

ALBANIAN NATIONAL
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2024

Institutional activity and sporting achievements

2024

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Message from the President

Fidel Ylli

President of the Albanian National Olympic Committee

Original address from Team Albania 2024–2025, p. 11. This shared retrospective message covers the presidential term and both magazine years; it was not written separately for this annual report.

This third issue of ‘Team Albania’ marks a significant milestone for me as President of the Albanian NOC and for the Albanian Olympic movement at large. It represents the culmination of a successful term defined by fulfilled promises, achieved goals, and the widespread growth of the Olympic movement across our nation.

When I took on the challenge of leading our nation’s top sports organization in Spring 2021, my primary goal was to secure Albania’s first-ever Olympic medal. It was a dream I had carried since my time as an athlete. The night of August 10th brought the greatest sporting thrill of my life: Albania made history with its first Olympic medal. Only 24 hours later, that number grew to two, a result of the immense talent and dedication of athletes Chermen Valiev and Islam Dudaev, supported by the Wrestling Federation and its President, Sahit Prizreni.

Paris represents a success story that will leave an eternal mark on Albanian sports. This is not only due to the achievement of our first two medals, but because Team Albania was represented in the best possible way, excelling both in competitive results and in promoting our national image in the global arena

The Paris medals are not the only ones; on the contrary, they are the peak of a mountain of medals that talented athletes across many different disciplines have brought home over the last four years. We count over 650 medals across all sporting categories, in championships, tournaments, and major World, European, and Balkan events. These are significant achievements by talented and dedicated athletes, resulting from the tireless work of coaches and federation leaders. The Albanian NOC has always been by their side, supporting and promoting them with great care.

The Sports Teams in Schools project has proven just as successful, representing one of the most important sporting developments of the past three decades. This initiative has revitalized the Olympic movement over the last three years, involving approximately 12,000 children nationwide each year. Following the excellent results in volleyball and basketball, we are prepared to introduce additional disciplines, including chess, athletics, gymnastics, table tennis, wrestling, and weightlifting. This progress is made possible by the vital support of the government and the Ministry of Education and Sports.

Message from the President continued

After years of isolation, the National Olympic Committee is now present across the global Olympic arena, thanks to a serious and persistent sports diplomacy that has fostered partnerships with Olympic committees across all continents. The home of Albanian sport has hosted hundreds of high-profile personalities, ranging from presidents of the highest world, European, Mediterranean, Balkan, and Islamic organizations to presidents and secretaries of federations from around the globe. Over the past four years, Tirana and many other cities have hosted and organized World, European, and Balkan championships, as well as major international tournaments. Beyond the beauty of the competition, these events have promoted Albania to the entire world. I must specifically highlight the Giro d'Italia, the World Championships in Wrestling and Weightlifting, the World Wrestling Congress, and the Balkan Congresses for Weightlifting, Cycling, and Volleyball.

Our athletes have received unprecedented support during this term, benefiting from Olympic scholarships, sports equipment, rewards, and greater visibility. I personally haven't missed a single competition, locally and internationally, supporting all sports whether Olympic or non-Olympic. Furthermore, we have focused heavily on the Olympic movement itself, thus bringing through the Olympic Academy an Olympic spirit to every corner of the nation.

Infrastructure investments have increased significantly, with more gyms, weight rooms, wrestling mats, platforms, and other supporting facilities. This is only the beginning, as the Albanian NOC projects and goals remains ambitious, in particular the construction of the Olympic City, which is going to be the largest sporting investment in the country.

Every passing day paves the way for a new challenge. And the Albanian NOC, as the umbrella of Albanian sport, continues its journey with a clear vision: to grow the Olympic Movement, to elevate sport, to promote Albania, and to make it a better place. We have built solid foundations for a bright future, where together, we will go faster, higher, and stronger!

Source: Team Albania, issue 03, p. 11. Original wording retained; PDF extraction artefacts and line breaks corrected. The "over 650 medals" statement refers to four years, not one annual reporting period.

