

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

Communication No. 1853

Betting/Gambling in ISU Sports

The ISU Council deemed it opportune to remind ISU Members and participants on the ISU's position related to betting/gambling in sports.

The ISU has taken a clear position in the area of betting/gambling in Sports. Please refer to the ISU Code of Ethics (ISU Communication No. 1717)) which states in Art. 4.h), in particular but not limited to,

*“h) To assure my independence and integrity, and the honesty of the ISU sports, I agree to absolutely reject and forego any partisan and parochial attitudes, approaches and interests, to refrain from any attempt to influence the course and/or results of any ice skating event in a manner contrary to sporting ethics, **to refrain from participating in all forms of betting or support for betting or gambling related to any event/activity under the jurisdiction of the ISU,** and to adhere strictly to the larger purposes and mission of the ISU as the Union of all Members. I agree to: (1) prompt disclosure of my personal interest in any situation that could reasonably be considered to involve a conflict of interest; (2) abstain from making or influencing decisions involving personal or family gain or public acclaim; (3) absolute independence on my part which excludes favoritism for, or prejudice against, any Member, Coach, Skater or his/her family member, ISU Office Holder or country; and (4) strict observance of the confidentiality of non-public ISU information or when disclosure is prohibited by law or the ISU Statutes.”*

ISU Communication No. 1784, clarified that the same applies also the Olympic Winter Games and Winter Youth Olympic Games (as per specific IOC Rules) as well as any other event/activity in which the ISU represents its sports.

Furthermore, during the 2012 ISU Congress in Kuala Lumpur, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted by the ISU Members

“Resolution

Whereas National Member Associations are firmly requested to adopt in their Rules a provision already being part of the ISU Code of Ethics in relation to betting in sports. The ISU Code of Ethics states that participants in ISU competitions/activities agree to refrain from participating in all forms of betting or support for betting or gambling related to any event/activity under the jurisdiction of the ISU.”

The ISU had been approached by an entity named “Ice Derby” planning to organize international competitions involving Speed Skaters and Short Track Speed Skaters in special competition formats and possibly being closely connected to betting. A first competition is reportedly planned to be held in Dubai in May 2014.

The ISU responded that in view of the ISU's position in this area, the ISU was unable to cooperate in any activity relating to betting/gambling in sports and that the ISU will not sanction the proposed Ice Derby International Competitions. The involvement of Skaters and/or Officials from ISU Members will be sanctioned according to the ISU Rules, in particular but not limited to Rule 102, paragraph 2 of the ISU General Regulations relating to eligibility.

In addition, based on evidence of breach of the above-mentioned provision (or other provisions) of the ISU Code of Ethics, the ISU will initiate disciplinary proceedings. As per ISU Communication No 1717, the ISU Code of Ethics applies to all ISU Office Holders, Officials, ISU Members and their members, ISU Employees and Consultants, ISU Commission members, Organizing Committees for ISU Events and their officials and volunteers, officials and volunteers at ISU sanctioned Member events, Skaters, Coaches, trainers, doctors, team attendants, team officials, all other persons claiming or seeking standing as present or prospective participants in any ISU activity, and persons without status or title who engage in any activity in relation to the ISU that is prohibited by the Code of Ethics.

The ISU encourages these persons and bodies to respect the ISU Code of Ethics and to refrain from participating in all forms of betting or support for betting or gambling related to any event/activity under the jurisdiction of the ISU, at the Olympic Winter Games and at the Winter Youth Olympic Games and at any other event/activity in which the ISU represents its sports.

Regardless of the format of an international ice skating competition, the ISU reminds Members that participation in any international ice skating competition not sanctioned by the ISU will result in the loss of ISU eligibility of the participants (See Rule 102 for eligibility and Rule 104 paragraph 14 & 15 of the ISU General Regulations as well as the ISU Event Calendar on the ISU website relating to ISU sanctioned competitions).

Milano,
March 6, 2014
Lausanne,

Ottavio Cinquanta, President

Fredi Schmid, Director General