

Regula Meier, ISMF President  
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Dear Regula

**Reference: ISMF 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 ISMF, released on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, showing solidarity with people affected by the war, but as the invasion continues we would ask that you go further.

We implore ISMF to:

- Not invite or allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes or officials in international competitions sanctioned by ISMF.
- Exclude all delegates from Russia or Belarus from any activities of the ISMF, including representation on any working groups, committees, or commissions.
- 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 to show that the international community will not stand idly by in the face of such aggression.

Yours,

Handwritten signature of Paul Davies in black ink.

Paul Davies (CEO)

Handwritten signature of Roger Murray in black ink.

Roger Murray (Chair)

Handwritten signature of Andy Syme in black ink.

Andy Syme (President)

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