

23 October 2020

The Executive Board  
International Weightlifting Federation  
Via Email

Dear Interim President,  
Dear General Secretary,  
Dear Executive Board Members,

Following the earlier statement of British Weight Lifting dated 14 October 2020, we wish to firmly reiterate that, with respect, the IWF Executive Board is failing the sport, its Member Federations and most importantly its athletes and has done so now for too long.

We would request that the IWF Executive Board appoint a new interim leadership team comprising of appropriate individuals with the necessary skillsets but at the same time, with no conflicts of interest or reputational concerns associated with the current or previous IWF Executive Board.

This leadership team should also include the appointment of an independent administrator or representative from a company such as KPMG or other similar organisation with financial and governance expertise. The team should further be responsible for key stakeholder relationships, including the IOC and ensuring the efficient and professional running of the management team.

Consequently, we also urge the IWF Executive Board to stand down with immediate effect. While we acknowledge the positive step in announcing the March 2021 meetings, we do however believe such meetings should be held much earlier with independent oversight. In doing so, this will provide an opportunity for ethically eligible candidates and a more appropriate constitution to re-build the IWF's reputation.

We would urge the Executive Board to work in line with the current constitution. We note the reference to By-law 4.1 insofar as electoral timelines are concerned (i.e. 120 days prior: IWF shall send invitations to the Member Federations and Officers and calls for candidatures) but equally British Weight Lifting also notes such regulations sit within the direct authority of the IWF Executive Board and therefore, can and should be amended immediately.

Fundamentally elections will allow not just a new President and General Secretary but allow the opportunity for new and more diverse, ethical, and eligible individuals to be given the opportunity to populate the Executive Board and provide the vision and strategy to take the sport forwards.

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However, to be successful the IWF Executive Board needs to concentrate on more than basic improvements in Governance and continuing to drive clean sport to secure an Olympic future. It needs to change the historic culture and create a clearer understanding of a Board's role and the importance of a highly effective operational management team with the key and appropriate skillsets to allow it to develop as a multi-million dollar turnover international business, under the leadership of an experienced and visionary CEO.

Once constitutional and electoral reform occurs within the IWF and the athlete voice is heard, we firmly believe it will ensure that weightlifting's position at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games will not only be secured but that it will provide a strong foundation to further grow and develop the sport around the world.

As an alternative to allowing unhappy Member Federations to invoke article 4.1.14 of the IWF Constitution requiring the IWF to convene an Extraordinary Congress followed by an election to only elect the President, we request that the IWF Executive Board follow a different path in line with the constitution.

BWL will encourage all Member Federations to come together and to push for complete reform within the IWF which will ensure the successful long-term future of the sport and provide the very best opportunities for all its athletes.

Hopefully, you will support our views as we do yours in seeking positive change.

In the meantime, I hope you are all well despite both the current health and operational challenges we all face, and I look forward to catching up soon.

Yours sincerely,



Angus Kinnear  
Independent Chair British Weight Lifting



Ashley Metcalfe  
CEO British Weight Lifting

CC. IWF Member Federations via email