

# Five Iranians Nominated for World's Most Dominant Wrestler



TEHRAN – Five Iranian wrestlers have been named among the contenders for the title of the most dominant wrestler of 2025, according to the United World Wrestling (UWW).

style and Greco-Roman wrestlers, with Iran's freestyle and Greco-Roman national team members having a notable presence on this list.

Freestylers Rahman Amouzad (65 kg) and Amir Hussein Zare (125 kg) are Iran's representatives who will compete with Zaur Uguev from Russia, Zahid Valencia from the US, and Kyle Snyder from the U.S. Saeid Esmacili (67 kg), Gholam Reza Farrokhi (82 kg), and Mohammad Hadi Saravi (97 kg) are among the final nominees in Greco-Roman and will compete with Malkhas Amoyan from Armenia and Aytjan Khalmakhanov from Kazakhstan.

## U-15 Volleyballers Through Quarterfinals at World School Championship

TEHRAN - Iran's U-15 student volleyball team advanced to the quarterfinals of the World Student Championship by winning against Saudi Arabia as the head of group.

The talented Iranian boys defeated Saudi Arabia in two consecutive sets, currently underway in Shangluo, China.

Iran's team, who had previously defeated the teams of Nigeria and China, won the first set 25-18 and then the second set 25-17 in the match to advance to the



top of the group, to the final eight teams and face China A in the quarterfinals. The Persians will take on

China A student on Wednesday. And in girl category, the Iranian girls' volleyball team

produced a decisive 2-0 victory over their South American opponent Chile.

The Iranian girls' volleyball team won the first set 25-12, and then won the second set 25-18, winning the match 2-0 overall.

The Iranian girls' volleyball team, which had previously defeated India, Uganda and Bulgaria, has now secured the maximum possible points, taking the top spot in Group D with 12 points.

The Iranian girls will face Brazil on Wednesday.

## Iran's Saber Team Remains Unchanged in World Ranking



TEHRAN - Iranian saber team remains in 19th place without changing its position, as the International Fencing Federation published the latest saber rankings.

In the individual category, the saber rankings also changed due to the French Grand Prix. Nima Zahedi was the only Iranian athlete in the competitions, standing in 131st place.

The new ranking of our country's sabrists in the world rankings is as follows:

- 22- Ali Pakdaman (previous position 23)
- 95- Muhammad Fotohi (previous position 90)
- 133- Nima Zahedi (previous position 130)
- 219- Taha Kargarpour (previous position 215)
- 280- Ahmadreza Shahmiri (previous position 276)

## Sports Minister Donyamali to Attend AYPG Opening Ceremony



TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth Ahmad Donyamali will attend the opening ceremony of the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG).

The opening ceremony will be held on Wednesday at the Dubai Club for People of Determination Stadium.

Maryam Kazempour, chef de mission of Iran's delegation, said the team is determined to defend its title at the Games.

The Iranian delegation topped the medal table in the previous edition held in Bahrain.

"We've provided the best possible conditions for our athletes and will participate in the Games with the goal of defending our title. However, we know the task ahead is challenging. Iran will compete in all eleven sports with 194 participants. We have outlined three key strategies for this event. The Games serve as an excellent opportunity for athletes who are expected to compete at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya and the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. That is why we are traveling to the UAE with maximum capacity. The increase of 83 participants compared to the previous edition reflects our commitment to this strategy," Kazempour said.

She added: "One major difference between this edition and previous ones is the compressed schedule. The duration of the Games is very short, so we have carried out coordination at the highest level. For more than six months, we have held extensive meetings because we believed that given the short timeframe, strict organization was essential."

"We are sending a very young delegation to Dubai, and for 170 of our athletes, this will be their first international competition. The average age of the team is 17 years and 7 months, and our youngest athlete is a 13-year-old swimmer. More than 1,500 athletes from 35 countries are taking part in the Games, highlighting the importance and scale of the competition," she noted.

Regarding her expectations for Iran's performance, she said: "Predicting results is al-

ways difficult, but we will do our best to repeat our previous success. Our primary goal is to finish as champion or runner-up, and we will strive for the top spot. With 10 more countries participating this year compared to the last edition, the competition will be even more intense."

Kazempour also highlighted the delegation's approach to supporting female athletes. "Our policy is to give special and fair attention to Iranian women. Zahra Rahimi, who shone in Para taekwondo at the 2024 Paralympics, is a clear example of this approach. We have seen a 27% increase in female participation compared to the previous edition, and women now make up 38% of our delegation. We hope to see strong results from our female athletes as well."

The farewell ceremony for the Iranian athletic teams bound for the Dubai 2025 Asian Youth Para Games took place on the evening of Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at the Veterans and Disabled Federation in Tehran. Among the notable attendees were Ahmad Donyamali, Minister of Sport and Youth of Iran; and Ghafoor Karegari, President of Iran National Paralympic Committee (NPC).

Zahra Rahimi was chosen as the flag-bearer of Iran at the Para Games.

Rahimi, a top Para Taekwondo, made history at the 2024 Paris Paralympics by winning a silver medal. She became the first Iranian woman to win a medal in the sport and the youngest Paralympic medalist in Iran's history, exemplifying skill, determination, and the next generation of Para athletic excellence.

A total of 1,500 young para-athletes from 35 nations will compete in the Games' fifth edition.

From December 10-13, competition will unfold across 11 sports at eight world-class venues, combining elite sport with an unwavering message of inclusion and empowerment.

Among the largest contingents are from Iran (195 athletes), Uzbekistan (124), Thailand (122), plus representatives from India (122) and host nation the United Arab Emirates (55).

## Women Handball Team Fails to Beat Uruguay at President's Cup

TEHRAN - Iran's women's handball team lost to Uruguay 27-16 in Group I of the President's Cup Monday.

The Iranian women's handball team, which was placed in Group A in the

President's Cup, had previously lost to Paraguay and Croatia.

Iran's opponent to determine the final position of the teams will be determined after tonight's games.

