

The Managing Committee

Lausanne, June 7, 2024

Dear Presidents, Dear General Secretaries:

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We recently received from Ms. Emilia Schiliuk, Manager of the Director's Office for the IOC Sports Department, the communication set out in full below about the IOC's March, 2024 declaration against the politicisation of sport.

WDSF fully supports the IOC's decision to highlight concerns about the shadowy organisation behind the summer and winter "Friendship Games" and the event itself. The rest of the Olympic Movement supports this position, too.

Finally, we would like to remind you that the Russian Member Body (FDSBARR) was downgraded by the WDSF Presidium on March 7, 2024, due to its ongoing failure to fulfil its WDSF membership sporting duties. At the same time the Presidium also issued a personal reprimand to the President of FDSBARR, Ms. Erastova, for her persistent failure to fulfil her sporting leadership responsibilities within FDSBARR; and in addition the WDSF Presidium completely removed all of the Russian Member Body's authority regarding the administration of Russian athletes in WDSF's National RLS Administration, by transferring that authority completely to the WDSF Presidium for the direct administration of Russia's few remaining international athletes.

The WDSF Presidium does not rule out further actions against the Russian Member Body should it continue to disregard the **WDSF Statutes**.

We remain available to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about this subject.

BY ORDER OF THE WDSF MANAGING COMMITTEE



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COMMUNICATION FROM THE IOC ON 30 MAY 2024

Dear Presidents, Dear Secretaries General,

Please allow us to update you on developments since the [IOC's declaration against the politicisation of sport](#) in March.

At the time, the IOC warned that the Russian government was intending to organise purely politically motivated sports events in Russia, and that the Russian government had created and funded the "International Friendship Association" (IFA) in order to host the summer and winter "Friendship Games".

In the latest development, the Russian government has appointed ex-FIFA Secretary General Jérôme Valcke, who was convicted for corruption, as head of the association, as [reported in Russian media](#). Valcke was suspended by FIFA and given a suspended sentence for corruption in Switzerland.

To further underline the political nature of this appointment, his role was approved by the President of the Russian Federation. It was also made clear that all further decisions on the format and organisation of these games will be taken by the Russian Federation's Sports Ministry.

In light of such a political appointment, the IOC reiterates its strong demand that all stakeholders of the Olympic Movement and all governments reject any participation in, and support of, any initiative such as the so-called "Friendship Games" whose purpose is to fully politicise international sport.

We remain available to discuss any questions you may have on this.

Thank you and best regards,

Emi Schiliuk
*Manager of the Director's Office
Sports Department*