



UNION OF BOATERS OF CZECH REPUBLIC
U Pergamenky 3, 170 00 P r a g u e 7

Prague 23.1.2018

Dear Danilo, chairman of AIRaF,

the Czech Rafting Federation (united with other sports under the Union of Boaters of the Czech Republic) obtained through the agency of one Czech racer Your below-mentioned proposals. The considered documents are: “*Proposal for the creation of the World Rafting Association – WRA*“ and “*STRATEGY PAPER OF THE WORLD RAFTING FEDERATION (WRF)*“ manifesto. After examination of the mentioned documents, we publicly express ourselves as follows:

1) In the document “*Proposal...*,” page 7, in the article A. *The structure of international rafting*, you mention that rafting in the Czech Republic is under the administration of ICF. The information is completely untrue. Rafting in the Czech Republic is organized and administrated by the Union of Boaters of the Czech Republic. The results of Czech athletes prove that sport rafting can be done lacking the patronage of ICF and it is completely in the hands of national organization how it is able to negotiate conceptual development of its sport as well as ensuring connection to state grants and support.

2) The documents also present Your vision that should ensure rafting a place in the Olympic Games. **Czech Rafting Federation cannot accept this vision!**

Explanation: The current leadership of International Olympic Committee strongly objects expansion of participants taking part in the Games. Moreover, it also urges **ideological** conception of balanced participation concerning males and females. Deterrent consequences can already be recognized in ICF: the elite category C2 men was cancelled and it will probably be replaced by C2 mix category. Due to this development, it is obvious that rafting in the Olympic Games is unreal if taking into account categories OPEN M and W. If rafting becomes an Olympic sport, it will only apply to the form of R4 mix (2+2), which you presented in Your document. **However, this completely denies traditions and roots of our sport.** Moreover, due to the strategy that urges no increase in number of participating athletes, rafting Olympic race would be probably seized by athletes nominated for main canoe categories (C1M, C1W, K1M, K1W).

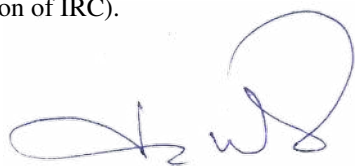
This way is for race rafting completely destructive. It denies roots of the sport and it will completely destroy it.

3) In the documents you propose active guidance of rafting to an Olympic sport. As a member of IRF, why you did not actively urge or propose your ideas during regular congresses of IRF? If you do not agree with the current management and development of international rafting, why you did not candidate into authorities of IRF or why you did not gain support from the majority of member countries and did not change the situation in IRF? You mention formation of new junior categories. How many Italian junior teams took part in WRCs and ERCs in the past four years?

4) Management of any international sport organization is based on balanced approach of all members. If anything should be changed, then the new idea has to be approved by the majority of members. **Do you think that by founding a new organization that principle is going to change?**

We consider Your activity (attempt to found a new international organization – WRA) **as unfortunate, carelessly planned and most importantly highly dangerous effort** that will stop the development of rafting considering both competitive and uncompetitive aspects of the sport and its subsequent destruction.

We do not want to experience the same disappointment as the canoe athletes of C2 do, as well as the disappointment experienced by downriver racers who were rejected from the Olympic Games (despite the administration of IRC).

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a large loop and a 'P', representing the name Libor Polák.

Libor Polák
Chairmann of Union of Boaters of the Czech Republic