



BVDG

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Leimen, August 25, 2021

Subject: All or nothing - our last chance to stay Olympic.

Dear Sir or Madam,

After the failed Constitutional Congress on June 30, 2021, we as member federations now have the last chance to set the course for the future of our sport at the upcoming Constitutional Congress in Doha on August 29 and 30, 2021. This is about the all-important question:

DO WE REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE OLYMPIC FAMILY IN PARIS 2024 AND BEYOND, OR DO WE DECIDE AGAINST IT.

In the period from February to July 2021, the IOC has repeatedly and very clearly pointed out to the IWF Interim President and the IWF Secretary General in eight concrete and unambiguous letters, which we have enclosed with this letter, what the conditions are for remaining in the Olympic family. The policy of small steps or concessions, which was pursued by the Interim President Dr. Michael Irani, the Secretary General, Mohammed Jalood and the Executive Board in the past months, will irrevocably lead to the result that our tradition-rich sport, which has been part of the competition programme at all Olympic Games since 1896, will no longer be represented in the future.

The implications for the promotion of our sport worldwide, particularly for athletes and coaches, would be catastrophic and almost certainly irreparable.

The IOC expects World Weightlifting, especially the Executive Board, to make a fundamental cultural change. That means concretely for the IWF and the World Weightlifting Community among other things:

1. A replacement of the President and Executive Board, which will be staffed with fundamentally different people than those who previously served on the Executive Board. That is, at the latest by or during the Constitutional Congress on 29/30.08.2021 in Doha both the interim president and the entire Executive Board must resign.

2. Establishment of an interim leadership, which is determined in the course of the resignation of the old EB of the congress within 90 days new elections in detail prepares and organizes. Furthermore, it represents the IWF internally and externally within this period. This also applies as the official contact person towards the IOC, the member federations and other partners.
3. The requirement for strict and rigorous screening of candidates for membership on the IWF Executive Board, IWF Committee, and IWF Commissions, as formulated in the constitutional proposal of August 3, 2021, must be implemented without compromise. This applies to all individuals, including incumbent board members, as well as all new candidates. The Ethics and Disciplinary Committee as well as the Candidate Eligibility Committee, which must operate completely independently of the Executive Board, play the all-important role.
4. There must be a term limit for the President as well as the EB members of a maximum of 8 years. (see amendment)
5. IWF staff from the last 8 years are not eligible to run for IWF offices. (see amendment)
6. Member federations must be prohibited from nominating candidates for election to the IWF if the member federation in question has committed a total of 6 or more doping rule violations within 4 years, which includes the last two Olympic Games. This measure would be consistent, dissuasive and support a real cultural change.
7. Strict adherence to an age limit of up to 70 years. All attempts that have been made by the EB due to listed examples from other organizations must be strictly stopped. (see amendment)
8. The fight against doping, conducted by a completely independent body, consistently, transparently and intelligently, must continue.
9. An increasing and appropriate number of women members on the Executive Board and other IWF commissions (See draft constitution 03.08.2021)
10. A significantly higher influence of the athletes' representatives on the Executive Board and other IWF commissions (see draft constitution of 03.08.2021).

FOR THE SAKE OF GOOD ORDER, WE ARE OFFICIALLY SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ON 8/29/2021 THE AMENDMENT ATTACHED AS ATTACHMENT 3 TO THIS LETTER.

I believe that these listed points 1-10 are non-negotiable. The time for talking is coming to an end. Instead, we must act decisively for the preservation of our sport in the Olympic program as well as for a necessary future development of Worldweightlifting.

IF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONGRESS FAILS AT THE END OF AUGUST 2021 WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF 03 AUGUST 2021 AND THE ABOVE MENTIONED AMENDMENTS/CHANGES AND THE RESIGNATION OF THE ENTIRE CURRENT EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE IOC WILL MOST LIKELY DRAW THE CONSEQUENCES IN ITS SCHEDULED MEETING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND REMOVE OUR SPORT FROM THE 2024 OLYMPIC PROGRAMME.

I appeal once again to the Interim President Dr. Michael Irani, the Secretary General Mohammed Jalood and the Executive Board to draw the necessary consequences. Weightlifting needs new faces for the required comprehensive cultural change. Please clear the way for this.

Should the Constitutional Congress fail at the end of August 2021 with the adoption of the draft Constitution of 03 August 2021 and the resignation of the entire current Executive Board, the determined reformers of World Weightlifting will look hard at establishing a new modern World Federation.

For an even better understanding of the overall situation, I am attaching a letter dated August 14, 2021, from Darren Kane, Chairman of the IWF Commission on Reform and Governance, who is a very respected advocate and drafter of the new IWF Statement of Principles.



Your Florian Sperl

President of the German Weightlifting Federation

Attachments:

- 1) Annex 1: Letter from Darren Kane to the IWF Board - for information only.
- 2) Annex 2: Eight letters from the IOC to the IWF Board - for information only.
- 3) Annex 3: Official amendment for the forthcoming Congress - for consideration

Distributors:

- 1) Member associations of the IWF
- 2) IWF Executive Board
- 3) IOC President Thomas Bach
- 4) IOC Sports Director Kit McConnel
- 5) IOC Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer Paquerette Girard
- 6) Chairman IWF-RGC Darren Kane
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