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How to read the report

References marked M identify pages in the supplied magazine. Supplementary date confirmations are listed at the end. Figures labelled by season or programme edition retain that period and are not treated as separate calendar-year totals.

Executive review

Albania achieved its first Olympic medals at Paris 2024. Chermen Valiev and Islam Dudaev won bronze in men’s freestyle wrestling on successive days, establishing the central sporting achievement of the year. The eight athletes representing Albania competed across four sports, combining qualified entries with invitation places. The results gave the Albanian National Olympic Committee a new platform for athlete recognition, public engagement and international representation. [M27–33]

The year also demonstrated Albania’s capacity to receive international sporting events and institutions. Taekwondo, judo, underwater photography and videography, and road running brought international participants to Albanian venues. The World Wrestling Congress and the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association’s meetings extended this role from competition delivery to international sports governance. [M54–62, M81, M99–100, M131]

Principal results

Indicator	Reported result	Reporting basis
Olympic medals	2 bronze	Paris 2024
Olympic delegation	8 athletes in 4 sports	Paris 2024 roster
Entry routes	4 qualified and 4 invited	Magazine delegation account
International medals across sports	More than 100	President’s assessment of 2024 at the recognition gala
ISSA participation	More than 250 delegates from 57 member countries	December 2024 meetings in Tirana

The Olympic medals and the wider sporting results should be read separately. The magazine does not provide a reconciled medal register for all federations; its “more than 100” figure is an attributed institutional statement, not an independently audited total. [M14–16]

Institutional assessment

The clearest achievement was the connection between individual sporting performance and national visibility. The next institutional challenge is to turn that visibility into sustained athlete development, stronger federation reporting and measurable participation opportunities. The report records documented activities and distinguishes the Committee’s coordination and representation from results delivered by athletes and federations.

Scope of this report

This report covers activities identifiable as taking place in 2024. The President’s opening address is reproduced from the joint 2024–2025 magazine and retains its wider retrospective perspective. Sporting seasons and undated programme accounts are explicitly identified where relevant. Financial statements, expenditure totals and an audit opinion are outside the supplied material.

Paris 2024 delegation

Eight athletes represented Albania in athletics, swimming, shooting and wrestling. Four entered through qualification and four through invitations. Wrestling supplied three of the eight athletes, while athletics and swimming each supplied two and shooting one. This profile shows the composition of a single Olympic delegation; it does not measure national participation or federation membership. [M32–33]

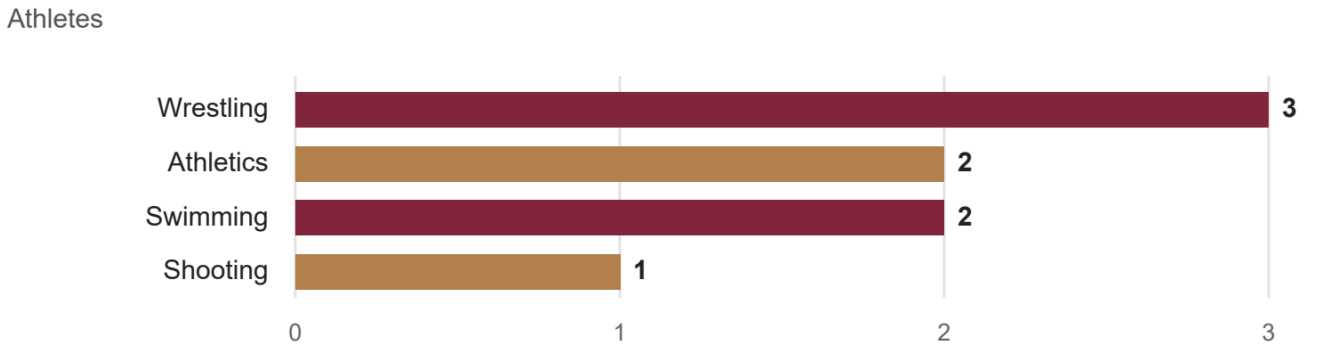


Figure 1. Athletes by sport at Paris 2024. Source: Team Albania, pp. 32–33. Total: eight athletes.

