



**BVDG**  
BUNDESVERBAND  
DEUTSCHER GEWICHTHEBER

Bundesverband Deutscher Gewichtheber e.V. | Badener Platz 6 | 69181 Leimen

## Open Letter to the International Weightlifting Federation - IWF

Bundesverband  
Deutscher Gewichtheber e.V.

Badener Platz 6  
69181 Leimen

+49 6224 975110  
+49 6224 975114  
[info@bvdg-online.de](mailto:info@bvdg-online.de)  
<http://www.bvdg-online.de>

Leimen, Dec. 18th, 2020

Dear Acting President of the IWF, M. Michael Irani,  
Dear Secretary General of the IWF, M. Mohamed Jaloud,  
Dear Members of the IWF Executive Board,

Following the drastic decisions of the IOC regarding the competition program of the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 on 07 December 2020, I, as President of the German Weightlifting Federation, address you today with an urgent appeal.

Together with my predecessor, Dr. Christian Baumgartner, I want to assure you that our federation will continue the critical, unavoidable fight against corruption and doping in world weightlifting. As a consequence of the IOC decisions, we consider it urgently necessary to place the leadership of the IWF in new hands even before the planned IWF elections.

The IOC has unmistakably expressed that the skepticism towards the current IWF leadership as well as the IWF Executive Board is still very high and that a participation of the sport of weightlifting in Paris 2024 is not guaranteed. In principle, however, weightlifting must remain a fixed component in the Olympic program and the IWF must be sustainably reformed.

Therefore we require a reorientation in order to rescue world weightlifting in the Olympic program:

- 1) We call on all members of the IWF to resign immediately and clear the way for an urgently needed new beginning, because weightlifting is in an existential phase.
- 2) We request the installation of the former interim president Ursula Papandrea. Mr. Phil Andrew and 2 athlete representatives should support Ms. Papandrea and accompany the IWF business until the election.

Vertreten durch  
Florian Sperl  
Präsident BVDG

Eintragung im Vereinsregister  
Amtsgericht Heidelberg  
Registernummer: 1424

Volksbank Kurpfalz e.G.  
IBAN DE75 6709 2300 0033 0401 56  
Umsatzsteuer-ID:  
DE 143 295 30

- 3) We request that the entire process of anti-doping and good governance should be characterized by total independence.
- 4) We request that the election proposals be checked for integrity by a commission established by the IOC.
- 5) We request that member federations that have been excluded from participating in the Olympic Games in Tokyo due to doping offences committed by their athletes should not be eligible for the next IWF elections.
- 6) We request that for each elected person in an IWF office only one re-election is possible and thus a term of office of max. 2 legislative periods (8 years) is limited.
- 7) We request that one female and one male athlete representative be a member of the IWF Executive Board.

Dear IWF Leadership,

Please act in the interest of our sport,

Act in responsibility for our athletes who pursue our sport "weightlifting" with the greatest passion and on an honest basis.

Put your own interests behind the interests of the weightlifters of the world.

**Let's use the last chance to save our sport from exclusion from the Olympic Games.**

I am happy to actively support the reform process side by side and in all the required transparency.

In this sense, I urge you to cooperate and implement the above-mentioned demands.

  
Florian Sperl

President of the German Weightlifting Association

Copy:

- IOC – Mr. Thomas Bach, Mr. McConnell
- EWF – Mr. Urso, Mr. Akkus
- National weightlifting federations all over the world
- National Olympic Committee - DOSB
- German Weightlifting Association
- State associations in Germany
- The world press