it is fantastic that the GENSB is providing a stepping stone to their development. This year youths from eleven different countries participated, with teams from South Africa and Canada attending.

The competition catered for thirty five teams in the various categories. I am looking forward to seeing their progress and hope that you represent your country in the near future. A sincere congratulations to all involved.

From the 4th - 7th of September in Nottingham, England, the World championships took place over four days. The ground was good which contributed to a high standard and a normal finish time each day. A lot of people were involved to make this a success, so thanks to everyone. During the championships we were privileged that Tania Tchea, a representative from the IOC attended, and she

was surprised to see such a high standard of Tug of War. This is also a step in the right direction for consideration to get back into the Olympics.

As we are fast approaching 2026, our indoor World championships will take place in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei, from 12th - 15th March. Teams and countries have already started their preparations to participate in the champion-

ships, where again we will showcase our sport to the world in a professional manner. Preparations are already underway.

The amount of people and time involved to make this a successful event is a huge challenge for everyone. I am looking forward to meeting everyone again then.

Yours in Sport, **DAN McCARTHY**
President, TWIF

Left: Dan with Tania Tchea, a representative from the IOC at the Nottingham World Championships.



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TUG OF WAR
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BLUEWATER YOUTH TUG OF WAR TEAM

KIM HOFFMAN



This summer, the Bluewater Youth Tug of War Team proudly represented Canada on the international stage at the GENSB Tournament in the Netherlands. Competing against 34 teams from 11 countries, the team was placed 12th overall; a remarkable result for their first-ever international competition.

From Local Beginnings to International Competition

The Bluewater Youth programme began in 2019, welcoming between 20–30 athletes annually ranging from ages 10 to 18. Since its inception, the team has grown steadily in both size and skill, with the past three years bringing first-place finishes at the U23 North American Championships. The GENSB tournament offered the perfect opportunity to take the next step and measure their skills against the world's best.

Training at Home, Challenges and Opportunities

One of the biggest challenges for the Bluewater athletes is that in Canada there are very few youth Tug of War clubs.

Training is done almost entirely through inner-squad pulls, which limits the chance to test themselves against outside competition. This is why the opportunity to compete at GENSB was so valuable. The team hopes that by sharing their story and success, they can inspire more youth to join the sport and even encourage the creation of new local teams across Canada.

Excitement, Nerves, and Hard Lessons

For many of the athletes, the chance to pull against clubs from across Europe was both exciting and nerve-wracking. Their goal was to reach the quarterfinals, and while they fell just short, the experience revealed important lessons.

The team realized the need to improve rope endurance to compete at the highest level, but also left feeling proud of how well they matched up against some of the strongest youth teams in the sport.

Everyone was impressed by the organization and professionalism of the GENSB tournament. Competing in such a well-run event inspired the team and left them



motivated to return in future years. The biggest challenge remains the financial cost of international travel, but thanks to the support of community members, local businesses, family, and friends, this trip became possible. The team is deeply grateful for every contribution that helped make this dream a reality.

More Than Competition

The trip was also about culture, friendship, and new experiences. The team enjoyed a canal cruise, a bike ride through Amsterdam, and tours of Rotterdam and Den Haag. They also visited Kamp Vught, a former concentration camp, and Holten Canadian Cemetery & Information Centre, where they reflected on the sacrifices made during wartime.

Along the way, they sampled local food - cheese, pancakes, and stroopwafels quickly becoming team favorites.

Memories to Last a Lifetime

Beyond the results, the athletes came home with new friendships, unforgettable experiences, and a deeper love for the sport of Tug of War. Representing Canada at such a high level was an opportunity of a lifetime - one that inspired the team to build on this momentum and strive for even greater success in the future.

**The Bluewater Youth
Tug of War Team
returns home not only
proud of their performance,
but also motivated
to continue training
hard, with hopes of making
GENSB a yearly tradition - and
inspiring the next generation
of Canadian Tug of War.**



The GENSBB tournament was held in Heino, Netherlands this year.

