



Prot. n. 031/22

Milan, Italy
23th december, 2022

To: Union of Kettlebell Lifting of Ukraine

Mr. President: Valentyn Berbenychuk

Dear UKLU and Mr. President

The World Kettlebell Sport Federation it's very grateful for you letter and knowing your position for the future of Kettlebell Sport in Ukraine.

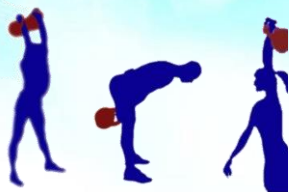
As all international Kettlebell Sport community have been following, the WKSF was the booster of Kettlebell Sport globally, exist a before and after the foundation of WKSF. Without any governmental or federative support, we all can verify it by the high standard of all WKSF events, from Brazil, USA, Australia and Indonesia, the WKSF is represented with high standards in each event, specially the Continental Championships. After the foundation of WKSF, it was possible to bring to each continent and to each athlete out of the main core and the top athletes (in Europe) a really important competition to each person that want to lift kettlebells, compete and join our lovely sport.

This Mission and Vision of WKSF, is supported in great Values, the Values of a sport that can unify the World, unify people, bring different cultures, colours, religions, genders, ages and skills lifting kettlebells.

The WKSF has this huge commitment with all that raised the arm to create a new organization, out of dictatures, without any kind of communication between a small circle and the entire world that was waiting and asking for better communication, more interaction and help. The help that WKSF give to the more than 60 members that joined WKSF, to make inside borders the sport grow, to help with national government and Olympic National Committee to recognize our members and the sport. The Union between all with the only way to think on the future of our sport.

The Union that your organization carry on the name, the Union of all lifters of Ukraine, this is why WKSF was founded to bring all together, to join efforts, to bring our sport forward and stronger. We need all to achieve a new level of recognition.

However, the WKSF do not forget those that worked hard to help our organization. Each member that contributed to make WKSF a stronger federation, those that gave a step forward to host an event, that bring proposals, work in our Commissions and also help in difficult moments.



Our official member of Ukraine, the Association of Kettlebell Lifting of Ukraine, by the hands of Mr. Andriy Yaremus, have been doing an amazing effort and work since our foundation.

Mr. Yaremus is a WKSF Executive Committee member since the foundation of WKSF, a Vice-President Europe Operations and WKSF Technical Commission Coordinator. Also several athletes of Ukraine have been doing a great and important work at WKSF, as at Judge Commission level, Rank & Records Commission and also as judges.

The WKSF also do not forget the actual situation of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. As the beginning of actual situation, the WKSF followed the the IOC guidelines and also share the same vision of IOC. On last call of IOC President Bach and the Ukraine President Mr. Zelensky (15th December 2022), it was very greatfull to have the support of IOC to all athletes of Ukraine to participate at Olympic Games 2024 Paris and at Winter Olympic Games Cortina 2026. Also, the WKSF share the IOC and Mr. Zelensky vision after the approval of the *United Nations resolution A/77/L.28* where we can find in all 9 pages of the resolution a very transversal and transparency position in several request also supported by WKSf since our foundation, as an effort and importance of Women rights, the Disable rights, the fight against corruption on sport, the fair-play, the importance of the sport as a vehicle to young people, childs and also as mental health prevention, the fight against Doping on sport, the importance of the sport as a strategy on the plan to combat post COVID-19 and the union of all through the sport. Also, the same call was a way to inform the sanctions the IOC Executive Board put in place against Russia and Belarus after 9th December Olympic Summit. The sanctions included:

- *No international sports events being organised or supported by an International Federation (IF) or National Olympic Committee (NOC) in Russia or Belarus.*
- *No flag, anthem, colours or any other identifications of these countries being displayed at any sports event or meeting.*

This guidelines, are implemented at WKSF since the 1st IOC statement against Russian invasion and others were implemented, as: No Russia or Belarus Members at any WKSF charge of Direction Board, Executive Committee or Commission, as any delegation or Passport of this countries are allowed to participate at any event. Names as Mr. Mikhail Kaitan and Mr. Ivan Denisov at were removed from WKSF until a new decision.

This, we can verify that is not supported by other organizations and around the world by many delegations supporting other federation as IUKL. For WKSF, the freedom of a people and nation must be always present between us.

Also, WKSF created several ways to support refugees from Ukraine, with food, material and at WKSF World Championship 2022 a percent of t-shirts revenue were directly to support Ukraine. With the mission to declare a support to all Ukraine athletes, the WKSF decided to offer a free registration for Ukraine Delegation and help the union of the sport in Ukraine.



All this, is made with open arms and heart by all our community. However, the WKSF continue with all efforts moving forward, the process to become GAISF Observer (SportAccord) is rolling and the WADA Signature is starting with the new Board Direction and Executive Committee of WKSF.

In Portugal at WC2022 and Poland at EC2022, the WKSF did 45 Anti-Doping Tests and followed the WADA Anti-Doping Code.

As you can see, the WKSF do not forget people, delegations, members, athletes and those that were and still working very hard to support WKSF.

The WKSF would like to see a strong effort in Ukraine to show to the entire world that are united, without egos, conflicts, having the UKLU and AKLU side by side, with all members, united, in peace, working together to promote our lovely sport with WKSF, defending the rights of the Ukrainian People and side by side with Mr. Zelensky and IOC President Bach.

Is not acceptable to WKSF to forget Mr. Yaremus and all Ukrainians that were and still with WKSF.

Hoping all the best and a better position of UKLU, the WKSF is always open to accept any Ukrainian decision among UKLU and AKLU.

According to the WKSF statute, there should be one organization - a representative from each country. The WKSF already includes a representative of Ukraine - the Association of Kettlebell Sports of Ukraine. Association of Kettlebell Lifting of Ukraine is one of the leading and active members of WKSF.

Based on the above, we consider it necessary to recommend that you communicate with the management of the Association of Kettlebell Lifting of Ukraine with the aim of joining the WKSF structure and joint development of kettlebell sports.

The President,
Ilika Oleh



WKSF
WORLD KETTLEBELL SPORT FEDERATION