

Team Kenya Newsletter



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#InspiringTheNation

LA 2028 Olympic

INSIDE:

RUGBY
SCHOLASHIP PROGRAMME
NOCK LEADERSHIP

EMPOWER
DARING TO DREAM
DAKAR, SENEGAL



Games of the
XXXIV Olympiad
Road to LA 2028

FORWARD

As we mark 60 days into the World Cup year, Kenya's sporting landscape is buzzing with excitement. The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) has had an eventful start to the year, launching the NOC-K Individual Athlete Scholarship Programme, a significant step towards strengthening Kenya's preparation pathway to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

February particularly been a standout month, with Kenya Sevens securing third place in the HSBC SVNS2, showcasing their prowess on the international stage.

The Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing in January has also provided a platform for Kenyan athletes to shine, with Njoroge Kibugu and Naomi Wafula earning the Sunshine Tour and SunshineLadiesTour cards respectively.

Notably, Kibugu (22) was the only Kenyan to make the cut in the Magical Kenya Open presented by Absa, finishing T61 – a remarkable achievement that highlights the potential of young Kenyan golfers.

As golf is an Olympic sport, the SDT provides an awesome avenue for Kenyan pros to earn Official World Ranking Points (OWRP) through the Sunshine Tour and the development tour ranks, offering a long-term opportunity to secure the elusive golf Olympic qualification dream.

NOC-K has been actively engaged in various initiatives, including the establishment of an Olympiafrica Sports Centre in partnership with Koitalel University College, aimed at promoting Olympic values and youth empowerment.

The #TeamKenya High Performance Pathway Programme is also underway, focusing on building strong systems and technical excellence.

We congratulate Humphrey Kayange on his election as the second Vice-Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, a testament to his dedication to Kenyan sports. Other notable achievements include Kinoti Kiara's triumph as the new Africa Cadet and Junior Champion in fencing, and Faith Kipyegon's impressive road debut in the Monaco Run.

As we look ahead to LA 2028, NOCK remains committed to supporting Kenyan athletes and nurturing talent. We are proud of our athletes' achievements and look forward to continued success.



NOC-K LEADERSHIP CHAMPIONS ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT AT NATIONAL ATHLETE FORUM

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) leadership, led by President Shadrack Maluki, 1st Deputy President Barnaba Korir, Secretary General John Ogolla, Deputy Secretary General Francis Karugu, and Athlete Representative Eliud Kipchoge, this week graced the National Athlete Forum and the **Athlete 365 Career+ Programme**.

The high-level engagement underscored NOC-K's commitment to supporting athletes not only in competition but throughout their entire career journey — including life beyond sport.

Throughout the week-long programme, athletes were equipped with essential skills designed to prepare them for sustainable success off the field. The sessions focused on career planning, personal branding, transition strategies, financial awareness, and growth opportunities, ensuring athletes are empowered to navigate both present and future challenges.

Speaking during the forum, NOC-K President Shadrack Maluki emphasized the Organisations holistic approach to athlete development.

“Our responsibility goes beyond preparing athletes for the podium. We are committed to ensuring they are fully equipped for life beyond competition. Programmes like the Athlete Week and the Athlete 365 Career+ provide practical tools that empower our athletes to thrive in every stage of their lives.”

1st Deputy President Barnaba Korir highlighted the importance of early preparation for career transition.

“An athlete’s career in sport is limited in time, but their potential beyond sport is limitless. By investing in career planning and personal development, we are securing stronger futures for our athletes.”

Athlete Representative Eliud Kipchoge encouraged participants to embrace long-term growth alongside sporting excellence.

“Sport teaches discipline, resilience, and focus. When we combine these qualities with proper career planning and personal development, we build champions not only in sport, but in life.”

The National Athlete Forum also provided a platform for dialogue between athletes and sports administrators, fostering collaboration and strengthening athlete representation within the Olympic movement in Kenya.

