



**BVDG**

BUNDESVERBAND  
DEUTSCHER GEWICHTHEBER

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

To  
IWF Interim President Dr. Michael Irani  
IWF General Secretary Mohammed Jalood  
IWF Executive Board Members  
All IWF Member Federations  
Press representatives

Bundesverband  
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Leimen, 25th February 2021

Dear Dr. Irani,

Dear Mr. Jalood,

Dear IWF Executive Board Members,

With dismay and great horror we have perceived yesterday the press conference including the press release (see: <https://www.olympic.org/news/ioc-executive-board-discusses-the-situation-of-iwf>) of our IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach, in which he has given our sport a very last deadline for the further retention of weightlifting in the Olympic program.

What legitimizes you with the acting executive of the IWF to implement a policy that is so negligent that our sport must expect elimination from the Olympic program? On behalf of countless athletes, coaches, honorary and full-time officials as well as other companions of weightlifting, I call upon you to fulfill the clear demands of the IOC immediately and in detail with all completeness. Only this and nothing else will guarantee our continued existence as a member of the Olympic family.

With your previous policy and the resulting significant reduction of our starting places for Paris 2024, you already bear a large share of the responsibility for the impact this devastating measure of the IOC will have on our sport. With your current, completely incomprehensible behavior, you are now risking the death of our sport. We call on you to immediately end this policy and implement the IOC's demand. If you are not able to do so, you and your colleagues must resign immediately and thus clear the way for people who, with their deeds, will preserve the Olympic community for us.



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That means:

1. Changes that are sincerely meant need a comprehensive constitutional reform, which must be carried out at a clear interval before new elections. This should be prepared and implemented by an independent competent body, which the IOC could help to deploy.
2. The voice and importance of our athletes, who must be at the center of our actions in all deliberations, should be firmly established in the new bylaws and before new elections.
3. Good governance rules must ensure that only people who are guaranteed to document a past free of any corruption and doping can run in new elections.
4. Currently suspended nations for the Tokyo Olympics, may not put forward a candidate for the new IWF elections in 2021.
5. In any case, the new elections of the IWF must be postponed significantly. Sticking to the March date does not meet the demands of the IOC and endangers the preservation of Olympic weightlifting.
6. If, through the ongoing investigation of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission, candidates for the 2021 election lists are found to be non-legitimate, and if they hold current positions in the IWF, these individuals must resign their positions with immediate effect.

We call on all nations to support this demand in principle and to communicate this transparently to the acting IWF Executive Board. The door to remaining in the Olympic family is still held open by the IOC. The IWF must be forced to do the right thing. Otherwise, the door will close forever for weightlifting. Let's save our beautiful sport together.

Florian Sperl

President German Weightlifting Federation