RANK	TEAM	BOY	GIRL	AGE	WEIGHT	CAUTION	POINT	P/G
1	15 Stans-Oberdorf - Switzerland	9	1	16.7	568	1	19	2.71
2	17 SZC Ebersecken - Switzerland	8	2	15.8	579	1	19	2.71
3	12 Mosnang 1 - Switzerland	6	4	16.7	596	1	22	2.75
4	31 Arge B-w - Germany	8	0	16.2	557	1	22	2.75
5	06 Powerrangers-Janssen - Belgium	6	4	15.8	589	1	24	3.00
6	01 Berketrekkers - Belgium	7	1	16.5	560	1	22	2.75
7	08 Thurtal-Waldkirch - Switzerland	8	1	16.8	568	1	20	2.50
8	14 Sins - Switzerland	7	2	15.3	579	3	15	2.14
9	16 Ayrshire Tug of War - Scotland	7	1	17.0	569	2	19	2.38
10	32 Kilroe - England	7	2	17.1	577	4	19	2.38
11	03 Waltenschwil-Kallern - Switzerland	9	0	16.0	558	4	17	2.13
12	02 Bluewater - Canada	7	2	15.4	576	3	16	2.00
13	11 TTV Nijlen - Belgium	6	4	15.7	592	2	14	1.75
14	04 Landboudal - South Africa	7	2	16.8	579	6	12	1.71
15	09 TTV Vriezenveen - Netherlands	7	1	15.9	568	1	13	1.63
16	13 Mosnang 2 - Switzerland	4	5	15.6	543	2	13	1.63
17	35 Mertensmannen - Belgium	4	6	15.1	599	2	13	1.63
18	21 Luthern - Switzerland	6	4	15.8	599	1	12	1.50
19	18 Trecastle YFC A - Wales	8	0	16.4	558	9	12	1.50
20	22 Hoeksesleurdurs - Belgium	9	0	15.4	547	5	9	1.29
21	05 TTV Streefkerk - Netherlands	6	3	15.6	585	1	10	1.25
22	07 TTV Oele - Netherlands	8	1	15.0	542	0	7	0.88
23	10 Okia - Netherlands	8	1	16.1	561	4	6	0.86
24	26 Stenungsund DK - Sweden	5	4	15.2	585	2	6	0.75
25	19 Thurtal - Switzerland	8	0	15.6	552	8	6	0.75
26	23 TTV Eibergen - Netherlands	8	1	14.8	564	2	5	0.63
27	24 Brunnsbergs IF - Sweden	4	5	15.1	597	9	5	0.63
28	28 MIX 2 - Europa	6	2	16.4	563	0	4	0.50
29	27 MIX - Europa	6	3	14.6	581	0	4	0.50
30	30 DT Siegelau - Germany	7	0	15.1	557	1	3	0.43
31	34 Ballinastoe - Ireland	8	0	15.8	544	3	3	0.38
32	25 Löftadalen DK - Sweden	5	4	13.9	588	0	1	0.13
33	29 TZFr. Pfahlbronn - Germany	7	2	13.8	578	0	0	0.00
34	33 Trecastle YFC B - Wales	3	5	16.8	559	1	0	0.00
35	20 TTV Vandakker - Belgium	10	0	14.5	549	2	0	0.00



Junior Men 560 kg: Shou Shan Chinese Taipei; Ttv De Berketrekkers, Belgium and Oakdale teams A & B from South Africa

ALAN KNOTT

From 4 - 7 September, the University of Nottingham's Highfields complex was the centre of the Tug of War world as more than 1,200 pullers from 20 nations gathered for four days of world-class competition.

What had begun as a European event was elevated when the TWIF Congress approved the shift to annual world championships - making Nottingham the proud host for the 2025 World Outdoor Championships.

The event was structured with club-level contests on 4-5 September, and national team events on 6-7 September. Spectator access was generous (free admission) and the venue benefited from strong connectivity to Nottingham City Centre, helping cement the event's place in the city's calendar.

Pullers, Teams & Spirit

The event demonstrated, yet again, that Tug of War is about sportsmanship and spirit. Across Senior, Under-23 and Junior divisions in men's, women's and mixed categories, competition was fierce, tactics were sharp and the margins between placings often narrow.

