



February 28, 2022

Umar Kremlev, IBA President of the Board of Directors
IBA Board of Directors
IBA Headquarters
Lausanne, Switzerland
By email

Re: **International Boxing Association's (IBA) condemnation of Russian and Belarussian Governments' invasion of sovereign Nation of Ukraine**

Dear President Umar Kremlev,
Dear IBA Board of Director Members,

In the spirit of transparency, we would like to address you openly and encourage our fellow National Federations to express their opinion on the highly concerning and deeply saddening matter of the Russian Government's invasion into Ukraine with assistance of Belarussian Government on February 24, 2022.

These events have shocked the world and have already caused immense unnecessary suffering. The Ukrainian boxing community, including the Klitschko brothers, Usyk, and Lomachenko have made their stance clear – they are ready to defend their country, while hoping for this war to end as soon as possible. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of Ukraine, the country with rich boxing tradition.

We would like to thank the German Boxing Association for providing assistance to Ukrainian boxers who finished competing at Strandja Memorial tournament in Bulgaria, but cannot return to Ukraine. They are now travelling to Germany, where they will be provided with accommodation and training facilities for the coming weeks. This is admirable!

On February 25, 2022, the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees (IOC-IPC) expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian sports community and **strongly condemned** the actions of the Russian and Belarussian Governments for breaching the Olympic Truce by invading the sovereign nation of Ukraine. A clear act of aggression, which is a violation of Article 2.4 of the United Nations (UN) Charter, which prohibits, "...use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State..."

We took note of the initial recommendation of the IOC to all sports organizations, which states that:





“...all International Sports Federations to relocate or cancel their sports events currently planned in Russia or Belarus. They should take the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian and Belarussian governments into account and give the safety and security of the athletes absolute priority... and ... urged that no Russian or Belarussian national flag be displayed and no Russian or Belarussian anthem be played in international sports events...”

Today, the IOC has issued the following additional resolution:

“In order to protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants, the IOC EB recommends that International Sports Federations and sports event organisers not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in international competitions.

Wherever this is not possible on short notice for organisational or legal reasons, the IOC EB strongly urges International Sports Federations and organisers of sports events worldwide to do everything in their power to ensure that no athlete or sports official from Russia or Belarus be allowed to take part under the name of Russia or Belarus. Russian or Belarusian nationals, be it as individuals or teams, should be accepted only as neutral athletes or neutral teams. No national symbols, colours, flags or anthems should be displayed.”

On March 4, 2022, IBA will be holding a Board of Directors, and it is believed that IBA will be discussing its official position and response to the invasion of Ukraine.

As members of IBA Congress, **“the highest authority of IBA”**, as identified in Dr. Haas adopted IBA’s Organizational Chart, we strongly urge that the Board of Directors follow the ideals of “good governance” and provide meeting minutes, which will include a roll call vote of all BOD members, when publishing IBA’s official statement and/or position regarding the **violation of the Olympic Truce** by Russian and Belarusian Governments.

As National Federations we are seeking to implement the following minimum actions based on the policies of our respective countries/sport ministries and **strongly request** all National Federations also implement these minimum actions. Additionally, as IBA Congress Members **we strongly urge** IBA Board of Directors accept the following minimum actions on behalf of the IBA:

- 1) Public condemnation of the actions of Russian and Belarusian Governments in relation to the invasion of Ukraine.
- 2) Cancellation and/or relocation of all IBA international boxing events in Russia and Belarus, including the 2022 European Boxing Championships, Ulan Ude, Russia.





- 3) Prohibition of participation of Russian and Belarusian boxers and officials in all IBA international competitions, In order to protect the integrity of boxing competitions and for the safety of all the participants
- 4) Prohibition of the Russian or Belarussian national flags and anthems at IBA international boxing events, whenever it is not possible to implement a ban on participation of Russian or Belarussian boxers for organizational or legal reasons
- 5) Prohibition of the Olympic abbreviations for Russia (RUS) and Belarus (BLR) on boxer uniforms, whenever it is not possible to implement a ban on participation of Russian or Belarussian boxers for organizational or legal reasons
- 6) Strong recommendation to all IBA National Federations to adopt and implement the same sanctions
- 7) Immediate cessation of the IBA partnership with Gazprom – a Russian state owned company
- 8) Commitment to abstain from partnerships with any Russian or Belarussian state-owned companies

Thank you for your time and consideration in this critical matter.

*Our **Common Cause** is to keep Olympic style boxing in the Olympic program of Paris 2024 and ensure its re-inclusion for Los Angles 2028.*

Respectfully,

Tyson Lee, Chair of Board Directors
USA Boxing

Odd Haktor Slake, President
Norwegian Boxing Federation

Boris van der Vorst, President
Dutch Boxing Federation

Almar Ögmundsson, President
Icelandic Boxing Federation

Steve Hartley, President
Boxing New Zealand

Andreas Anderegg, President
Swiss Boxing

Lars Brovil, President
Danish Boxing Association

Dominique Nato, President
French Boxing Federation

Per-Axel Sjöholm, President
Swedish Boxing Federation

Patrick Schaerrer, President
Malta Boxing Federation

Markku Kauhanen, President
Finnish Boxing Federation

Mike McAtee, CEO/Executive Director
USA Boxing

Charlie Ford, Interim CEO
England Boxing

CC: All IBA National Federations, Professor Ulrich Haas, USOPC

