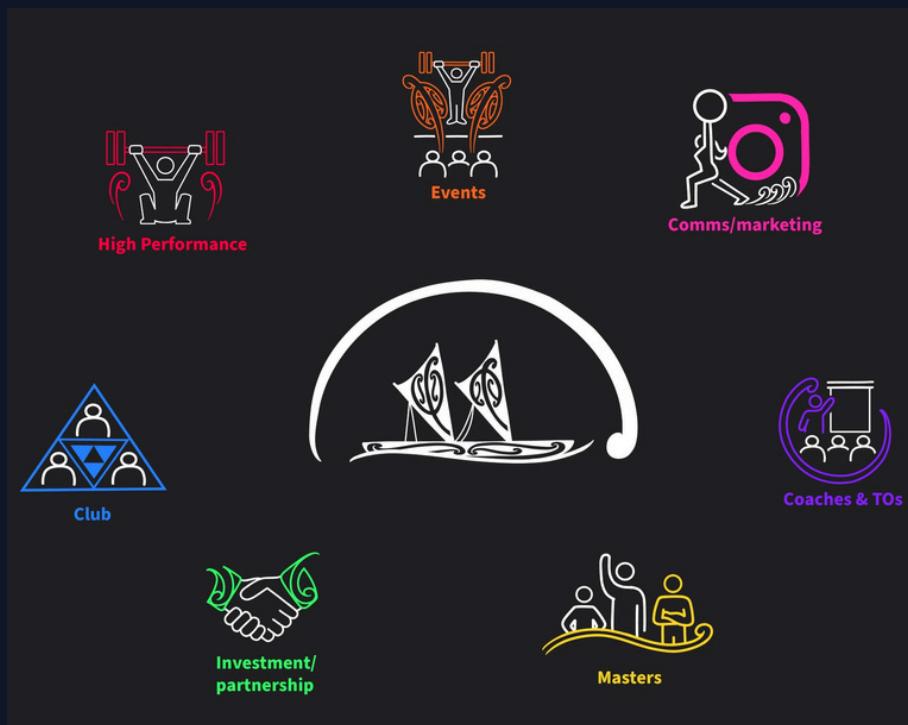


Kia ora,

Happy New Year from the Weightlifting NZ Executive Group. 2026 promises to be an exciting year for the WNZ community, with the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July representing the pinnacle event on our competition calendar.

Recently, the Executive Group came together for a weekend of reflection on 2025 and planning for the year ahead. Guided by our seven strategic pillars (pictured), the following outlines our key areas of focus for 2026.



High Performance

Our primary high-performance objective in 2026 is to send a competitive team to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with genuine medal potential.

The 2026 Oceania Championships in Samoa will be the final opportunity for athletes to secure a top-eight position on the IWF Commonwealth Ranking List, enabling nomination to the NZOC for Games selection. Our aim is to have 10–12 athletes qualify for the Games.

2026 will also mark the beginning of qualification for the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

Events

2026 will again deliver a full domestic and international competition calendar. A core focus across all domestic events is ensuring a high-quality experience for athletes, coaches, and technical officials alike.

Communications & Marketing

Our focus for 2026 is to continue growing WNZ's online presence and ensuring, at a minimum, that all domestic and international events are well covered. As with much of the work across the organisation, this continues to be delivered through the commitment of volunteers.

Coaching & Technical Officials

The development of coaches and technical officials remains a constant priority, without them, our sport cannot operate or grow.

In 2026, WNZ will launch the Weightlifting NZ Sport & Power Coach Development Course. This two-day course, currently under development, will provide an opportunity for weightlifting coaches and those working in the wider sporting sector to deepen their understanding of the Olympic lifts and our sport. Further details will be shared soon.

We are also very pleased with the depth and quality of our technical officials, many of whom are now excelling at international competitions. Barb has done an outstanding job in this space and will continue to build on this momentum.

Masters

In 2026, WNZ will again host a standalone National Masters Championships, to be held in Wellington. Internationally, major Masters competitions will take place in Greece and China, with WNZ expecting strong representation at both events.

Clubs & Governance

Our clubs remain integral to the ongoing success of weightlifting in New Zealand, providing inclusive environments where athletes of all levels can develop and thrive. A significant governance milestone in 2026 is WNZ's adoption of the Sport Integrity Commission's Integrity Code, which was passed at the 2025 AGM. WNZ is proud to be the first National Sports Organisation in New Zealand to formally sign the Code, recognising the systems and structures implemented over the past two years.

A sincere thank you to Anne Haw, who has led this work.

“Congratulations on the work involved here and the ensuing milestone. We look forward to working with you and your team.”

Rebecca Rolls, Chief Executive

Investment & Partnerships

For the first time, WNZ has multiple commercial partners, including Apollo Projects and SBD Apparel, with further organisations expressing interest in supporting our sport. These partnerships are critical to WNZ's ability to operate at an enhanced level, enabling us to host major domestic events, send larger teams overseas, and continue to support the day-to-day operations of a growing NSO.

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributes to our sport. We look forward to a strong, connected, and exciting year ahead in 2026.

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Kind regards,
Weightlifting NZ Executive Group