The empowered athletes emerging from the forum are expected to leverage the knowledge and skills gained to build stronger futures — on and off the field.

NOC-K LAUNCHES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME TO BOOST LA28 OLYMPIC HOPES

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) on Wednesday, 7 January 2026, officially launched the NOC-K Individual Athlete Scholarship Programme marking a significant step in strengthening Kenya's preparation pathway towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

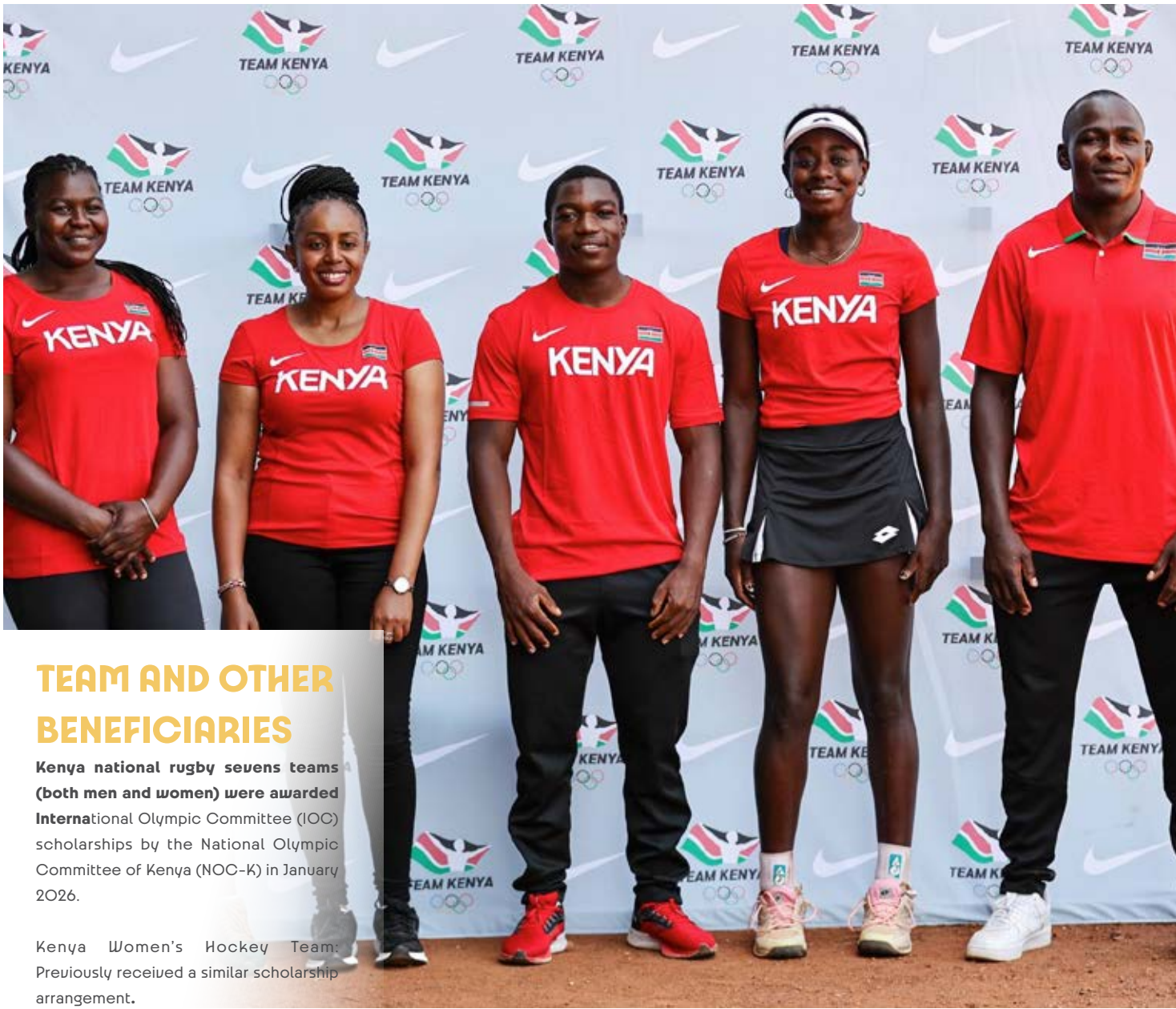
The programme, implemented in collaboration with Olympic Solidarity, is designed to provide targeted, athlete-centred support to elite Kenyan athletes with demonstrated potential to represent the country at major international competitions, including the Olympic Games.

