



President
Dr. Tamás AJÁN (HUN)
IOC Honorary Member

General Secretary
Mohammed JALOOD (IRQ)

Budapest, 15 January 2020

**MEMBER FEDERATIONS OF THE IWF
MEMBERS OF THE IWF COMMITTEES
IWF PARTNERS – WEIGHTLIFTING FAMILY**

Dear Sir / Madam,

Last week, very shortly following the release of the report of ARD German Television, I saw it necessary to address the IWF membership, because its accusations and distortions represent a significant attack on the reputation of weightlifting. We immediately issued a [Press Release](#) and, in addition, a circular letter to the Member Federations.

Now, as a follow up, I want to confirm that the IWF continues to address these in a robust way.

Some of you will have noted that the IOC mentioned weightlifting in this connection at its recent Executive Board meeting. In his press conference, President Bach said:

"There are two points to consider. First of all, we have then lifted the suspension of weightlifting but under conditions. We said we keep monitoring the developments within the Federation. Second, the lifting of the suspension happened after reforms in the system with which WADA is very satisfied and where before doing so we have been consulting with WADA and have got the information there that the new system... and giving the testing to ITA and many other measures ... was and is to the satisfaction of WADA."

We are grateful to the IOC for its continued recognition of our efforts in recent years to ensure the protection of clean athletes and the promotion of clean sport. You will of course have noted that the great majority of the ARD allegations refer to the past, while the TV show gave no recognition for our reforms – many of which have gone further and faster than in any other international sports federation. Similarly, the ARD show did not include statements from the IWF or the IOC. From this approach, we can only conclude that ARD is more interested in creating sensational stories than the genuine work of improving anti-doping and changing the culture of weightlifting.

Mr Mohammed Jalood, our General Secretary has been in Budapest since Monday, **13 January 2020**. I am grateful to him and to those IWF Executive Board members who have responded to the ARD allegations in a concerned, professional and helpful way that puts the interests of our sport and its athletes first.

With respect to the weight of the matter, we have convened an Extraordinary Executive Board meeting for 22nd January 2020 in order to allow the Board to clearly understand the situation and form their position.

The IWF has created a special area on our website, where you can find various statements rebutting the ARD allegations from the IWF's members and partners. You can find it here: [Statements](#)

At the same time, I have received over a hundred notes from Member Federations, officials, partners and individuals with support and encouragement. Thank you all for that!

Meanwhile, of course, we are continuing to follow up in a comprehensive and thorough way. We are cooperating with the IOC, WADA and ITA; we are considering further investigations for the new allegations made by ARD. And we are compiling the documents with evidence to refute the old and unfounded accusations and allegations repeated by ARD.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President
IOC Honorary Member