

Федерация тяжелой атлетики России

Юридический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д. 8, стр. 1, этаж 4, помещ.67
Фактический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д.8, стр.1, этаж 4, помещ.67
(офис 432)
Тел.: +7 (495) 637-06-29
E-mail: info@rfwf.ru
www.rfwf.ru



ИНН 7704046847
КПП 770401001
р/с 40703810238180131997
в ОАО «Сбербанк России»
г. Москва, БИК 044525225
к/с 30101810400000000225

To the International Weightlifting Federation

For the President Mr. Mohammed Jalood

For the General Secretary Mr. Antonio Urso

August 23, 2023

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. General Secretary,

In our letter of 16 June 2023, we asked you eight questions about concerns that Russian athletes had, but unfortunately, we did not find an answer to any of them in your last letter (dated 21 July 2023). You chose to refer to the recommendations of the IOC, however we all understand that its last decision according to which athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport can only participate in major sports events as individual, neutral athletes and only under the strict participation conditions do not comply with the rules of neither the Olympic Charter nor the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, this IOC decision is interim and does not apply to the Olympic Games Paris 2024. These recommendations are a violation of one of the fundamental principles of the Olympic movement - sports and politics do not mix.

The implementation of the IOC recommendations over the years has led to a major crisis in weightlifting: the number of violations and, to put it mildly, unpleasant moments amounts to hundreds of cases. As a result, the IWF is permanently under

Федерация тяжелой атлетики России

Юридический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д. 8, стр. 1, этаж 4, помещ.67
Фактический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д.8, стр.1, этаж 4, помещ.67
(офис 432)
Тел.: +7 (495) 637-06-29
E-mail: info@rfwf.ru
www.rfwf.ru



ИНН 7704046847
КПП 770401001
р/с 40703810238180131997
в ОАО «Сбербанк России»
г. Москва, БИК 044525225
к/с 30101810400000000225

threat of exclusion from the Olympic family that is apparently used as an additional lever of pressure on the organization. The IWF recommendation not to allow athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport participate in international competitions indicates a strong political commitment and violation of the principles of the Olympic movement. This has an extremely negative impact on weightlifting in general.

We consider the example of signing the declaration by athletes with Belarusian passport (especially with reference to the same, almost identical documents on other sports) to be inconsistent with the principles of the IWF.

Your concern about the situation in Ukraine looks very strange and selective especially in terms of temporal and territorial coverage as it is well known that it was after the 2014 uprisings in Kiev when most of professional athletes from Ukraine were deprived of the right to play sports and participate in competitions. It was thanks to Russia and the RWF that their rights were finally restored.

It is also impossible not to pay attention to the ignoring by the IWF the fate of thousands of athletes around the world. This refers to the indifference of the IWF regarding the fate of athletes from Afghanistan, Vietnam, Guatemala, Grenada, Indonesia, Yemen, Iraq, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, Syria, El Salvador, Yugoslavia. These countries were bombed by NATO led by the USA. But you still insist that “the concern” is only about the situation in Ukraine.

Федерация тяжелой атлетики России

Юридический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д. 8, стр. 1, этаж 4, помещ.67
Фактический адрес: 119270, г. Москва,
вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники,
наб Лужнецкая, д.8, стр.1, этаж 4, помещ.67
(офис 432)
Тел.: +7 (495) 637-06-29
E-mail: info@rfwf.ru
www.rfwf.ru



ИНН 7704046847
КПП 770401001
р/с 40703810238180131997
в ОАО «Сбербанк России»
г. Москва, БИК 044525225
к/с 30101810400000000225

As an example, we helped the athletes from Abkhazia and Palestine who because of sanctions or due to life threatening do not have the opportunity to train in gyms. Thanks to RWF support they have this opportunity now.

The current situation allows us to conclude that trust, honor, dignity of the IWF are put on the same scale with the specific interests of sports functionaries.

Nevertheless, despite the IWF's obvious (unfortunately) reluctance to develop a constructive dialogue on the issue of restoration of the rights of Russian athletes to participate in international competitions, the position of the RWF is not limited to criticism of the IWF approaches. In case, despite convincing arguments presented by RWF in our letter of 16 June 2023, the IWF still continues to insist on signing any declarations, the RWF is ready to offer its version of the declaration for signing by every weightlifter in every country, in order to follow the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

We take this opportunity to inform you that we cannot consider our correspondence on the issue of admission of athletes with a Russian passport to international competitions and, in particular, your letter of 21 July 2023 as confidential because this correspondence: (a) does not contain any personal, medical or any other sensitive information, (b) directly affects the rights and obligations of a large number of athletes who are not participants in this correspondence, (c) is done to restore the rights of

Федерация тяжелой атлетики России

Юридический адрес: 119270, г. Москва, вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники, наб Лужнецкая, д. 8, стр. 1, этаж 4, помещ.67
Фактический адрес: 119270, г. Москва, вн. тер.г. муниципальный округ Хамовники, наб Лужнецкая, д.8, стр.1, этаж 4, помещ.67 (офис 432)
Тел.: +7 (495) 637-06-29
E-mail: info@rfwf.ru
www.rfwf.ru



ИНН 7704046847
КПП 770401001
р/с 40703810238180131997
в ОАО «Сбербанк России»
г. Москва, БИК 044525225
к/с 30101810400000000225

Russian athletes to participate in international competitions, which includes signing “declarations” by them, the decision to sign which should be made by the athletes themselves, and not by the RWF. It is obvious that in view of the foregoing, the RWF is obliged to bring to the attention of a wide range of athletes both its position and the position of the IWF so that athletes could make independent, deliberate and informed decisions, which in itself excludes the possibility of confidentiality being applied to our correspondence on these issues.

In this regard we announce our intention to publish this answer and to prepare a constructive version of the declaration that can be considered for signing by the parties involved.

Sincerely,

Maxim Agapitov



RWF President