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British Mountaineering Council
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Dear Marco

Reference: IFSC response to Russian invasion of Ukraine.

We write to you on behalf of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and its 75,000+ membership.

The BMC is an apolitical organisation and believes that sport and politics should remain separate. We strongly believe that the athletes and civilians of a country should not be punished for the decisions made by their governments.

However, Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine, an act that is a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter, places us in a difficult situation.

We, along with other sports federations across the UK, condemn the actions of Russia in invading Ukraine, and we condemn the support that they have received from Belarus. We do not believe that we can sit by and watch this atrocity unfold without doing all that we can to support the international efforts to secure a rapid and peaceful withdrawal of Russian troops and a return to peace in the region.

Until such time, the BMC will not:

- Host Russian or Belarussian delegations, or otherwise support or endorse any competition or activity within Russia or Belarus.
- Compete in any events where athletes or sports officials from Russia or Belarus are allowed to take part under the name of Russia or Belarus.
- Accept any sponsorship or other payment from organisations that are linked to Russia or Belarus.

We welcome the statement by the IFSC, made today, removing the hosting rights for competitions in Russia and Belarus, suspending athletes and team officials and removing international technical officials from IFSC competitions.

We fully support the proposals to assist Ukraine through fee waiver and other tangible action, and we are united in our desire to support the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian climbing community. However, we implore IFSC to go further and:

- Exclude all delegates from Russia or Belarus from any activities of the IFSC, including representation on any working groups, committees, or commissions.
- Withdraw the invitation for Russia and Belarus to attend the General Assembly, either in person or remotely.
- Join the other International Federations (such as FIFA) and the IOC in making a clear public statement of condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and outline the actions that you have taken.

We must all stand united with the people of Ukraine and do whatever we can to send the strongest message of unity – that the international community will not stand idly by in the face of such aggression.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Davies'.

Paul Davies (CEO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Murray'.

Roger Murray (Chair)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Syme'.

Andy Syme (President)

working for climbers, hill walkers & mountaineers

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