NOCK has provided scholarships to numerous elite Kenyan athletes to support their training, coaching, and participation in international competitions for the Paris 2024 and Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycles.

LA 2028 Scholarship Recipients (Announced Jan 2026)

1. Angella Okutoyi (Tennis)
2. Priscilla Mburu Wangui (Shooting – air rifle)
3. Joshua Amunga Mboya (Weightlifting)
4. Juliana Anyango Ongonga (Weightlifting)
5. Haniel Maindi Bwaku Kudwoli (Swimming)
6. Alexandra Ndolo (Fencing)
7. Mahabila Mathayo Matonya (Wrestling)
8. Sara Faustyna Mose (Swimming)





TEAM AND OTHER BENEFICIARIES

Kenya national rugby sevens teams (both men and women) were awarded International Olympic Committee (IOC) scholarships by the National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) in January 2026.

Kenya Women's Hockey Team: Previously received a similar scholarship arrangement.

NGETICH GIFTS KENYA THE TENTH WORLD CROSS GOLD MEDAL

This is what is gotten after patience, resilience and a fighting spirit. Agnes Ngetich explicated the three virtues as she longed for a top podium after picking a bronze medal in Bathurst in 2023, a fourth place in Belgrade in 2024 and finally topping the charts on 10 January, after enduring the humid and torturous temperatures of Tallahassee. Ngetich who controlled the race from the opening lap, followed her instinct as no one was willing to follow her dangerous pace due to the disastrous humidity, over long stretches of grass and dirt, over the man-made obstacles that drained the legs and tested the mind.

Ngetich dominated the entire race as she took the honors with decisive: 42 seconds.

The win once again demonstrated the continued dominance of Kenyan women team as it placed it 10th consecutive individual women's title.

In the men's race our very own- and two-times National Cross Country champion, Daniel Ebenyo crossed the finish line in third place, earning the country a bronze medal and the first of his own over the distance.



NOC-K EMPOWERS TECHNICAL DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL COACHES



National Olympic Committee of Kenya Executives with Technical Directors and Coaches National Symposium

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) successfully convened a three-day Technical Directors and Coaches National Symposium, marking a significant milestone in the advancement of sports excellence in Kenya. The symposium brought together technical directors, national team coaches, performance experts, and key stakeholders from various sporting federations to strengthen the country's high-performance framework.

The symposium centered on five key pillars critical to modern elite sport development:

Nutrition in Elite Sport: Experts underscored the importance of evidence-based nutrition in optimizing athlete performance, recovery, and overall health. Discussions focused on individualized meal planning, hydration strategies, supplementation, and the role of nutrition in injury prevention and peak competition readiness.

High Performance Systems: Presentations highlighted the need for structured high-performance pathways that identify, develop, and transition athletes from grassroots to elite international competition. Emphasis was placed on long-term athlete development models, benchmarking against global standards, and fostering a performance-driven culture within federations.

Data Analytics in Sport: The symposium explored how data analysis is transforming modern sport. Coaches and technical directors were introduced to performance tracking tools, match and training analysis systems, athlete monitoring technologies, and the use of statistics to inform tactical decisions and improve competitive outcomes.

Injury Prevention and Athlete Welfare: Medical and performance specialists addressed strategies to minimize injury risks through

proper workload management, screening protocols, and recovery systems. The sessions reinforced the importance of safeguarding athlete health as a foundation for sustained success.