Athlete	Discipline or event	Result reported in the magazine
Chermen Valiev	Wrestling 74 kg	Bronze medal
Islam Dudaev	Wrestling 65 kg	Bronze medal
Zelimkhan Abakarov	Wrestling 57 kg	Eighth place
Luiza Gega	Athletics 3000 m steeplechase	Ninth in her heat
Franko Burraj	Athletics 100 m	Second in preliminary round and eighth in heat
Grisi Koxhaku	Swimming 100 m freestyle	62nd overall
Kaltra Meça	Swimming 200 m freestyle	27th overall
Manjola Konini	Shooting 25 m pistol	37th place

The roster preserves the magazine’s event-level descriptions. Heat positions and overall classifications are different measures and are not combined into a single ranking.

Olympic results and delegation support

Albania’s first Olympic medals

Chermen Valiev secured bronze in the 74 kg freestyle category on 10 August. Islam Dudaev followed with bronze in the 65 kg category on 11 August. Their performances delivered the first Olympic medals for Albania and placed wrestling at the centre of the country’s Paris campaign. The magazine credits the athletes’ preparation and determination, together with the work of the Wrestling Federation and its President, Sahit Prizreni. [M27–31]

Zelimkhan Abakarov’s eighth place in the 57 kg category completed the wrestling delegation’s results. The report treats each result individually and does not infer performance targets, budgets or support allocations that are absent from the source. [M32–33]

Athletes by entry route

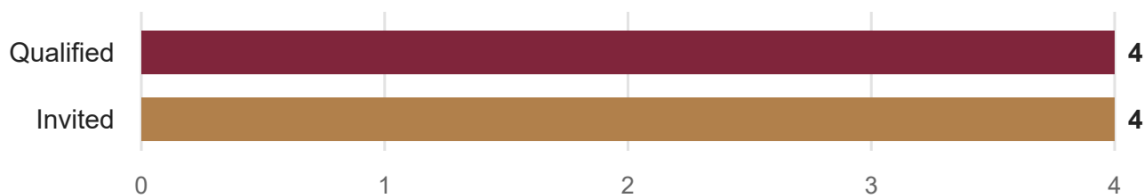


Figure 2. Olympic entry routes as reported in the magazine. Four qualified athletes and four invited athletes; eight in total. Source: pp. 32–33.

Representation and preparation

The flag handover was associated with the French National Day celebrations and cooperation with the French Embassy. Ambassador Catherine Suard participated in the institutional setting around the delegation’s departure. Team Albania used coordinated uniforms, equipment and visual material to give the athletes a consistent national identity. [M40]

These activities supported the delegation’s public presentation and helped connect Olympic participation with wider diplomatic and communications work. The magazine describes athlete support through scholarships, equipment, rewards and visibility across the presidential term, but does not provide a 2024 allocation by athlete or a total cost of the Paris mission. [M11]

Recognition after the Games

The medallists received a government reception and Medals of Public Gratitude. The magazine also records international recognition through an ANOC award in Portugal for Albania’s first Olympic medals. These acknowledgements extended the public significance of the results beyond the competition itself. [M29–31, M41]

Recognition of sporting achievement

The Sports Stars 2024 gala recognised achievements across Olympic and non-Olympic disciplines. Its coverage looks back on 2024 and forward to 2025; this report treats it as recognition of the reporting year rather than evidence that the ceremony itself occurred within 2024. President Fidel Ylli’s address at the event referred to more than 100 medals during 2024. [M14–16]

The published roster names 19 honourees across eleven disciplines. The distribution below counts people on that roster. It is not a count of medals won, awards received per person or all successful Albanian athletes.

