



## LANDKITING • KITESURFING • SNOWKITING

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Subject: Kitesports and the IOC events

Letter addressed to the presidential office of IOC, IOC President Thomas Bach;

*In copy with:*

- Sport Public Administration Authorities of the European nations;
- IFKO Members

Cascais, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Ref.No.2021.06.07ad/1A  
By e-mail and post-mail:  
RH751880841PT

Dear IOC President  
Mr Thomas Bach,

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We are addressing IOC for the 4<sup>th</sup> time asking the IOC administration to stop influence and abuse of the dominant position over Kitesports. IFKO is the legitimate and democratic representative of Kitesports in the World. Your objective of exploring one of our Kitesurfing disciplines, illegally inside one of your recognized federations – World Sailing, will not cloak the existent negligence of forcing our Kitesurfing disciplines to be, incorrect and dangerously, mixed with another different sport.

Being an international private association, IOC has the same legal figure as IFKO, equal to any federation. Besides being against IOC own ethics (long time forgotten), it is not legal to steal and explore one discipline of our water group disciplines (Kitefoiling racing) and insert it in your major “Olympic Games” event, without respecting the matrix registration of the accordant social object, when this is the primary and main condition to assure legality in the execution of sports events.

When IOC chose to **mix** Kitesurf under the irregular organisation of another sport by protecting one of its recognized IFs, instead of **respecting ethics** and the **national laws** to build positively with the specific sport federation, we believe IOC creates a clear abuse. Analysing the evolution of statistics, IFKO also believes this abuse is destructive to all Kitesports Athletes promising carriers and, overall, blocks the competent kites’ specific, and so needed, **SAFETY WORK**.

As the result, we believe this IOC’s abuse is leading dramatically to serious accidents including deaths. Each Kiter’s life may not be relevant for the IOC stakeholders, but it is very important to us and to their Families. Same with the handicapped resulting from these accidents. For example, during **this last week**, 4 severe accidents occurred with **2 more riders dying** only in Spain (36 e 47 years old), crushed against the rocks. We never had this kind of numbers and it is happening because people are induced to believe the sport has similar risk as the Sailing sport, that uses masts/sails and not the powerful traction wings our Kites are. No other sport in the world is killing so many people considering the total number of practitioners, like Kitesurfing is today. **Kitesports are not dangerous if controlled by independent governing bodies that develop the required specific safety legislation** and not subject to those of another sport. IFKO and Kite national associations are not working properly in each nation because of the IOC direct influence.

Using the trust given to IOC by the public administrations around the world, IOC forces an abuse, however possible to be corrected if respecting the Kitesurfing sport axis participation. We understand that this is not exactly the nice picture IOC draw around the globe, in order to get the nations’ trust and privileges.

When IOC wants to explore a sport in an event to sell it to the nations, but partners with show businesses, instead of the respective Sport non-for profit federation, made of Kites associations, we believe that, instead of contributing to the World of Sports good future, IOC is being a toxic weight in its free development. This also subverts and compromises the good future of the Olympic magnificent movement that IFKO always defended, promoted and wishes to be part.

IOC is poorly advised with supporting the event of Kitesurfing that is being inserted/sold into PARIS2024 and it would be scheduled for failure, because there is an absence of representativeness, real competition history and experience, as demanded by the IOC. It seems an aberrance event forced to exist with a strong unlawful influence made by a group of simple-minded people, which took control of IOC decisions and are using its respectful so adored centenary sportive organization, to childishly play with friends about a kitesurfing forced business.

**IOC is selling our sport with no authorization and has no legal power to promote this action.** Only the international and/or national social object of federations identify, restrict and protects the activities of federations. IOC depends on federations. The multi discipline water Kitesports branch - Kitesurf is internationally created and denominated by the internationally non for profit democratic Kites association – IFKO and, even if displeased, **we will have to act legally against IOC if you not refrain**, as we continue to receive cynical summary answers coming from the IOC administration, demeaning sports director Mr. Kit McConnell.

As we see it, and taking in consideration what IOC recently did to Breakdancing and Parkour sports, **maybe it is the time to delete the private “Olympic” privilege references from the European Laws.** IOC is in no position to honour the ethics associated with those public privileges, if does not respect the law and the rights of other smaller, but with same legal figure, sport private associations. Each of these associations represents a unique sport community, using their democratic and legal human right of self-representation.

Italy, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom, Germany and specially France with an aberrational disastrous and obviously illegal governance of the Fédération Française de Voile over a totally different sport, along with so many nations, are assisting to the destruction of a long time Kitesports organization work. **Our sport is not only about promoting a competition to the Olympics.** Again, we are all concerned with the shocking increase of the number of deaths and severe accidents, caused because our very specific **“Off-the-Beach Sport”** organization is being illegally forced to be under a totally different **“nautical sport”**, thus blocking the Kite’s independent national association’s specific safety and training work.

As well known by IOC, Sailing sport can never understand or execute the unique Olympic Kiting Event without the Kites knowledge and experience. IOC must respect the independence of the Kites who dream of being Olympians respecting the identity and honour of this unique sport- KiteSurfing.

Sports politics and ethics are very important in society, especially when people die because of bad decisions coming from people outside a specific independent sport.

We humbly ask the IOC Executive to examine and react to the following reflective question:

- Why does IOC want to insert a Kitesurfing discipline in the Olympics without its own Kitesports Federation? What difference does it make for IOC? If Kiting is becoming an expanding and complex sport because of the free will of World's population, should not IOC recognize IFKO for the best interest of all nations and the IOC itself?

**IFKO strongly supports a Kitesurfing discipline (or even more) in the Olympics** but IOC needs to include it properly. It is crucial to recognize and work with IFKO as the plural, neutral democratic entity representing the kites, by its international denomination and social object, using the competency and very specific work that only a sport community can provide – Kitesurfers;

- IOC should refrain from making our unique sport of Kitesports to be mixed with other different Sport for purely financial reasons. IFKO receives and welcomes all the IOC stakeholders and wishes to promote their interests.

Or,

- Delete our sport KITESURFING program from Paris2024, if you insist on selling it to France mixed with Sailing sport, which has no legal right or expertise to properly serve the Kites and because Kitesurfing cannot be illegally subverted inside another different sport.

As always, we remain at your disposal and  
Waiting for your wise resolutions,

Yours faithfully,



Diogo Paes Fernandes  
A kiterider, former athlete and IFKO President  
2021-06-07