



This matter is being dealt with by:

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Morinari Watanabe, President
André F. Gueisbuhler, Secretary General
Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG)
Avenue de la Gare 12A
Case postale 630
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

OPEN LETTER

Dear President & Secretary General,

Thank you for your letter dated [27 September 2017](#) and appendices, in response to our [open letter dated 24 August 2017](#).

Background

Your letter raises a number of issues relating to previous correspondence from the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) to our member National Federation (NF), Parkour UK dated [20 April 2017](#) and [29 May 2017](#) that it would seem pertinent and somewhat imperative to address. Parkour Earth understands that these issues have been addressed in previous correspondence by Parkour UK (and by legitimate extension, the International Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community) to FIG, but that FIG has to date ignored that correspondence.

Parkour Earth, for and on behalf of the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community, adopts and agrees with the position previously outlined by Parkour UK but, for the avoidance of doubt, reaffirms our position below against each of the issues you raise.

Historical context and lineage of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement

The historical context and lineage that is asserted by the FIG within its letter dated 20th April 2017 is both misinformed and misrepresented.

We would like to draw your full and detailed attention to the open letter from Parkour UK dated [26 May 2017](#), which included an [appended letter from Dr. Julie Angel](#) - both of these letters provided the necessary clarification on the historical context and lineage of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, our sport - as well as robustly setting aside the claim and now the new claim by the FIG and your NF's "roots to Parkour". As the FIG have been consistently informed there was and is no connection and/or lineage between the sport of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement and the sport of Gymnastics.

Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement has been recognised as a completely sovereign sport in its own right. Our sport is **not** a discipline of any existing sport. Parkour Earth, for and on behalf of the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community, will not allow our sport to be misappropriated by another sport against our members and community's will.

International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement

Parkour Earth is the International Federation for the sport Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement and its international community. We are the custodian of the philosophy, integrity and sovereignty of our sport/art/discipline.

We refer you to the open letters from Parkour UK dated [31 March 2017](#), as well as the [26 May 2017](#) in which your assertion that 'International Federation(s)' for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement were already in existence has been addressed. Those letters clearly set out that GAISF (formerly SportAccord), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) & the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had confirmed there was no International Federation(s) governing/representing Parkour, Freerunning and/or Art Du Déplacement.

In addition, we refer you to the email from Parkour UK to the FIG dated [30 May 2017](#) in which Parkour UK unequivocally confirmed that "Parkour UK is not and has never been a member of any organisation/group etc claiming to be an 'International Federation' for Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement, including FIADD. Our position on an international federation was fully set out [in September 2014](#), with [this statement](#) - when many of the organisations you have referenced emerged...".

Parkour Earth fully agrees with Parkour UK's position that, until Parkour Earth's incorporation on [12 July 2017](#) as a result of a clear and demonstrable consensus within the international Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement community, no International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/ Art Du Déplacement existed. Therefore there was no International Federation that Parkour UK could consider joining.

As you are aware, the six founding National Federations of Parkour Earth 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). Further growth in our membership, will only further serve to substantiate our position that, first, no International Federation existed prior to Parkour Earth's incorporation and, second, that the international community of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement wish to exercise their sovereign right to be governed by their own International Federation and not to be forcibly governed against their will by an unrelated sport's International Federation in the FIG.

Meeting with the FIG

Parkour Earth is clear that Parkour UK made several polite and appropriate requests for a meeting with the FIG in the spirit of mutual respect and solidarity, in order to amicably resolve the concerns relating to the international governance and administration of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement. Parkour Earth is also clear that these requests for a meeting were rebuffed or ignored. As a result, no meeting with Parkour UK was accommodated and, as is patently clear, this matter has not been resolved.

Notwithstanding, Parkour Earth, as the International Federation and recognised custodians of the philosophy, integrity and sovereignty of our sport internationally, would like to engage with the FIG to demonstrate our goodwill and intention to bring this matter to an amicable and swift resolution. Parkour Earth therefore accepts your response to our request for a meeting. We are happy to attend a meeting on the 7 November 2017 at 10:00 in Lausanne.

To ensure that the meeting is transparent, efficient and constructive, we suggest that Parkour Earth and the FIG agree an agenda and an attendee list prior to the meeting and no later than 31 October 2017. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to formalise the clarification, understanding, and recognition of the sovereignty of Parkour/Freerunning/Art Du Déplacement. We look forward to hearing from the FIG by return, in relation to agreeing the agenda and the attendee list within the timeframe set out above. We trust that the meeting will be held in the spirit of mutual respect and solidarity in order to amicably resolve our concerns.

Yours sincerely



Stuart C McInnes MBE
Independent Chair



Eugene Minogue
Chief Executive

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