

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF KITESPORTS ORGANISATIONS



For reference:

IOC – International Olympic Committee
IFKO – International Federation of Kitesports Organisations
ISAF – International Sailing Federation (eg. World Sailing – WS)
IKA – International Kiteboarding Association
AGM – General Assembly Meeting

Letter addressed to:

Mr. Andy Hunt, Chief Executive Officer of World Sailing
Follow up on letter dated 17th of January 2016 to IFKO Administration

Sent by email to:

andy.hunt@isaf.com with in cc. ISAF presidential office - secretariat@isaf.co.uk

Cascais, February 10th, 2016
Ref.No.2016.02.10ad/1
By e-mail only

Dear Mr. Hunt,

Thank you for your letter to IFKO which I hereby confirm receipt of. We look forward to follow up with you as WS CEO and I take this opportunity to wish you the best on your new position.

We understand that you were not yet in the loop of the letter sent by IFKO to ISAF presidential office, dated 7th of January, which reflects our stance in claiming for a “right to control” - as you refer to - on Kitesports sport. We do recognise ISAF as the governing body responsible for the sport of Sailing. But we believe Kitesports are much more than an appendix discipline of Sailing, with a self-determination path to an autonomous Sport.

I noted your assertion, through IKA and others, “WS has overseen the growth” of Kitesports disciplines and interests, but I have strong reserves for the real impact of WS, because we believe it had not benefited to the overall Kitesports community and this directly supports the creation of its specific international federation. Some clarifications and further structuring at international level are needed. Through IFKO we aim at taking the Kitesports to promising horizons, natural worldwide development, good regulations, and attractive competitions, in the interest of all Kitesports athletes, practitioners and stakeholders.

We are aware of the efforts taken to the IOC to have yours IKA-Formula-kiteboarding into the Olympic programme, and its presence at YOG 2018 in Buenos Aires is a positive step. We understand that this is yet not conceivable for Tokyo 2020, and therefore IFKO will work towards inclusion in the 2024 cycle with the IOC and designated host country.

We do not claim being a member of World Sailing and eligible to corresponding afforded rights. For Racing Rules of Sailing, related to IKA-Formula-kiteboarding that WS is overseeing, we found your demand decontextualized, as IFKO does not use any of Sailing contents or rules to Kitesports world competitions.

As per the use of “world” in titles of events, IFKO will naturally use the word as determined to be the best for the development of our Sport in its 2015 AGM, registered disciplines: Hydrofoilkite, Kitefoil, Freestyle, Kitesurf, Kitewave, Speedkite, Slalomkite, Boarder Cross, Big Air, Straplesskite, Pilotkite, Kitewing, Skikite, Snowkite, Snowboardkite, Landkite, Landboardkite, Buggykite and other Kitesports disciplines that may arise in the future. This does not overlap with the only referenceable official decision of the last 2012 ISAF AGM about the only IKA-Formula-kiteboarding discipline registered.

I notice your mention to prohibition and questioning of the eligibility of Kite athletes to other events around the world. I believe we should work towards the interest of all athletes and let aside such scenarios. Same for officials and others committed to our Sport. IFKO defends Sports and besides not approving this kind of direct sanctioning over athletes, will not use it.

IFKO has no intention to run or sanction events using World Sailing rules and its regulations as IFKO believes same intention of World of Sailing by stopping the references to be overseeing Kitesports registered disciplines, for example: Kitefoil, Hydrofoilkite, Freestyle, Kitewave, Slalomkite and Speedkite, etc..

We will continue communicating on the steps we take, and reach at relevant stakeholders. We would be grateful benefiting from World Sailing experience and support, and trust our exchange of letters can be a good step into dialogue and cooperation.

IFKO naturally respects confidentiality in its official correspondence. However, after your 17th January letter be shared by WS to IKA, that propagandised it to its “members”, industry partners and media, I find correct to inform you that both IFKO letters will be shared to IFKO stakeholders.

I hope these lines clarify the situation from our side, and you can reach at me and the IFKO team for next steps at any convenience.

Sincerely



Diogo Paes Fernandes
President, Executive Council, IFKO

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF KITESPORTS ORGANISATIONS – IFKO

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