



СПОРТИВНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ СПОРТА ИНВАЛИДОВ САНКТ-ПЕТЕРБУРГА

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OPEN LETTER

Mr. Philip Craven, the IPC President
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Dear Mr. Craven,

We are addressing you on behalf of five thousand members of St. Petersburg Sports Federation of disabled people. Our Federation has been functioning for twenty years and joins 18 sports clubs and social unions for disabled people of St. Petersburg that cover 25 different events.

One of the main tasks of the Federation is the all-side development of the Paralympic movement and preparation of sportsmen with an impairment of St. Petersburg for the Paralympics. For this purpose we organize and implement more than 200 municipal, Russian and international sport events and competitions annually.

Driven by the desire to join the International Paralympic Movement, we started promoting 5 types of sport for people with impairment. Now, there are more than 30 different events in our city. Much attention is paid to the youth sport. We would like to stress that basically all this work is based on the enthusiasm of people that have passion to sport and understand the value of the Paralympic movement. So, in 2015 sportsmen of "Sports Federation of disabled people" consisting of professionals from St. Petersburg and Russia won 108 gold, 76 silver, 72 bronze medals in All-Russian competitions and 90 gold, 54 silver and 41 bronze medals in international ones. And the most important - nobody was caught in usage of banned drugs. We are proud of the strong results and consider them not only as a local but also as our contribution to the achievement of the Global Paralympic sport.

We are disappointed about the decision of the International Paralympic Committee. Actually, we cannot understand how the desire of many sportsmen who devoted their lives to generous service and development of the Paralympic movement can be destroyed in a blink of an eye. We are for a clean sport and moreover we have been promoting it for years. Our sportsmen are getting stronger every year and achieve high sport results with the help of the government without any doping. Needless to say, that titanic work was done in order to make sport results and achievements of our sportsmen with disabilities well-known to general public. Sportsmen that devoted many years to high performance sport are losing faith in justice of the Olympic principles.

Sport for disabled people is hope, faith and power helping to overcome all the difficulties in the life. Actually, for the most of them it is a sense of all their lives. Possibly, it is the only

thing that inspires them not to give up and move forward, to enjoy life, to communicate with people of all the nationalities and confessions and to be useful for the society.

Our efforts in the area of development of the Paralympic sport got a considerable support from the society. We do not want to go back to the times of isolation in disabled people's life and it is exactly what the decision of cancelling of the license of the Russian Paralympic Committee can lead to.

No doubt this questionable and groundless decision will throw our movement many years back and this fact, certainly, will have a negative impact on many people's lives, disturb their faith in the right and lead to stagnation of mass sport of disabled people in St. Petersburg and in Russia, to abrupton of warm international relations and to destruction of created sport participation system for disabled people.

We wonder who needs this and for what purpose? We are working for one and the same result! We do hope that you will change your point of view relating to the Russian Paralympic Committee and the Russian Paralympic movement in general.

Best regards,

President of St. Petersburg Sports Federation of disabled people

Sergey Gutnikov

Members of presidium of St. Petersburg Sports Federation of disabled people:

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