



International Belt Wrestling Association

Mr. Nenad Lalovic
President
United World Wrestling (UWW)

Ref: IBWA/UWW/BW/2016
Dated: 3rd October, 2016

Sub: **Belt Wrestling sport**

Dear Mr. President,

The International Belt Wrestling Association (hereinafter referred to as the "IBWA") would like to register its compliments for your valuable contribution and leadership in promoting wrestling throughout the world.

Through this present communiqué, we would like to draw your attention towards an issue which needs your personal involvement; as you, being a sportsman yourself, would never like to infringe another sportsperson's right of play.

Your attention is drawn towards the sport of Belt Wrestling. The IBWA is a legal entity, established in the year 2005, and initially registered its legal seat in Moscow – Russia. Since 2006, the IBWA has been organizing World Championships, continental championships, snow and beach championships and regional championships in accordance with its technical rules.

Throughout the world, including countries in Africa, South America, and Oceania, a series of activities including but not limited to events, seminars, coaching camps were organized by the IBWA to promote and introduce the sport of Belt Wrestling.

We would also like to point out that it was the IBWA who persuaded FISU and had the sport of Belt Wrestling included in the World Universiade – Kazan and its Asian continental body “Asian Belt Wrestling Federation (ABWF)”, formerly known as “Asian Ju Jitsu Belt Wrestling Federation (AJJBWF)”, had the sport recognized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) after which it got berth firstly in 2009 during the Asian Indoor Games 2009 at Hanoi – Vietnam as a demonstration sports and finally, pursuant to relentless efforts and hectic persuasion, with the help of its members, the ABWF was successful in having the sports included as a medal sport in the upcoming 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games 2017 to be held at Ashgabat – Turkmenistan under the décor of the OCA.

To our utter surprise and in all unfair prejudice, one gentleman, namely Gintautas Vileita, who was thrown out by the IBWA in 2006, feeling dejected, got himself affiliated with FILA in the year 2009 and succeeded in establishing an associated discipline under the name of World Committee for “Wrestling on Belt Alysh”. This occurred after the failure of negotiations to become a part of FILA between former president of FILA Mr. Raphael Martinetti and former President IBWA Mr. Rif Gaynanov. It was clearly indicated to the former management of FILA that IBWA is an independent organization which is tasked with the organization, control and promotion of the sport of Belt Wrestling (Classical Style and Free Style) as per its own technical rules, which totally different with FILA’s work or jurisdiction (Reference is drawn to your own record).





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Mr. Gintautas, throughout this period, has been attempting to introduce the wrestling on Belt Alysh, a regional traditional wrestling incorporated as a regional national style of organization, in Lithuania and has also been organizing its activities as Alysh Wrestling to show himself as an independent style of traditional wrestling as many others exist at the moment in the world, including Central Asia and Africa, as well as Europe.

The first time Mr. Gintautas tried desperately to hijack the progress of IBWA by using the good office of FILA during the World Universiade – Kazan, proved to be a complete failure and the event was conducted successfully under the rules of IBWA. Now, it has come to our attention that this fellow is attempting to hijack our Asian body's work once again and is misguiding the Organizing Committee of 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games and the Olympic Council of Asia by using the name and forum of the UWW.

He attempted to include his Alysh in the test event held in the month of June 2016 at Ashgabat, but was eventually refused by the local authorities and the Asian Championship for Belt Wrestling & Turkmen Goresh was conducted by the Asian Belt Wrestling Federation (ABWF), an officially recognized body with Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) in Asian Continent which obtained recognition in the year 2007.

There appear to be a few communications in the recent past, wherein the office of UWW, through its Sports Director, conveyed that the Belt Wrestling World Committee is under UWW.

We would like to ask you to kindly look into the official record of UWW and in particular, its web pages in the past which were claiming IFWBA as its associated disciplines like Pankration, Kurash, and Grappling etc. Even in the case of Kurash, the International Kurash Association disassociated itself from FILA and obtained their independent recognition. As explained above, the IFWBA and IBWA are two different independent organizations having their own memberships across the globe.

Our organization has no problem if the UWW, which is an IOC member organization, gives opportunity to “Wrestling on Belts Alysh” to be played in Olympic events or its World Championships. However, it is reiterated that the sport of Belt Wrestling with its Classical & Free Style rules is an independent sport and has nothing to do with UWW or its associated disciplines.

It is, therefore, humbly requested that you kindly instruct your office not to mingle up both sports, which are distinct styles of traditional wrestling; and to not attempt to usurp the hard work of our Asian body “the ABWF”, which has no concern with nor has any relation to the UWW or IFWBA.

If at all, your good self feels the need to understand the issue at hand in a more explicit manner, a personal meeting may be organized at your convenience.

We hope to have your understanding in the matter and look forward to a bilateral relationship between both organisations.

Sincerely yours,

Khalil Ahmed Khan
President IBWA



Copy to: All concerned.