England as host nation had a strong showing, securing multiple top finishes across club and international divisions. Meanwhile, many other nations pushed hard and showed that the global base of competitive pullers continues to deepen.

Other event highlights included Chinese Taipei once again dominating the field in

the women's weight classes, winning all of these categories at junior, under 23 and senior level. Switzerland once again continued to show remarkable consistency in the senior weight classes, and the Basque Country remained strong in the lighter weight divisions. South Africa continued to have a strong impact at junior and under 23 level.

The growing field of entrants and rising performance levels across a growing number of countries underscore why TWIF's move to an annual world championship was timely, with 11 countries getting onto the podium in the closed competition – the highest number at a World Outdoor Championships in recent times. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



TUG OF WAR
2025 World
Championships
NOTTINGHAM



*The flags opening ceremony.
Right: Wales supporters.*

IOC Interest

For the two days of closed competitions, we also welcomed a special guest, Mrs. Tania Tchea from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), who attended to observe the high level of competition and the sport's global appeal. Her visit underscores the growing recognition of Tug of War on the world stage. The Tug of War International Federation (TWIF) continues to advocate for the sport's re-introduction to the Olympic Games, highlighting its rich history, inclusivity, and international reach. Mrs Chea was impressed by the inclusivity of our sport, with men and women of all ages all competing together on the same stage.

A Tribute to Tony Martin

A special moment of reflection during the championships was the tribute to Tony Martin, with the presentation of a new perpetual trophy to the winners of the new men's 600kg weight class, which was donated by his family.

Tony was a former Chairman and President of the English Tug of War Association and was also a former Junior Vice-President and later a Senior Vice-president of TWIF. It was therefore fitting that this trophy was awarded for the first time at a World Championships in England.

We were honoured to be visited by Tony's wife Sue, who herself served the sport as an official, being a TOWA and TWIF recorder. We were delighted that Sue was able to attend and present the trophy and also the medals the men's 600kg world championships medallists.

Beyond the Rope: Media, Streaming & Atmosphere

One of the highlights of Nottingham was the strong media coverage and the live streaming setup. The Tug of War 2025 broadcast allowed fans around the world to follow the championships in real time. Locally, the stream was beamed into Nottingham City Centre, helping bring the competition to more of the general public and giving the event renewed visibility in the host city.

Social media played its part too: encouraging local spectators to turn up to the event and watch, updates, behind-the-scenes content, images and stories flowed through Facebook and other channels, engaging supporters near and far. National, local and regional press outlets embraced the event wholeheartedly, bringing stories of athletes, upsets, and community energy to broader audiences.



Sue Martin presents the perpetual trophy to the gold winner of the Men's 600 kg, Basque Country. The perpetual trophy is in memory of her husband Tony Martin, who was a member of TWIF exco from 1999 - 2015. From 1999 - 2007 he was Vice President and from 2007 - 2015 he was the Senior Vice President.

With good crowds in attendance, the on-site atmosphere was electric. Crowds cheered, flags flew, pullers battled hard, coaches urged their teams on.

Thanks & Tribute

To every puller who stood on the rope, from seasoned veterans to the youngest juniors: thank you. Your effort, tenacity, and sportsmanship made this championship shine. To the teams and national associations who travelled from near and far and competed at their best: your presence elevated us all.

To the University of Nottingham, thank you for having us. The ground conditions were excellent, made for good tug of war, and having everything in one location helped to make life easier for the competitors.

To the officials, judges, recorders, marshals, technical crews, and behind-the-scenes staff: your professionalism and commitment kept the event fair, timely, and smoothly run.



To the volunteers - those organising the event over months and years, those guiding teams, serving spectators, clearing up, helping with logistics, managing accreditation, stewarding - your contribution is immeasurable.

To the families, friends, supporters, host city Nottingham and the local communities: your warmth, hospitality and energy turned this from a sporting tournament into a gathering of shared passion.

Looking Ahead

As the ropes are packed away in Nottingham, we look forward with anticipation. Warmest congratulations and best wishes to Chinese Taipei, as they prepare to host the 2026 World Indoor Championships. May your event be compelling, inclusive and memorable.

