



PUBLIC ORGANIZATION
«RUSSIAN KICKBOXING FEDERATION»

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Out. № 600, November 17th, 2023

To:

WAKO President Mr. Roy Baker,

members of WAKO,

members of other international organizations,

members and structural units of Russian Kickboxing Federation,

as well as all individuals and organizations, interested in the development of kickboxing

**An open letter in response to WAKO's appeal to the RKF dated November 10,
2023, according to which WAKO plans to begin the procedure for excluding RKF
from among WAKO members**

The Russian Kickboxing Federation (hereinafter referred to as RKF) has carefully read the contents of your letter. It is regrettable that you remembered about our organization only due to the fact that we have taken certain steps related to the further development of kickboxing in Russia, as well as in the federations of other countries that support the RKF. The rest of the time you were silent, not noticing our hopeless situation and leaving us no choice.

Instead of making a constructive contribution to the development of kickboxing, you decided to follow the path of further disintegration and politicization of sports. The decision to exclude the Russian Kickboxing Federation from the membership of WAKO is not just an instrument of political pressure, it leads to further polarization of the global sports community. We consider it extremely biased and short-sighted. This approach is destructive. It causes reputational and image damage to your organization and goes against

the sporting and Olympic values that you should preach. This is fundamentally inconsistent with the level of the global governing body that you position yourself to be.

In Russia, more than 150,000 boys and girls, men and women, engage in kickboxing on an ongoing basis, participating in many socially significant competitions organized by the RKF. It may seem to some that by removing our organization from international competitions, you aimed to trigger an outflow of young people from the RKF to other sports organizations, sever our friendly ties with national organizations in other countries of the world, and degrade the referee committee. But, we assure you, this did not happen, which was confirmed by the “SCO Open Kickboxing Championship” international competition held in Russia. Other countries respect us, and strive to maintain friendly contacts with us. They want to compete with us, considering us one of the most powerful teams in the world that has a lot to teach them.

Over the 31 years of RKF membership in the international association WAKO (the federation has been a permanent member of WAKO since 1992), our organization has become the leading country in the world in terms of the number of gold medals won at world and European championships and cups, to which we have always delegated the most complete teams in all disciplines and weight categories. During this period, our organization did not violate a single point of the WAKO Statutes, constantly demonstrating an example of commitment to the ideals of the Olympic movement, international law, and the WAKO Statutes. And what do we get in response? The management of WAKO is trying, without legal authority, to expand the range of economic sanctions against Russia, undeservedly introducing sports restrictions against the RKF. This is the attitude towards one of the best teams in the world. The team to which many athletes from other countries looked up to, trying to become as strong as us.

What happened to you, Mr. Baker? Under your leadership, WAKO, a purely sports organization, turned into a kind of political entity. It slams a label on one of the strongest teams of the planet — the Russian national kickboxing team — and illegally excludes it from international competitions. Tell us, how was such an unpopular decision made, under whose pressure? Who gave you the right to try to destroy Russian kickboxing? While, in fact, kickboxing belongs to the whole world, without having a national status. It is the fruit of the international creativity of martial artists from North America and Eurasia, that was also developed on other continents of the planet. Kickboxing was born primarily in the fight for justice. And now, after 50 years of the existence of this wonderful sport, you are trying to introduce prohibitive measures, censorship and arbitrariness of sports officials. What are YOU doing, Roy Baker?

On April 9, 2023, we sent to you a request for admission of Russian athletes and specialists to competitions held under the auspices of WAKO. We received a response that indicates that WAKO’s goal today is not the development of world sports and

kickboxing in particular, but a deliberate and merciless blockade of one of the largest sports teams in the world. It seems that WAKO is using the current situation for precisely these purposes. For a year and a half, the RKF did not show any external activity, realizing that WAKO must take a number of decisions to resolve the current situation. But WAKO saw this as our weakness and did not show any concern for one of the largest members of the association. The member with enormous potential and one of the best developed kickboxing infrastructures in the world. Instead of friendly and sporting solidarity, we saw only malevolence.

Such actions by WAKO and its leadership in the person of President Roy Baker remove the association from the core principles of the Olympic movement. Countries, athletes, referees, coaches and other professionals who love kickboxing and put sporting values above political intrigue make up a significant majority. We are convinced that the moral guidelines we follow, combined with the establishment of a new international federation, will provide us with the opportunity to create conditions for athletes so that they can demonstrate all their skills and compete under their own flag and anthem.

Mr. Baker, you also talk about your association being recognized by the IOC. But this organization has tarnished its reputation, given what policy the IOC applies against Russian sports, and therefore cannot be an exclusive reference point for us. The IOC discredits itself because it is subject to dirty politics.

Many WAKO members understand the damage caused by your actions when you decided to exclude one of the most dedicated teams in kickboxing from participating in international competitions, and what a loss it will be for the entire kickboxing community to completely exclude RKF from the WAKO membership. But we, Russians, have always been able to respond to various challenges of the time, and this situation will not be an exception!

The period of exclusion became for us a time of deep analysis and revision of values. We identified new opportunities and went through a path of diversification, which included creating comfortable training conditions for athletes of the national team, improving the multimedia component, working with the personnel reserve, cultivating kickboxing at the mass level, as well as holding our own international tournaments, both amateur and professional.

This experience was a significant milestone for us, during which we not only became convinced of our strength and determination, but also found new sources of inspiration and energy. We sincerely believe that there are many talented and ambitious people in the sports community, and our task is to lay the foundation for their development and support.

Against the backdrop of confidence in the usefulness and significance of the events we are conducting, a persistent desire to scale up our aspirations intensified, which ultimately resulted in the development of a project to create a new international federation. Its priorities will be large-scale events, fair judging, a mandatory prize fund, high-quality organization and coverage of events in the media, powerful broadcasts, and the absence of entry fees for participating countries.


We appeal to all countries to seriously consider the current situation and look at it from our side, taking into account the prospects and opportunities for cooperation within the framework of the new international federation. We are convinced that the world is multipolar, and it is important that sport remains outside of politics and calls for consolidation, friendship and justice.

We are ready to enter into an open dialogue and cooperate with all interested parties. Our vision for the future of kickboxing is one of inclusion, respect and equal opportunity for athletes from all countries. We are committed to the ideas of building up and developing kickboxing, and our actions are aimed at the further progress of this sport. We invite you to join us in our endeavors and share your experience and knowledge, because now more than ever it is important to act together.

Considering the importance of feedback for effective cooperation, please express your opinion on the development of kickboxing in your country and the global sports community. Your position is very important to us, so we encourage you to share your ideas and suggestions. Your contribution will certainly help in creating a favorable platform for the development of kickboxing around the world!

Sincerely,

Head of the Republic of Kalmykia,
Chairman of the Supreme Supervisory Council of the



Batu Khasikov