



This matter is being dealt with by:

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Independent Chair

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President Morinari Watanabe
Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG)
Avenue de la Gare 12A
Case postale 630
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

OPEN LETTER

Dear President Morinari Watanabe,

RE: Parkour Earth - the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Déplacement

As a result of a clear and demonstrable consensus within the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Déplacement community, a number of National Federations reached an accord on the 4th July 2017 to establish [Parkour Earth](#) as the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Déplacement. The six founding National Federations are [Parkour UK](#) (GBR), [Fédération de Parkour](#) (FRA), [New Zealand Parkour - Tauhōkai Aotearoa](#) (NZL), [Australian Parkour Association](#) (AUS), [Parkour South Africa](#) (ZAF) & [Polska Federacja Parkour i Freerun](#) (POL).

The accord by the founding member National Federations obtained the democratic approval of their Boards, members and/or communities and Parkour Earth was incorporated on the 12th July 2017 and registered at Companies House in the UK.

The founding member National Federations, have elected and appointed [a transitional Board of Directors](#) on phased initial terms of office, which include four Elected Directors: Damien Puddle of *New Zealand Parkour - Tauhōkai Aotearoa*, Eliot Duffy of *Australian Parkour Association*, Paul Gray of *Parkour South Africa* & Sacha Lemaire of *Fédération de Parkour* and Independent Directors: Dr Belinda Wheaton and myself as Independent Chair. Additionally, Eugene Minogue of *Parkour UK* has been nominated and appointed as transitional CEO on an ex-officio basis.

As the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, Parkour Earth will henceforth be the recognised custodians of the philosophy, integrity and sovereignty of our sport/art/discipline internationally, for and on behalf of the international community and be the sole governing and administering body for our sport/art/discipline internationally to protect the rights, freedoms and promote the interests of Traceurs/Traceuses, Freerunners, practitioners, our members & the international community.

I have been passed the various exchanges of correspondence between our founding member, National Federations - particularly Parkour UK commencing with their letter of 31 March 2017, in which they made clear that on behalf of Parkour UK and by legitimate extension, the International Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community (as demonstrated by the various letters of support from various National Federations and communities globally), the concern that the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique had notified, through various press releases commencing with first on [24 February 2017](#), in addition to more recently on the 31 July 2017 - its unilateral intention [‘to develop Parkour \[Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement\] within Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique’](#),

including in a 'World Cup Series' in 2018 and 2019 and a 'World Championships' in 2020, with the future possibility of competitive formats for inclusion in the programme of the Olympic Games. These announcements have been made without any form of consultation and/or consent with the International Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community at large and/or with those bodies, such as our member National Federations. Additionally, there is clear and demonstrable consensus within the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Déplacement community that is clear encroachment by the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique into a recognised sovereign sport/art/discipline.

In their letter of 31 March 2017, Parkour UK made clear their request for a meeting with a Fédération Internationale De Gymnastique to address their legitimate and fundamental concerns, but this request was rebuffed in your response dated 20 April 2017. Further requests were made by Parkour UK in emails dated 2 and 16 May 2017, to which no response has been received, although it has come to their attention that you have purported to issue invitations to selected 'international organisations' to attend meetings in late May 2017 in Lausanne. As the invitation was not extended to Parkour UK, is both surprising and disappointing.

However, following the establishment of Parkour Earth, as the International Federation and my appointment as Independent Chair of the interim Board of Directors, I would like to reiterate the request for an urgent meeting with the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, within the next 28 days (15 Sept 2017) ensuring that the meeting is prefaced with circulation of an agreed agenda and your commitment to take no further steps to implement your purported encroachment. The purpose of the meeting will be to formalise the clarification, understanding, and recognition of the sovereignty of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement.

I look forward to hearing from you by return and trust that this request will be positively respected and acknowledged.

Yours sincerely



Stuart C McInnes MBE
Independent Chair

cc: Tribunal Arbitral du Sport (TAS) / Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)
International Olympic Committee (IOC)
Global Association of International Sport Federations (GAISF) – formerly SportAccord