



Vaduz, 1st July 2024

Statement of the president of the Liechtenstein Judo Federation regarding the ban of Russian judo athletes at the Olympic Games in Paris.

In a press release on Friday evening, the Russian Judo Federation announced it would not send any athletes to the Olympic Games in Paris in protest against the humiliating conditions regarding the athletes allowed to participate. Although 17 Russian judokas had directly qualified for the Paris Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) authorized only four of them to participate.

Regarding this situation, the president of the Judo Federation of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Mr. Ivan Kaufmann, issued the following statement:

« I regret and condemn the IOC's decision to ban Russian athletes from the Paris Olympic Games. The decision contradicts with the principles of the Olympic spirit and is unjust to the Russian judo athletes who deserve – as any other athlete, irrespective of color, religion or political view of their leaders - the chance to compete and celebrate peace and sports with the athletes of all nations.

The politicization of sport to the disadvantage of committed and dedicated athletes not only violates the ideals of Pierre de Coubertin but also must be seen as a lost chance to unite athletes and officials of different nations for a peaceful and constructive encounter.

I hope and plea for a reversal of this decision and for the situation to be resolved in accordance with the Olympic spirit. »

Ivan Kaufmann

President of the Liechtenstein Judo Federation