



10 NOV 2016

## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of KITESPORTS ORGANISATIONS

*Dear Kiders and friends,*

When different organisations conflict to the governance of a sport, it will always have consequences on the Sport image.

Whilst managing our work for Kiteboarding to be recognised as a Sport in its own right, IFKO tried to keep these matters out of the public domain to minimise any impact on the kiteboarding community. Unfortunately WS and “IKA” chose to publicly attack our efforts with a continual barrage of derogatory comments and announcements.

Competition, credibility and athletes have suffered for several years from a variety of power struggles, directly or indirectly caused by the miss appropriation of Kiteboarding under World Sailing.

Having investigated the various processes, IFKO classifies the WS current situation as fraudulent and will do everything possible to ensure this is resolved and the sport of Kiteboarding and all its disciplines are allowed to stand on their own in a right and proper manner.

### **RIDERS FREEDOM TO COMPETE**

IFKO never did any sanction announcement or even had the need to create media campaigns to prejudice World Sailing, private company “IKA” or any other organisation in its official communication.

IFKO believes Kiders must be unconditionally free to participate in any competitions they want, National or International without fear of penalties from organisations or sponsors. Penalising competitors, simply for attending another event to better their skills, can only be viewed as unethical and against their main interest - Excellency of their Sport.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The recent using of an isolated letter from IOC Sports Director addressed to “Dear Andy” (Mr Andy Hunt, WS CEO) is not an IOC statement regarding Kiteboarding world governance.

IFKO respects the ASOIF president’s opinion in a recent letter however ASOIF has no jurisdiction, as IFKO is not associated to ASOIF.

IFKO already made the officially request for substantiation and legitimacy to interveners in what IFKO found as a non-ethical campaign. It’s clear that these actions serve a covering purpose to confuse people ignoring damage increase to our Sport.

There is also a request for a rivalry clarification meeting with SportAccord and AIMS accepted mediation, with no answer from WS. IFKO is already taking legal steps to bring

this World Sailing big campaign of governance to an end. Facts and sport ethics will prevail.

## **PILOT-KITE**

On 1<sup>st</sup> October IFKO AGM reached decisions about the Olympic discipline candidate, being also the one to be used in Youth Olympic Games 2018: PILOT-KITE.

Respecting some standards, this new discipline equipment is mostly chosen by the athletes. Safety standards and equipment requirements will present an opportunity for the industry to create new products.

The discipline has different regulations for competitors under 19 years old which will be used in YOG while the seniors' regulations will continue to be developed throughout 2017 with the opinions of experienced riders and industry feedback. This will assure high performance equipment to respect athletes' demands and several years training.

## **INCLUSIVITY- KITERS PARTICIPATION**

Your participation in social networks discussions will help increase awareness of how we see Kiteboarding. However, in the end will be Federative AGMs decisions that prevail under personal opinions. We strongly advise the community to unite and actively participate in the governance of their own Sport by democratically taking back control of National Kite Associations to gain IFKO membership.

It is in your hands to build a strong institution that effectively protects Kitesports preserving the identity and nature of our Sport. It is a great, beautiful and exciting evolving Sport in its own right and not a sub division of a completely different Sport.

Thanks to its community work it is exponentially growing every year, ready to be governed only by those who love it: Kiders!

Inside IFKO you have a voice and a vote to decide and build without prejudice or hidden agenda. Success always beget success and with better organisation, Kitesports have the opportunity to grow like all successful sports in the world.

Working for the good and independent future that Kitesports deserve,

Yours in Kitesports,



Diogo Paes Fernandes

*President of the IFKO*