Named honourees

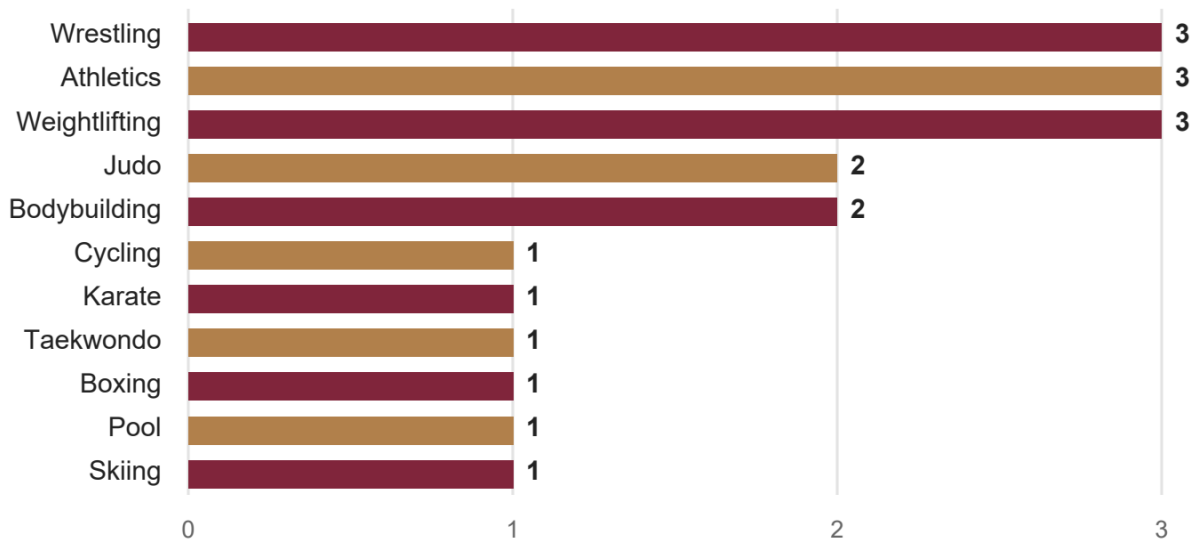


Figure 3. Named Sports Stars 2024 honourees by discipline. Source: p. 16. Chart calculated from the published list of 19 names.

Wrestling was represented by Chermen Valiev, Islam Dudaev and Zelimkhan Abakarov; athletics by Luiza Gega, Franko Burraj and David Nikolli; and weightlifting by Briken Calja, Erkand Qerimaj and Kristi Ramadani. Judo’s honourees were Indrit Çullhaj and Erisa Brahimaj, while Marjan Hoxha and Xhesi Loci represented bodybuilding. [M16]

The remaining honourees were Nelia Kabetaj in cycling, Orges Arifi in karate, Ernest Merdanaj in taekwondo, Alban Beqiri in boxing, Eklent Kaçi in pool and Lara Colturi in skiing. Together, the roster shows the breadth of disciplines represented in the Committee’s recognition programme. [M16]

The ceremony also brought together public authorities and sporting leaders. Its institutional value lay in acknowledging athletes and the coaching and federation structures behind their results, while presenting a shared account of Albanian sporting achievement.

International events hosted in Albania

The magazine identifies a sequence of international events in 2024, with activity extending beyond Tirana to Saranda. The events differed substantially in size and format. Participation figures are therefore presented by event and are not aggregated as unique visitors or economic impact. [M99–100]

Period	Event and location	Participation or significance reported
September	Albanian Open G1 taekwondo	More than 900 athletes from 48 countries
October	Junior Balkan judo championship in Tirana	Regional youth competition
October	Underwater photography and videography championships in Saranda	20th photography and sixth videography editions
20 October	Tirana Marathon	Eighth edition
November	European cadet and children’s taekwondo championships	More than 1,100 athletes from 43 countries

Delivery across different sporting settings

Indoor combat-sport events required competition venues, technical officiating and delegation services. The marathon involved an urban route and public participation environment, while the underwater events depended on coastal conditions and specialist sporting expertise. This range illustrates the variety of hosting capabilities described in the magazine.

