



TO ALL NATIONAL FEDERATIONS

Corsier-sur-Vevey, 16th May 2023 / cr

Safeguarding Athletes

Dear President, dear Secretary General,

I would like to provide you with some information about the very important topic of athletes' safeguarding against harassment and abuse, which is a concern that all sports must address and which is unfortunately at the centre of a dispute over allegations of such within the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).

Situation with WFI

You may have come across the situation prevailing in India in the media, where several wrestlers protested over allegations of sexual abuse and harassment by the President of the WFI.

From the very beginning of the protests in January, UWW closely monitored this matter with all stakeholders involved: the athletes, the federation, the Olympic Association of India (IOA) and the different committees created in connection with this case.

The UWW intervened, and continues to do so, as much as it is possible considering that the alleged facts are outside its jurisdiction. Before being asked to step aside, the WFI management was immediately requested to provide explanations about the situation. Meetings were held online with the athletes, together with the Chairman of the UWW Athletes Commission, the Secretary General and UWW Senior staff.

The Committee of the WFI which was put in place by the Indian sport authorities to oversee the activities of the federation and to investigate the allegations was solicited multiple times by UWW to report on the progress of the situation.

On 24 February 2023, UWW decided to reallocate the Senior Asian Championship, initially planned in New Delhi, to Astana considering the situation.

Lately, the Indian Olympic Association created an ad hoc committee to manage the registrations of wrestlers in the competitions of the calendar and UWW requested from the IOA that this committee fully collaborates with, and reports to UWW in this regard.

As far as the investigations are concerned, and as the report by the investigation committee had not been published and/or forwarded to the dedicated authorities, UWW asked the IOA to make sure this report and its conclusions are dealt with diligently by the right authorities.

UWW also learned that recently two complaints lodged before the competent authorities by the athletes had finally been registered, and the High Court was to proceed further with the complaints.

Even more recently, UWW learned that a Special Investigation Team by the law enforcement authorities had been formed to deal with the cases.

UWW welcomes these steps and hope that the work of the judiciary can be made without impediment.



UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

Safeguarding Officer

In relation to this very important topic, the International Olympic Committee Executive Board has recently decided to allocate USD 10 million fund per Olympiad to strengthen safe sport and to create a working group to coordinate the Olympic Movement safeguarding efforts.

In particular, the IOC Safe Sport Unit is in the process of developing an online tool to better assist athletes and sports organisations in finding support and resources on the national level.

A brief survey for national federations has been created to better assist the needs on the global scale and **UWW kindly requests all national federations to complete this very short survey:**

Link to survey: <https://s.chkmkt.com/?e=297113&h=E06B08E102D25C4&l=en>

We also inform you that two UWW staff and one Commission member have completed the IOC Course on Safeguarding and UWW will deploy additional efforts in this regard. We invite you to visit <https://uww.org/governance/athletes-safeguard> to know more about this topic and links to additional resources.

I thank you for your attention and remain,

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N. Lalovic', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Nenad Lalovic
UWW President

Copy: UWW Bureau; UWW Athletes Commission