Strength and Conditioning: Strength and conditioning experts emphasized scientifically designed training programs tailored to sport-specific demands. Discussions covered biomechanics, power development, endurance conditioning, and injury-resilient training approaches to enhance overall athletic performance.

Overall, the symposium provided a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and strategic alignment among Kenya's sports leadership. By investing in technical expertise and modern performance methodologies, NOCK reaffirmed its commitment to elevating Kenya's competitiveness on the continental and global stage.



Wanjiru Karani presents a Certificate in Sports Coaching at the University of Nairobi graduation ceremony, celebrating the achievement and dedication of the graduating coaches.



Mr. Sasha Mutai (NOCK Executive Board Member) celebrating with Sports Coaching graduants at the University of Nairobi

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI STUDENTS AWARDED FULL SPONSORSHIP BY NOC-K, GRADUATES

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOCK) and the University of Nairobi have successfully partnered to deliver the inaugural Certificate Course in Sports Coaching, marking a significant milestone in the advancement of

professional sports training in Kenya.

This pioneering collaboration brought together NOCK's expertise in Olympic development and the University of Nairobi's academic excellence to equip coaches with essential knowledge, practical skills, and internationally aligned coaching standards. The program was designed to strengthen coaching capacity across various sports disciplines, enhance athlete development pathways, and promote professionalism within Kenya's sporting ecosystem.

The first cohort proudly graduated forty-one (41) coaches, demonstrating a strong commitment to elevating the quality of coaching in the country. Notably, fourteen (14) of the

graduates were fully sponsored by NOCK, underscoring the Committee's dedication to inclusivity and the empowerment of coaches from diverse backgrounds.

This achievement not only celebrates the graduates' dedication and hard work but also reinforces the shared vision of NOCK and the University of Nairobi to build sustainable sports structures, nurture talent, and position Kenya for continued success on the regional and global stage.

The collaboration sets a strong foundation for future cohorts and continued partnership in developing world-class coaching standards in Kenya.

WADA PAYS A COURTESY CALL TO NOCK

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has commended Kenya for the strides taken in the implementation of the corrective action following the 24/25 audit that had put Kenya in a watch list.

The National Olympic Committee of Kenya led by (NOC-K) 1st vice president, Barnaba Korir and Secretary General John Ogolla

received a high-level delegation from WADA led by Rodney Swigelaar (Director, Africa) at NOCK headquarters in Nairobi.

Korir re-affirmed NOCK'S commitment in aligning with the WADA recommendations, that would build a strong, more sustainable, transparent, and integrity-driven anti-doping system that aligns with the global.



DARING TO DREAM: KENYAN PROS EYE OLYMPIC GOLF GLORY



Kenya is renowned for its long- and middle-distance prowess, producing world-class runners who dominate global competitions. However, golf, a sport with a rich tradition in Kenya dating back to the colonial era, is quietly gaining momentum. Jacob Okello's near-miss at the Kenya Open in 1998 remains a cherished memory, and now, a new generation of golfers is daring to dream big –targeting Olympic qualification slots.

The Sunshine Development Tour- East Africa Swing has provided Kenyan golfers with a platform to earn Official World Ranking Points (OWRP), and Njoroge Kibugu is leading the charge. His impressive performance at the Magical Kenya Open, where he was the only Kenyan to make the cut, has sparked hope. Golfers qualify for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics based on IGF Olympic Golf Rankings, with 60 players per gender vying for a spot.

Kibugu's rise in the rankings is remarkable – he's now in the top 100 in Africa, a testament to his hard work and dedication. The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) is thrilled with his progress, and President Shadrack Maluki who was a special guest during the Sunshine Development Tour, lauded the golfing ecosystem for expanding opportunities for Kenyan athletes.

