

IOC President Thomas Bach Visits BNL Italy Major Premier Padel

Rome, Italy – June 13, 2025. The **International Padel Federation** (FIP) and **Premier Padel** were delighted to meet **International Olympic Committee** (IOC) President **Thomas Bach** at the **BNL Italy Major Premier Padel** tournament today at the iconic Foro Italico.

President Bach was welcomed by **Luigi Carraro**, President of the International Padel Federation. The visit reflected the growing international momentum behind padel and the IOC's spirit of Olympic solidarity in engaging with innovative, fast-growing sports. He also met with Premier Padel CEO **David Serrahima** and the **Italian Tennis and Padel Federation** (FITP) President **Angelo Binaghi**.

During his visit, President Bach watched the quarterfinals unfold and was greeted by player **Francisco "Paquito" Navarro** (FIP #11), who presented him with the Bullpadel HACK 04 25 ITALY - a special edition racket created to commemorate the tournament. He also met with female players **Ariana Sanchez** (FIP #1), **Paula Josemaria** (FIP #1), **Marta Ortega** (FIP #8), **Alejandra Alonso** (FIP #16) and male players **Agustin Tapia** (FIP #1), **Arturo Coello** (FIP #1), **Juan Lebron** (FIP #6), **Miguel Yanguas** (FIP #6), **Jorge Nieto** (FIP #9).

Padel's rise has been marked by its dynamic gameplay, youth appeal, and exceptional inclusivity - welcoming players of all ages, genders, and skill levels. The sport's accessibility and vibrant community are key drivers behind its global expansion.

*"It was true honour to welcome IOC President Thomas Bach to Rome and to introduce him to our padel family. This visit is an encouraging sign for everyone who believes in the future of our sport," said FIP President **Luigi Carraro**. "We're proud to continue our relationship with President Bach, whose presence here sends a powerful signal of support to the entire padel ecosystem. As a youth-friendly, inclusive, and globally accessible sport, padel is well-aligned with Olympic values - and we are more inspired than ever to continue advancing toward that dream. I warmly thank him for his visit and for praising the growth of padel."*

IOC President **Thomas Bach** greeted the crowd, saying *"Hello to all padel fans around the world. I am here in Rome watching the Premier Padel Tour, and I must say - it is another*

fascinating event for this dynamic sport,” he closed by saying “I wish all of you the very best on your journey. Padel is a truly impressive and fast-growing sport.”

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