



Statement from Wrestlers WithOut Borders

By now all of you have heard of the cancellation of sports programs at the 2017 World Outgames (WOG) in Miami. In the wake of this event, the WWB Board of Directors would like to share some observations and information.

After surveying the membership more than a year and a half ago and finding little interest in participating in Miami 2017, the WWB board decided not to work with Outgames to promote and organize its wrestling event, as we had concerns related both to the ability of the organizers to put on a successful games in Miami and the consistent history of past problems with wrestling at Outgames.

Instead, WWB is focused on supporting successful wrestling and grappling competitors at Gay Games in Paris in 2018, in conjunction with GG10 organizing committee and Paris Lutte; as well as at club tournaments and the annual Sin City Shootout. The Federation Of Gay Games offers numerous avenues and opportunities for athletes to be represented through their sports organizations to have major roles in the planning and organization of Gay Games sports.

WWB would like to reassure all of its athletes that we have confidence that the event in Paris in 2018 will be a great experience for participants and encourage them to register now. The mechanisms the Gay Games have in place for our role in planning the tournament, and the FGG to actively work hand in hand with the Paris hosts — neither of which the Outgames have — lead us to believe the wrestling and grappling events will match the past excellence of previous Gay Games.

"WWB members have been working with Paris 2018 and Paris Lutte for more than a year, and have toured the wrestling and grappling competition venues," said Chris Lorefice, WWB Chair. "We want to encourage wrestlers and grapplers to register now and start their training, because athletes are going to have a great time in Paris." Lorefice note that competition details, including weight classes and a schedule, have been added to the Paris 2018 website.

"WWB is also working on low-cost lodging details to be released soon," he said. "We know some may be concerned about lodging cost, so we are working on ensuring affordable lodging."

Please contact WWB at info@wrestlerswob.com if you have any questions about Paris 2018 Gay Games. We look forward to seeing you there!