"As Team Kenya sets its sights on LA 2028 and beyond, it's encouraging to see structures that deliberately expand opportunity and global competitiveness for our athletes," Maluki said. **"Platforms like the Sunshine Development Tour East Africa Swing are doing exactly that – turning ambition into measurable progress by opening doors to world ranking points and Olympic qualification pathways."**

Naomi Wafula and Kibugu's achievements in the Sunshine Tour and Sunshine Ladies Tour is a milestone for Kenyan golf, and they have their sights set on further progression.

"It's a dream, but it's achievable," Njoroge says. **"We've got the talent, and with opportunities like the Sunshine Development Tour, we're getting closer to realizing our Olympic ambitions."** As Naomi and Kibugu prepare for the challenge ahead in the Sunshine Tour, the country watches with bated breath. Can they join the elite ranks and bring home Olympic glory? The journey has begun, and the dream is alive.

KENYA'S ISSA LABORDE MAKES WINTER OLYMPICS HISTORY



Kenya's sole representative at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics in Italy, Issa Gachiringi Laborde Fit Pere made history by being the youngest ever Kenyan to qualify into the second round of the Winter Games.

It was an impressive day for the young and upcoming 18-year-old French born athlete making his debut at the Olympic stage of two solid slalom runs.

Issa recorded a combined time of two minutes and 52.78 seconds across two runs of 1:29.57 and 1:23.21 to be placed in the 66th position overall and fourth ranked African at the Stevio Ski Centre in Bormio on Saturday, February 14th, 2026.

"I am very happy with my performance. This race for me is symbolizing hope, beginnings and new chapters in life," said Issa. **"Something**

about this place is so special, I'm really happy to be here to carry the Kenyan flag."

Issa is the third Kenyan to compete at the Winter Olympics after pioneer Philip Boit a cross-country skier and Kenya's first alpine skier Sabrina Simader who dropped out of the competition at the eleventh hour.

"In Africa, it's the beginning, so there are a lot of things to improve. Winter sports are not a preserve of European countries, maybe alpine skiing but even in Kenya, you can train and perform in other winter games sports disciplines. I hope to take part in the 2030 Winter Olympics" Issa said.

Issa was also happy when the NOC-K president, Shadrack Maluki and secretary general John Ogolla and Kenya Ski Federation president, Philip Boit graced his event and cheered him on.

NOC-K CONGRATULATES HUMPHREY KAYANGE ON IOC VICE-CHAIR APPOINTMENT



The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) extends its warmest congratulations to rugby legend Humphrey Kayange on his appointment as Vice-Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission. This prestigious appointment is a testament to Kayange's outstanding dedication, leadership, and commitment to promoting Olympic values and athlete welfare. As a

respected voice for athletes globally, Kayange's expertise will undoubtedly strengthen the IOC and inspire athletes worldwide. The new leadership team, chosen during the IOC AC meeting in Milan, will serve through to the LA28 Olympic Games. Spain's basketball star Pau Gasol was elected as chair, with Poland's cyclist Maja Włoszczowska retaining her role as first vice-chair.

NOC-K is proud of Kayange's achievement, recognizing his tireless efforts to promote Kenyan sports and his contributions to the Olympic Movement. We celebrate this milestone and look forward to his continued success in this new role. **Well done, Humphrey!**