Similarly, to South Africa, host of the 2026 World Outdoor Championships: our full support and confidence go to your organising teams, your volunteers and your pullers. We are sure that both of next year's hosts will create a stage worthy of the global Tug of War community.

WORLD OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
500W	Chinese Taipei	Switzerland	England
540W	Chinese Taipei	Sweden	England
560M	Switzerland	Basque Country	Netherlands
600M	Basque Country	Switzerland	Germany
640M	England	Switzerland	Italy
680M	Switzerland	Sweden	Belgium
580MX	Switzerland	Germany	Italy
560JM	South Africa	Chinese Taipei	Belgium
560MXU23	England	Chinese Taipei	Basque Country
600MU23	Switzerland	South Africa	England
520JMX	Chinese Taipei	South Africa	Belgium
480JW	Chinese Taipei	South Africa	England
500WU23	Chinese Taipei	England	Scotland

WORLD OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL TABLE

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Chinese Taipei	5	2	
2	Switzerland	4	3	
6	England	2	1	4
3	South Africa	1	3	
5	Basque Country	1	1	1
9	Sweden		2	
4	Germany		1	1
7	Belgium			3
9	Italy			2
8	Netherlands			1
11	Scotland			1

OPEN CLUB COMPETITION RESULTS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
500W	Jingmei Dai Shi dai (TPE)	Stans Oberdorf (SWI)	Dai Shi dai Jingmei (TPE)
540W	Jingmei Dai Shi dai (TPE)	Bedford Ladies (ENG)	Gaztedi (BAS)
600M	Sins (SWI)	TTV Veenseboys (NED)	Stans-Oberdorf (SWI)
560M	Gaztedi (BAS)	Goiherri (BAS)	SZC Luthern (SWI)
640M	Lincoln (ENG)	Engelberg (SWI)	De Valleitrekters (NED)
680M	Lincoln (ENG)	Engelberg (SWI)	De Valleitrekters (NED)
580MX	Fam. Janssens Retie (BEL)	TTV Power Rangers (BEL)	De Valleitrekters (NED)
600MU23	Bosley (ENG)	Valsbaai (RSA)	TZC Eschbachtal (GER)
500WU23	Jingmei Dai shi dai (TPE)	Goiherri (BAS)	Anstey (ENG)
560 MXU23	Kilroe (ENG)	Helderberg (RSA)	Goiherri (BAS)
520 JMX	Fam. Janssens Retie (BEL)	Yingge-Shou Shan (TPE)	Martins Minions (ENG)
560 JM	Shou Shan (TPE)	TTV De Berketrekters (BEL)	Oakdale A (RSA)
480 JW	Jingmei Sanshing (TPE)	Melkbosstrand (RSA)	Upper Eden (ENG)

**To everyone in our Tug of War family -
let us carry forward the momentum, the connections,
and the spirit poured into Nottingham.
Let's aim for brighter media reach, fuller attendance,
ever stronger competition, and above all,
continued friendship.
Thank you, one and all, for making Nottingham 2025
a championship to remember.**

OPEN CLUB MEDAL TABLE

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1	Chinese Taipei	5	1	1
2	England	4	1	3
3	Belgium	2	2	0
4	Switzerland	1	3	2
5	Basque Contry	1	2	2
6	South Africa	0	3	1
7	Netherlands	0	1	3
8	Germany	0	0	1



*David (Dai) Evans from Wales retired as TWIF judge after 15 years of judging.
He finished his career as assistant chief judge in Nottingham. Thank you David for all that you have done for TWIF.*



TWIF FLAG HANDOVER: Taiwan Prepares to Host the World

At the closing ceremony of the World Tug of War Championships in Nottingham, UK, Ms. Christine Yang, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association, solemnly received the symbolic TWIF flag from the President of TWIF.

This ceremony not only marked the conclusion of an exciting global championship, but also entrusted Taiwan with the honor and responsibility of hosting the event for the very first time.

The upcoming championships in Taipei are met with great attention and enthusiasm from both the government and the general public.