International events also created opportunities for Albanian athletes and technical personnel to participate in competitions at home. However, the source does not quantify the local workforce, volunteer contribution, visitor nights or event expenditure. No tourism or economic return has therefore been estimated in this report.

Institutional responsibilities

The events belong to the wider national sporting calendar. They should not all be represented as competitions organised solely by the NOC. Federations, public authorities, local hosts and international governing bodies performed different roles. The magazine presents these events as evidence of Albania’s growing place in international sport, alongside the Committee’s representation and relationship-building work.

A basis for future reporting

For subsequent editions, a common event return would allow each host to record participants, countries, officials, volunteers and expenditure using consistent definitions. This is a reporting recommendation, not a claim that such a system operated in 2024.

International assemblies and sports diplomacy

Islamic Solidarity Sports Association meetings

Tirana hosted the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association's meetings from 16 to 18 December 2024. The magazine records more than 250 delegates from 57 member countries, the 41st Executive Board meeting and the 13th General Assembly. It describes Albania as the first host in South Eastern Europe. [M54–62]

The presence of Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki Al Faisal and other international representatives placed the meetings within a wider programme of sports diplomacy. The programme gave Albanian institutions direct contact with national Olympic committees and sports leaders from a broad geographical network.

The discussions included future cooperation and the Olympic City proposal. Expressions of support and potential financing opportunities are reported as discussions. The supplied magazine does not establish a signed financing package, a construction contract or a completed investment arising from these meetings.

World Wrestling Congress

The World Wrestling Congress in Shijak brought international governing-body activity to Albania alongside the country's competitive progress in the sport. The magazine identifies representation from 117 countries. Federation coverage places the Congress within 2024. [M81, M131]

The Congress is significant as an institutional event in its own right. It reflects Albania's role as a host of sporting governance and provided a setting for contact between federation representatives and international leadership. It should be distinguished from the medals won by individual wrestlers and from the organisation of championship competitions.

European Olympic cooperation

The Committee's participation in the 44th EOC Seminar in Budva connected the post-Paris period with discussion of artificial intelligence, gender equality and sustainability. The host Olympic committee confirms the seminar took place in September 2024. [M114; S1]

These topics are relevant to the management of national Olympic organisations: digital tools can support administration and communications, while equality and sustainability require objectives and evidence beyond event attendance. The magazine documents participation in the exchange; it does not demonstrate adoption of a specific new NOC policy in each area.

Relationship building

The source also records contacts in Bahrain around international weightlifting. Taken together, the year's meetings show an active representation agenda. The appropriate institutional measure is the documented engagement itself; subsequent funding, athlete exchanges or technical assistance should be recorded only when delivery can be demonstrated. [M113]

Athlete development and grassroots foundations

The magazine places elite results within a broader development approach combining athlete assistance, school sport, coaching and Olympic education. Its President's address describes scholarships, equipment, rewards and visibility across the full presidential term. These are relevant institutional foundations, but the source does not separate their 2024 financial value or beneficiary count. [M11]

Sports Teams in Schools

Volleyball and basketball form the established base of the Sports Teams in Schools project. The programme brings organised activity into schools and connects children's participation with coaches, local structures and national competitions. The magazine describes a system of individual child records covering physical measurements, periodic health checks and performance tracking. [M44]

The third-edition totals of 10,647 students, 826 teams and 295 schools are presented in the companion 2025 report as explicitly labelled programme-edition data. They are not claimed here as calendar-year 2024 results. This distinction avoids counting the same programme population as a separate annual achievement in both reports.

Coaching and technical standards

The programme account describes continued training for both new and experienced coaches, with national and international specialists. This links participation growth with the quality of supervision and sporting instruction. The magazine's separate training totals relate to the programme account and are not independently dated annual workforce totals. [M44, M48]

Olympic education and inclusion

The Olympic Academy is described as a vehicle for spreading Olympic values and increasing engagement with the Olympic movement. Journalism training and other educational activities appear in the joint publication, but activities without a clear 2024 date are retained as period context rather than added to the year's event chronology. [M11, M116]

Development priorities arising from the record

The combination of Olympic achievement and school participation offers a practical development pathway: introduce children to sport, improve coaching, identify talent and support progression through federations. The magazine demonstrates activity at several points in this pathway but does not track a cohort from school participation into elite competition.