KAYANGE'S LOWDOWN

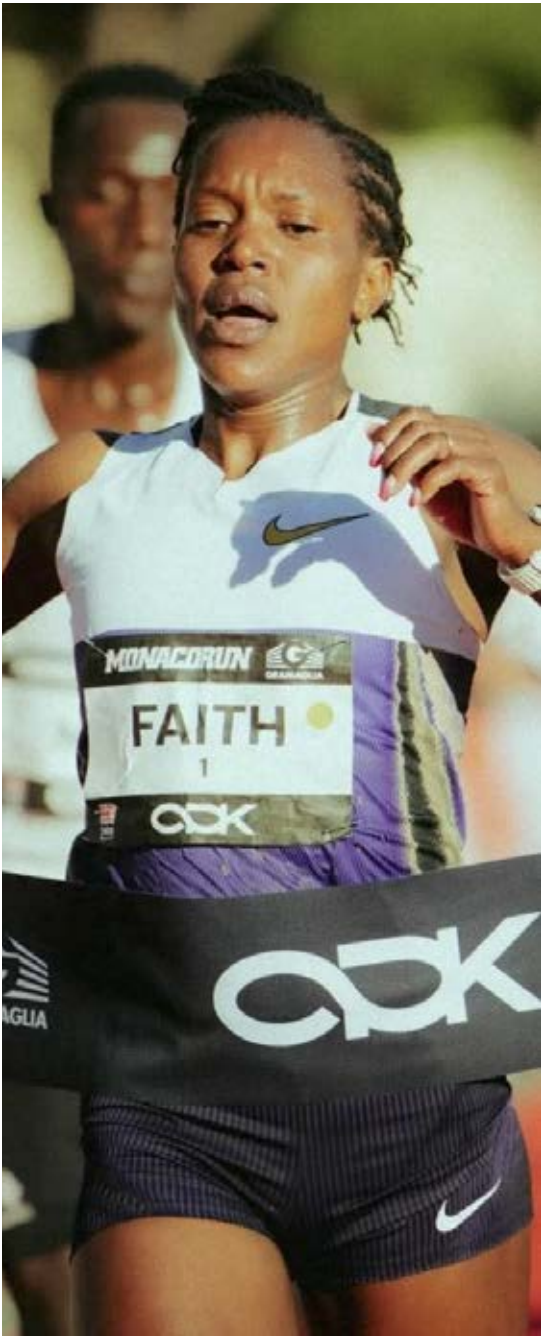
- Former Chair, National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) Athletes' Commission
- Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games
- Member of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board and Executive Committee
- Executive Board member, Kenya Academy of Sport
- Director, Kenya Rugby Union
- Former Secretary General, Mwamba Rugby Football Club

GUESS WHO’S JUST RULED THE ROOST IN DAKAR, SENEGAL?



In a stunning display of skill and determination, Kinoti Kiara from Kenya was crowned the new Africa Cadet and Junior Champion in fencing! The Kenyan athlete dominated the competition, taking on Africa's best young fencers and emerging victorious. From the first bout to the final touch, Kinoti showcased exceptional skill, composure, and tactical brilliance throughout the tournament, overcoming a highly competitive field of Africa's top cadet and junior fencers to secure the continental title. The victory marks a significant milestone for Kenyan fencing and reinforces the country's growing presence on the African stage. Kinoti Kiara's triumph reflects the dedication, discipline, and preparation invested by the

athlete, coaching team, and Kenya's fencing development programs. His gold medal performance not only elevates his profile as one of Africa's top young fencers but also inspires a new generation of athletes back home. "This victory is a proud moment for Kenya and a testament to the hard work put in by our athletes and technical team," said Fred Chege, the president of Kenya Fencing Federation. "Kinoti's achievement demonstrates that Kenya is ready to compete and win at the highest levels in Africa." The Africa Cadet & Junior Championships brought together elite youth talent from across the continent, serving as a platform for emerging stars to showcase their potential on an international stage.



WHAT A RACE!
WHAT A DEBUT!
WHAT A STATEMENT!

Tripple Olympic champion, Faith Kipyegon, made her Road Racing debut more memorable when she clocked 29:46 in the women 10km Monaco Run., a time that placed her 14th on the world all-time list and her longest distance so far. The 32-year-old who is also the World 1500m record-holder also holds the world track mile record of 4:07.64, she set in Monaco in 2023., now sits joint 14th on the world all-time list for the road 10km – her farthest race so far. Kipyegon who owns four world 1500m titles and a world 5000m crown, bolted her confidence when she said that the road journey has just began. "It's a matter of learning, to know how road works. I have been talking of doing marathon in the future, so this is the start," said Kipyegon.



