

**UKRAINIAN
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**ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ
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19.05.2023 № 255

**At to: Mr.Marius L.Vizer , President of International Judo Federation
Executive Committee of International Judo Federation.**

Dear Mr. President ,
Dear Members of IJF Executive Committe,

The Ukrainian Judo Federation, as a member of the International Judo Federation (IJF), confirms its commitment to the IJF goals and objectives based on mutual respect, full recognition of competence and jurisdiction.

The main goal of the Ukrainian Judo Federation (UJF) is to promote development and popularization of judo in Ukraine, increase the popularity of judo in this country, consolidate and coordinate the efforts of individuals and organizations interested in the development of judo, protect the legitimate rights and interests of UJF members.

Respect for the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding and a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play, respect to the principle of versatility and political neutrality of the IJF and the Olympic Movement; maintaining harmonious relations with government agencies in compliance with the principle of autonomy as defined in the Olympic Charter, respect to international agreements on human rights protection are the undisputed principles that the UJF follows in its activities.

On 28 March 2023, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) published the recommended conditions for the participation of individual neutral athletes and support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international sports competitions organized by international federations and organizers of international sports events.

According to the IOC recommendations, certain neutral athletes and support personnel employed under contract by law enforcement agencies, military or national security services are strictly prohibited from participating in any international sporting events.

The UJF unconditionally supports and welcomes this ban by the IOC.

On 29 April, the IJF Executive Committee decided to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in IJF competitions as individual Neutral Athletes,

provided that they undergo appropriate verification process, which an independent reputable company was involved in.

At the same time, the UJF, as a member of the IJF, is reasonably concerned about the lack of any public information regarding the company engaged in such verification, its governing bodies, experience, the list of information sources used during the verification, the personnel involved in it, etc.

Similarly, the results of the company's verification of Russian and Belarusian athletes are not publicly available.

The UJF has a significant amount of information on Russian and Belarusian athletes, most of whom are employed for the service in the security forces of their countries under the contract.

We are compelled to state that according to our information, 15 out of 19 athletes admitted to the World Judo Championships in Doha are current representatives of the security forces, and therefore support the war against our country. Both medallists of the World Championships are also contract servicemen of the Russian National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation: Arman Adamyan is a sergeant in the Russia National Guard, and Inal Tasoyev is a warrant officer in the Armed Forces.

This is an obvious and gross violation of the above IOC recommendations and is an evidence of improper verification of the Russian and Belarus athletes by the company engaged by the IJF. This case is a major reputational risk for the IJF.

Also, the obvious violation of the Rules of Participation of Athletes in the World Judo Championships in Doha drew our attention, according to which only athletes with numbers 1-100* in the IJF Seniors WRL and athletes with numbers 1-16* in the IJF Junior WRL are allowed to compete in individual events (IJF Sport and Organization Rule 4.4).

At the same time, among the admitted Belarusian athletes, there are those who are ranked much lower, and according to IJF Sport and Organization Rule 4.4 were not eligible to participate in the World Championships, namely VARAPAYEU Yahor and KANTSAYAVA Darya, who were ranked 322 and 168 in the IJF Seniors WRL, respectively.

In view of the above, pursuing the goal of establishing fundamental, universal ethical principles, including openness and mutual respect.

Please provide us with full information about the independent company that was involved in the verification of the Russian and Belarusian athletes based on the decision of the Executive Committee, the information about its managers, a list of persons involved in the verification and comprehensive results of the verification of the Russian and Belarusian athletes invited to participate in the World Judo Championships in Doha.

At the same time, we are writing to you with a proposal to change the company that will conduct further verifications of Russian and Belarusian athletes, re-peated verification of all members of the delegation who were admitted to the 2023 World Championships and involve UJF representatives to all subsequent verifications to avoid possible violations of the IOC recommendations and participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes service in the security forces of their countries under the contract in subsequent competitions.

In addition, please inform us about the grounds for the admission to the World Championships in Doha of Belarusian athletes VARAPAYEU Yahor and KANTSAYA Darya, who were ranked 322nd and 168th in the IJF Seniors WRL, respectively.

Best regards,
Mykhailo Koshliak

President
Ukrainian Judo Federation