A more complete institutional account would connect these stages through consistent participation definitions, retention measures, coach qualifications and athlete progression records. Such measures would help assess the lasting effect of the Olympic results without assuming that visibility alone produces increased participation.

Federation activity during 2024

Wrestling and athletics

Wrestling delivered the two Olympic bronze medals and eighth place in Paris. The federation’s account also records Islam Dudaev’s European title in 2024 and four gold medals and one bronze at Balkan youth level in the U15 and U17 categories. These results indicate competitive activity beyond the Olympic delegation. [M130–131]

Athletics was represented at Paris by Luiza Gega and Franko Burraj. Their appearances gave Albania entries in distance obstacle running and sprinting. Gega, Burraj and David Nikolli were subsequently included in the roster recognising 2024 sporting achievement. [M16, M32–33, M128]

Combat sports

Taekwondo’s international hosting programme included the Albanian Open in September and the European cadet and children’s events in November. The federation narrative spans June 2024 to June 2025, so preparation and tournament activity described across that whole period are not treated as a discrete 2024 total. [M99–100, M156]

Judo’s calendar included the junior Balkan event in Tirana in October and a national cup in November. Karate held the Ambassadors Cup in November and activities associated with 28 November. These entries demonstrate both international and domestic competition opportunities within the year. [M99, M151–152]

Other dated domestic activity

The magazine identifies the Golden Cue billiards event in June 2024, national high-speed telegraphy and cup activity in October, and the Berat Cup in gymnastics in November. Each forms part of the documented federation calendar; none is used to infer participation or medal totals not stated for that event. [M153, M155, M168]

Federation area	Dated 2024 activity	Reference
Judo	Junior Balkan event and November cup	M99 and M151
Karate	November Ambassadors Cup and national celebrations	M152
Billiards	Golden Cue event in June	M155
Radio sport	October national and cup competitions	M153
Gymnastics	Berat Cup in November	M168

Federation results remain the achievements of the athletes, clubs and governing bodies concerned. Their inclusion provides a national sporting overview within the NOC’s annual institutional report, without assigning the Committee operational responsibility for every competition.

Seasonal activity and reporting boundaries

Several federation accounts in the magazine cover the 2024–2025 sporting season. This report recognises their relevance to the national sporting system while preserving the published period. They are not added to the annual indicators for 2024. [M140–170]

Area	Information in the joint magazine	Treatment in this report
Skiing	Lara Colturi’s 2024–2025 season and national championship activity	Season results analysed in the 2025 report
Basketball	League, cup, super cup and Liga Unike results	Retained as 2024–2025 season context
Handball	HK Elbasani’s title and Independence Cup	Retained as season context
Shooting	12 national and nine international activities	Not presented as calendar-year totals
Bodybuilding	Seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals	Season aggregate only
Table tennis	Distribution of 40 tables	Programme-period provision, not an annual asset purchase total

Why the period matters

Annual reporting requires a consistent boundary. A season can begin in one calendar year and end in the next; an educational programme can also cross that boundary. Allocating its entire result to both years would overstate activity. Dividing a season total in half would be equally unsupported.

This report therefore uses exact dates where the source supplies them, identifies explicitly stated years and preserves season or edition labels elsewhere. The President’s reference to more than 650 medals concerns the preceding four-year term and remains within his reproduced address. It is not a 2024 medal total. [M11]

Coverage limitations

The magazine is a narrative publication rather than a complete performance database. It features selected successes, events and institutional contacts, but does not include every federation’s annual return, attendance ledger or audited financial information. An absent result in this report should not be interpreted as evidence that no activity occurred.

