

INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

President
Dr. Tamás Aján (HUN)
IOC Honorary Member



General Secretary
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Mr. Claus Umbach
President German Weightlifting Federation

Dear President,
Dear Claus,

In the last two years criticism regarding the IWF's Anti-Doping Policy and Activities by German Federation Vice President Christian Baumgartner has been repeatedly on the agenda. The remarks and statements were considered by all the forums of the IWF (Executive Board, Congress, in the presence of WADA and IOC experts) and due replies were given. Our replies were confirmed by WADA and the International Olympic Committee as well.

The fact that Mr. Baumgartner ignores the actual facts and replies and keeps repeating the same old phrases makes it clear that he is not interested in the actual anti-doping system and its facts, nor is he driven by a true desire to fight against doping in weightlifting, much rather simply by a political agenda.

Since recently, and actually for a long time, German weightlifting is anything but being in the top ranks of the world's elite, despite the maximum support and ideal conditions provided by the German State, many attempts have been made to explain this failure and lack of success by putting the blame on the rest of the world and accusing "everyone else" with doping. This has been eagerly supported by the German media.

The repeated false allegations by Mr. Baumgartner could have been refused by the German Federation itself, since many German officials have held high positions in the IWF since the 1970s and so had access to the facts of the anti-doping program and to the financial issues.

Every public appearance of your Vice President in the media or in the IWF forums suggests that he represents the views of the BVDG. I wish to inform you that this misconduct is reaching the point when an act by the German Weightlifting Federation of bringing the IWF into disrepute and seriously demolishing of weightlifting's prestige may be considered. Once and for all, I categorically refuse the allegations.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Tamás Aján
IWF President
IOC Honorary Member