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South Africa
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The Encroachment and Misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning

By Fédération Internationale Gymnastique (FIG)

To Mr. Morinari Watanabe,

It has come to the attention of Parkour South Africa (PKSA) that negotiations between the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG), Freerunning et l'Art du Déplacement, APEX School of Movement, Jump Freerun, and the Mouvement for investigation into establishing some form of new discipline or sport based on parkour and/or freerunning as dated per the FIG's press release dated 24 February 2017 were initiated and subsequently abandoned.

We recognise that the main collaborators, APEX School of Movement, issued a retraction of this collaboration with FIG due to pressure from ParkourUK and other national parkour bodies representing their communities and the public comments and actions of the FIG.

It is clear from statements and actions made in public that FIG does not respect parkour and freerunning as separate disciplines in their own right. Furthermore, the FIG's attempt to codify and control the culture and methodologies through regulation, rule-making and entry requirements is seen as an attempt to appropriate parkour for the FIG's own ends. We believe that ParkourUK's letter to you dated 31 March provides ample reasons why parkour and freerunning (or a copy thereof) should not fall under a gymnastics federation, and as such, we strongly condemn this attempted hijacking, and support ParkourUK and others in their calls against such actions.

Sincerely,

Paul Gray

Board Chairman Parkour South Africa