The same principle applies to comparisons with 2023 or 2025. No year-on-year growth rate is calculated unless the underlying measure and period are comparable. The charts in this report describe the composition of documented 2024 activity without implying a year-on-year trend.

Institutional legacy and forward priorities

Paris 2024 established a new reference point for Albanian sport. The two bronze medals supplied a concrete achievement around which the NOC, federations and public institutions could recognise excellence. International competitions and assemblies broadened Albania’s role as a sporting host, while school sport and coaching remained central to the development narrative.

Athlete preparation and support

The next reporting cycle should make athlete assistance more visible through a documented record of scholarships, technical support, equipment and competition preparation. A consistent record would help show how support reaches athletes across different sports and stages of development. This is a recommendation arising from the available evidence, not a newly approved programme.

Federation coordination

The variety of activities reported by federations demonstrates the breadth of the national sports system. Common annual reporting fields would allow the NOC to distinguish participation, international results, domestic competitions and organisational development. Medal reporting should identify the event, category and whether awards refer to an overall result or component disciplines.

Olympic legacy and participation

The public profile generated by the Paris medals provides an opportunity to strengthen links between athletes and children’s sport. School visits, athlete role models and federation pathways could connect that visibility with regular participation. Their effect should be assessed through sustained attendance and progression rather than publicity alone.

Infrastructure and international cooperation

Olympic City appears in the magazine as a strategic ambition and a subject of international discussion. For an institutional report, the appropriate next stages are to document project scope, ownership, feasibility, financing and implementation responsibilities. The supplied material does not establish that these stages were completed in 2024. [M11, M54–62]

Reporting agenda

Priority	Evidence that would support future annual reporting
Athlete support	Beneficiaries, type of assistance, period and expenditure
School sport	Unique participants, attendance, retention and programme dates
Event hosting	Entries, countries, delivery partners and verified costs
Partnerships	Signed commitments, delivery milestones and realised outputs
Financial accountability	Approved budget, actual expenditure and audited statements

These priorities build on the documented year without presenting recommendations as decisions already adopted by the Committee.

Chronology and source notes

Selected 2024 chronology

Period	Documented milestone
June	Golden Cue billiards event
July and August	Albanian delegation participates at Paris 2024
10 August	Chermen Valiev wins Olympic bronze
11 August	Islam Dudaev wins Olympic bronze
September	Albanian Open G1 taekwondo and EOC Seminar in Budva
October	Junior Balkan judo, Saranda underwater events and Tirana Marathon
October	Radio sport national and cup activity
November	European youth taekwondo, judo cup, karate and Berat gymnastics events
16–18 December	ISSA meetings in Tirana

The World Wrestling Congress is identified as a 2024 event in the federation account, but no exact date is imposed in this chronology. The Sports Stars 2024 gala recognises this year’s achievements; its ceremony is not assigned a 2024 date.

Primary publication

M refers to Team Albania 2024–2025, issue 03, English edition, supplied as “team albania 3 english interactive.pdf”. Numbers identify pages in the supplied PDF. Page references are grouped by subject below to support review.

President’s address: 11. Recognition: 14–16. Paris and delegation: 27–33 and 40–41. School sport: 44–52. ISSA: 54–62. Wrestling Congress: 81 and 131. Hosting calendar: 99–100. International cooperation: 113–114. Federation accounts: 128–170.

Supplementary date confirmation

S1. Montenegrin Olympic Committee, “The 44th EOC Seminar has ended”, 30 September 2024. Used to confirm the year of the Budva seminar. <https://cok.me/en/mne/the-44th-eoc-seminar-has-ended/>

Editorial and calculation notes

The President’s address is reproduced from the joint magazine, with extraction artefacts and line breaks corrected. Its four-year figures and references to later events remain in their original retrospective context. The three charts use published roster data: eight Olympic athletes, two entry-route groups of four, and 19 named honourees. No annual expenditure, unreported medal total or economic impact has been estimated.

Prepared as an institutional activity report from the supplied publication. It does not constitute audited financial statements or a formally approved governance record.