

Encroachment & Misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning by FIG

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Bcc [REDACTED]

Importance: High

Sensitivity Confidential

📎 1 attachments (16 MB)

Your e-mail 27th May 2018;

[REDACTED],

I hope that you're both well?

I wanted to write to directly to you both as the IOC, ahead of the scheduled meeting of the [IOC Executive Board](#), tomorrow 9th June 2017 in Lausanne - where it is likely that [IOC Executive Board are to assess additional events proposed for Tokyo 2020](#), possibly including a proposal by Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) relating to Parkour.

As you are aware via various previous correspondence that you have been copied into; Parkour UK, as well as by legitimate extension the International Parkour Community have raised fundamental and legitimate concerns relating to the encroachment and misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning by the FIG. These concerns relating to the encroachment and misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning by the FIG, have now been fully substantiated (*as set out in various previous correspondence, as attached*).

Unfortunately, despite our repeated requests for a meeting with the FIG via transparent and open dialogue, in the spirit of respect and solidarity in order to amicably resolve the concerns we have outlined in our and the correspondence from the wider international Parkour community, these have been and continue to be wilfully ignored. Therefore, we would like to directly appeal to the IOC to ensure that the IOC Executive Board are made aware of the fundamental, legitimate and fully substantiated encroachment and misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning by FIG.

Such encroachment and misappropriation goes beyond established and recognised ethical, legal and moral limits, as well as being inconsistent with the established [principle of solidarity](#) and including but not limited to;

- The International Olympic Committee, Olympic Charter - Aug 2016, 5. Fundamental Principles of Olympism; *Recognising that sport occurs within the framework of society, sports organisations [within the Olympic Movement] **shall have the rights and obligations of autonomy, which include freely establishing and controlling the rules of sport**, determining the structure and governance of their organisations, enjoying the right of elections free from any outside influence and the responsibility for ensuring that principles of good governance be applied.*

Additionally, these principles are also fully recognised, acknowledged and understood by the IOC, as detailed in the report commissioned by the IOC by [Dr Belinda Wheaton & Dr Holly Thorpe](#) from the University of Waikato – New Zealand, titled: [Youth Perceptions of the Olympic Games: Attitudes Towards Action Sports at the YOG and Olympic Games June 2016](#).

As I am sure that you are both aware, this report project critically examined youth perceptions of the relevance and significance of the Olympic Games, and the Youth Olympic Games. It focused particularly on the attitudes of participants in newer, action sports (i.e. skateboarding, surfing, BMX, snowboarding, **parkour**, kite-surfing), as well as the cultural processes leading up to and following the short-listing of surfing, skateboarding and sport climbing for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The 137 page made **three key recommendations**:

- As the IOC continues to consider new activities for inclusion (e.g., **parkour**, BMX freestyle) in the Olympic Games and YOG, **it needs to recognize that the governance structures of these sports differ from most traditional sports, and those with the most insights and knowledge may not be housed within the expected sporting infrastructure.**

- We encourage the IOC to continue to work with action-sport specific federations (in contrast to fitting within existing IFs that may not understand and respect the unique cultural value systems and be aware of the important issues within these sports). While this will involve considerable effort (and mentoring and support) to help them learn the rules and regulations required of Olympic sports, **we feel this approach has the best chance of getting 'buy in' from the core of the cultures, and thus longer-term sustainability of these activities within the Olympic Games.**
- We recommend that there will be important research following the announcement in Rio 2016 to Tokyo 2020. As signalled in this report, as this news is received the International Federations will take on new roles and responsibilities working with national federations, athletes and coaches. **We anticipate that these processes will be complex and political, and much can be learned from this process for future action sport inclusion into and success at the Olympic Games.**

As detailed in our open letters, **any** International Federation for **must and should be** established by the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Deplacement community, via a process of federating our NGB's/National Federations – as per established and recognised international norms, on the established right of self-determination and by virtue of that right **we, not** FIG as an international community freely determine our sporting, social and cultural development. This is in accordance with our freely expressed will and desire.

Following the open letters of support for Parkour UK's position from various other National Federations including, but not limited to [Fédération de Parkour](#) (France), [New Zealand Parkour Association](#) (New Zealand), [Australian Parkour Association](#) (Australia), [Parkour South Africa](#) (South Africa), [Polska Federacja Parkour i Freerun](#) (Poland) & [Finnish Parkour Association](#) (Finland). Additionally, a number of other national communities have reached accords to establish a National Federation for their territory, including but not limited to [Germany](#), [Switzerland](#) & [Sweden](#). Furthermore, other national communities have also issued letters of support including, but not limited to [Denmark](#), [Argentina](#) & [Italy](#).

Therefore, we would like to formally request the following support, *as detailed below* of the IOC on the basis of the **three key recommendations** *Youth Perceptions of the Olympic Games: Attitudes Towards Action Sports at the YOG and Olympic Games* June 2016, (as set detailed above) above;

- The IOC to formally recognise that the governance structures of and within our sport (*Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Deplacement*) and that our community differ from most traditional sports (*including but not limited to Gymnastics*) and those with the most insights and knowledge **are not housed** within the expected sporting infrastructure (*such as FIG or any other International Federation*), **but within our sport and community.**
- The IOC to formally work with us [redacted] as 'action-sport specific federations' (*in contrast to fitting within existing International Federations, including FIG, as they do not understand and respect the unique cultural value systems and are not aware of the important issues within our sport and community*). While this will involve considerable effort, mentoring and support from the IOC to help us, our sport and community [redacted] importantly is consistent with the established and ethical principle of solidarity.
- As signalled in the report, it is anticipated that these processes will be complex and political, but much can be learned from this process, by the IOC, our sport/community and also the wider international sporting community for future action sport inclusion into and success at the Olympic Games.

I would very much welcome a further discussion and/or a meeting with the IOC to discuss a) the fundamental, legitimate and now fully substantiated encroachment and misappropriation of Parkour/Freerunning by the FIG and b) the formal request for support from the IOC, on the basis of the three key recommendations, to work with us on the points listed above [redacted]

If you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me on any of the details below. Thanks #GiveParkourAGo

Eugene Minogue,
Chief Executive



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