



September 19, 2022

Dear National Federation Presidents and General Secretaries:

I've thought long and hard about this letter because this is the last letter that I plan to write prior to this week's presidential election. I've written one letter before that highlighted in great detail why USA Boxing has chosen to support Boris van der Vorst for the presidency of IBA. However, this time I prefer to be much more practical in my explanation.

You've all seen the information in the McLaren report, the Lalovic report, and you're all aware that IBA is not allowed to participate in the 2024 Olympics in Paris and has been removed completely from the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

This is not only an indictment on our current leadership, but it's an indictment on us all. We ALL share responsibility here. If we as a Congress will not make the necessary changes to adhere to the IOC's requirements for re-inclusion into the Olympic Games, then we are all responsible for denying our athletes the possibility to accomplish their dreams.

One of the first things I learned as a board member at USA Boxing was that the 'Organization Comes First.' That means you place the needs of the organization ahead of any group, any faction, or any individual. Are we doing this by maintaining the status quo at IBA? I would argue that we are not.

The requirements presented by the IOC for IBA to be re-included in the Olympic movement are not very difficult. They are clearly spelled out and have not changed since 2019, but why have we failed to meet them? No matter what you think of the IOC the rules are still the rules, and they really aren't very difficult. IBA Constitution clearly states, "***The mission of IBA is to promote, support and govern the sport of boxing worldwide in accordance with the requirements and spirit of the Olympic Charter.***"

However, under the current administration, IBA just can't seem to meet these requirements; current IBA leadership has had over two years to accomplish this goal.

At this point, it appears to be a leadership issue, but we are all being held accountable for it. When I say all, I mean the athletes, officials, and volunteers of our National Federations who we have made an oath to serve. It doesn't matter how many meetings we have, how many letters we write,



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or how many black-tie galas we attend. As long as we remain outside of the Olympic movement, we are failing our members.

However, this does not have to last forever. USA Boxing decided to support Boris van der Vorst because he has committed to specifically address these issues with the IOC which will allow us to continue with what makes our organization relevant, inclusion in the Olympic movement. Boris has even gone a step further and pledged, *"...to restore IOC financial contributions to the IBA, unlock additional Olympic Solidarity funds for boxing, and form the Boxing Independent Integrity Unit to protect boxers and National Federations..."* within his first 100 days or 'HE WILL RESIGN.' Boris additionally pledged, *"... re-inclusion of boxing for LA2028..."* in one year or will tender his resignation. Can our current administration make the same commitment?

Once we are back in the Olympic movement, we will receive the funding that is currently just sitting there that we do not have access to because of the IOC's lack of confidence in our current leadership.

To you smaller National Federations who don't have very many boxers and may feel that re-inclusion in the Olympic Games is not a big issue with you, Boris has asked me to lead a Task Force that will specifically assist emerging nations in obtaining the equipment you need such as rings, gloves, training facilities, training of R&Js and competitions that will enhance your programs and provide your boxers with the necessary resources to be competitive. This is no small task, but I have accepted the challenge. We implemented a similar program in the USA that has proven very beneficial to our smaller programs, and I believe it's been obvious to everyone in the world how much the USA boxers have improved in just the last few years.

I have said to many of you that I don't dislike anyone personally in the current administration. I think they have made efforts to improve IBA. For whatever reason, however, they have been unsuccessful in accomplishing the very specific and attainable requirements set by the IOC to get us re-included in the Olympic movement, the absolute most important requirement for IBA's existences. We have learned of the importance of Olympic solidarity funding and what can actually happen when we attempt to go it alone. It looked great at the beginning, but now we are in a financial position again where our organization is struggling to pay athletes the prize money they have earned. Not to mention the additional funds promised but not delivered to the Confederations.

It's time for a change. What do we have to lose? Hopefully, we won't have any more shenanigans in Armenia this time as we did in Turkey, and we can actually have a presidential election. I guess time will tell, but we do need to have this election. The results of this Congress will be a direct reflection of what we as leaders of our National Federations see as important to our members. If we don't vote for what we know will get us re-included in the Olympic Games, then we are all just



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as responsible for failing our members as the leadership that has not fulfilled the IOC's requirements.

That's why USA Boxing has decided to vote for change. We have decided to support the candidate, Boris van der Vorst, who has vowed to resign if he does not accomplish this most important task within his first year.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tyson J. Lee".

Tyson J. Lee  
USAB BOD, President



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