ARGENTINA OFF TO FLYING START IN BACK-TO-BACK PROMOTION BID

In the women's competition, promoted HSBC SUNS 3 champions Argentina claimed the inaugural HSBC SUNS 2 tournament title despite losing their final match in Nairobi to South Africa in dramatic fashion. South Africa, who finished second after winning promotion from the HSBC SUNS 3 tournament in Dubai, and were the only side to get the better of Argentina all weekend at Nyayo National Stadium, head to South America just two points behind the leaders. Spain claimed third to take 16 league points, followed by China, with Kenya and Brazil close behind.



HSBC SUNS 2: ARGENTINA, GERMANY SHINE IN NAIROBI AS SHUJAA GETS BRONZE!

On a day of surprises in Nairobi, Argentina women's and Germany men's teams bagged HSBC SUNS 2 gold at the Nyayo National Stadium to take an early lead in the three-tournament race to the HSBC SUNS World Championship series. The two sides head to back-to-back tournaments in March in Montevideo and Sao Paulo with 20 league points under their belts courtesy of their victories. The leading four men's and women's sides after the three HSBC SUNS 2 competitions will head into the elite tri-tournament World Championship series in May and June.

GERMANY SHOCK RIVALS TO CLAIM NAIROBI TITLE



Surprise Nairobi champions Germany took an early lead in the HSBC SUNS 2 league, claiming the title in Nairobi with a perfect day two run, while day one leaders Kenya and USA both slipped up at Nyayo National Stadium. Germany kicked off their day with a shock win over USA and doubled down with a hard-fought victory over Belgium, to take the dressing room lead with just Kenya capable of overtaking them in the final match of the day. But the host nation found themselves up against a tactically perfect USA, who froze them out for most of the two sides' meeting, which had been eagerly awaited after the two sides had gone unbeaten on day one. Kenya Performance: While Kenya's Shujaa secured a third-place finish, the Kenya Lionesses finished fifth.

TOP FIVE MEN'S TEAMS (NAIROBI LEG)

- Germany
- USA
- Kenya Sevens (Shujaa)
- Uruguay
- Belgium

TOP FIVE WOMEN'S TEAMS (NAIROBI LEG)

- Argentina
- South Africa
- Spain
- China
- Kenya Lionesses

NOC-K PUSHES FOR SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST TO FUEL KENYA'S SPORTING AMBITIONS

Speaking at the 5th edition of Sirikwa Classic Cross Country, 1st Deputy President of NOC-K, Barnaba Korir, underlined the importance of infrastructure in shaping Kenya's sporting future. "The High-Performance Centre we are working on is truly the hub for sports activities," he said. He emphasized that having enough space to develop multiple venues allows athletes and sports enthusiasts to grow and excel. "NOC-K is the umbrella body for sports in Kenya, and it is our duty to support the federations so they can nurture talent across all disciplines," Barnaba Korir. The Sirikwa Classic World Cross Country Tour is a World Athletics Gold-level event, now in its 5th year, set in the heart of Kenya's marathon country, Eldoret NOC-K Lends Support to Sports Bill 2026, Pledges Collaboration The National Olympic Committee of Kenya (NOC-K) was represented at the Parliamentary Committee on Sports and Culture forum on



the Sports Bill 2026 in Mombasa by NOC-K President Shadrack Maluki, accompanied by Treasurer Fred Chege.

NOC-K reaffirms its commitment to constructive engagement in strengthening governance, protecting athletes, and advancing the development of sport in Kenya.

The Sports Bill 2026 is a significant step towards strengthening Kenya's sports sector. The bill aims to repeal the Sports Act of 2013 and introduce a modern, athlete-centered framework that enhances governance, accountability, and sports development.

Key provisions include the establishment of a National Sports Regulatory Authority (NSRA) to oversee sports organizations, licensing of sports institutions, and approval of talent development programs.



NATIONAL OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE OF
KENYA

70
Year
ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL THANKS TO: John Uaselyne | Jairus Mola | Juliet Wangechi | Joseph Kibiyi