Taiwan is ready to welcome teams from around the world, sharing our warmth, hospitality, and passion for sports. Every detail of the event will be carefully prepared, ensuring that athletes, officials, and spectators alike can fully enjoy this international sporting experience.

The flag handover symbolizes more than a transfer of responsibility - it represents a commitment to excellence, friendship, and the creation of a memorable chapter in Taiwan's sporting history.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Taipei next year!

PREPARING FOR 2026: 2025 Taipei International Indoor Tug of War Invitational

CHRISTINE YANG

With a rich history spanning over 20 years, the 2025 Taipei International Indoor Tug of War Invitational continues to uphold its tradition as one of the most prestigious events in the tug of war community. **The event will take place from November 22 to 23, 2025, at the National Taiwan Sport University in Taoyuan City, Taiwan, attracting athletes and fans from around the world.**

This year, the competition not only celebrates athletic ex-

cellence but also serves as an important test event for the upcoming 2026 Taipei World Tug of War Championships.

The invitational will host distinguished guests from the Tug of War International Federation, including Senior Vice President Pete Dyer, alongside internationally recognized judges David Kitchener from England and Andreas Koch from Switzerland. Their presence underscores the global standard and professionalism of the event.

Several countries are expected to

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Teams practising for the 2025 Taipei International Indoor Tug of War Invitational.

send their top teams, including Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, etc. - all close friends of Taiwan - bringing fierce competition and international camaraderie to Taoyuan.

Participants and spectators alike can look forward to thrilling matches, showcasing teamwork, strategy, and the enduring spirit of Tug of War. As Taipei prepares to welcome

the world in 2026, this year's invitational provides a valuable opportunity to fine-tune logistics, test facilities, and ensure a world-class experience for athletes and fans.

The event promises not only exciting competition but also a glimpse into the preparation and dedication required to host a world championship.

Countdown to the 2026 World Indoor Tug of War Championships in Taipei Championships!

Welcome to Taipei – where the 2026 World Indoor Tug of War Championships will be the most memorable and rewarding experience you will ever have.

From March 12 to 15, 2026, the pinnacle of the Tug of War sport will take place in Taipei, Taiwan, marking the very first time this prestigious event is hosted in the country. Athletes, officials, and fans from around the world are invited to join this milestone moment

Venue: Taipei Arena: The Taipei Arena, located in the heart of the city, is a world-class venue for international sports and cultural events. It not only offers top facilities but also great convenience - restaurants, cafés, and convenience stores are available inside, while the lively

neighborhood outside provides plenty of dining and shopping options.

Getting to Taipei International visitors arrive via **Taoyuan International Airport (TPE)**, only 35 - 45 minutes from downtown. The city's **Taipei Metro (MRT)** makes travel effortless, with clean, efficient connections linking the Arena, hotels, and major attractions.

Affordable Packages for Participating Teams To support all participating teams, the Organizing Committee is offering **affordable and**

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all-inclusive packages designed for every team and delegation. These packages are arranged with both convenience and cost-efficiency in mind.

Packages include: • Accreditation • Comfortable hotel accommodation • Daily breakfast and dinner • Transfers between hotels, the competition venue, and the airport

Special Offer: A discount will be granted to each **puller** from national teams representing countries that have **never participated** in the World Indoor Tug of War Championships, making this milestone event even more welcoming and inclusive.

Experience Taipei Beyond the competition, Taipei offers a unique cultural journey. From the world famous **Taipei 101** skyscraper to lively night markets and authentic street food, visitors can explore both modern city life and rich traditions. Warm hospitality, excellent infrastructure, and endless sightseeing opportunities make Taipei an unforgettable destination.

Be Part of History The 2026 World Indoor Tug of War Championships is more than a competition - it is a celebration of **strength, teamwork, and unity**.

Join us in Taipei as athletes from across the globe come together to showcase the spirit of Tug of War in one of Asia's most dynamic cities. We look forward to welcoming the world. Join us in Taipei – your journey at the 2026 World Indoor Tug of War Championships will be one to remember!

CHRISTINE YANG

Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association