



South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation

Pierre Frogier
SPBBF President – South Pacific
BP.10127 – 98837 DUMBEA
NEW CALEDONIA
Phone: (+687) 78.18.89
Email: pfrogier@lagoon.nc

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Philip Hope (New Zealand / Cook Islands)
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Pacific Games Council (PGC)
Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC)
World Bodybuilding & Physique
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WEBSITES

<http://spbbf.iimdo.com/>
www.wbpsf.org

Mr. Takitua Taumoepeau
Secretary General
Tonga National Olympic Committee
Tonga

Via email: takitua.taumoepeau@gmail.com
Mobile: (+676) 7717304

Subject: Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF) & Talaiasi Nau

Mālō 'etau lava Takitua

Happy New Year!

Following your contact with our colleague Philip Hope last week, I am very pleased to write to you on behalf of the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation (SPBBF) which is the continental federation for the sport of bodybuilding in the Pacific that is represented by all Pacific Island Nations active in our sport.

Before I inform you about Talaiasi Nau and the Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF), I have taken the opportunity to provide some background information.

About the SPBBF

The SPBBF was established in 1992 in order to focus development of our sport within the Pacific Island Nations and to support our continued participation in the Pacific Games program.

The SPBBF is governed by people of the Pacific for the Pacific and we are proud of our focus within the South Pacific which has seen our championships hosted annually by member Pacific Island nations (with the exception of the years in which the games are held).

The SPBBF is a democratic organisation. Elections to the executive from member countries are held every four years.

Despite a harsh economic climate and the South Pacific region also being one of the most isolated regions, our sport keeps moving and is active.

Our Mission

To steward, modernise and develop the sporting disciplines of bodybuilding in conjunction with Member Country Fédérations, National Olympic Committees (NOCs), Pacific Games Council (PGC), Olympic Sports Fédérations of Océania (OSFO), RADO, and other stakeholders in accordance with Olympism (IOC) values.

A strategic focus for the SPBBF and the WBPF (the World Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Federation) to which we affiliate, is to secure participation for bodybuilding at Pacific Games and achieve IOC recognition.

Pacific Games Council

The SPBBF is the continental federation and sister organisation of the WBPF and we are very proud of our strong partnership with the Pacific Games Council.

2016 South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships

I am pleased to report a successful 2016 South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships hosted by Christian Pothier and first lady Fifi Pothier of our member federation in Tahiti.



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Last year also saw us celebrate the 25th anniversary of the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation.

A report on the 2016 championships is posted to the SPBBF website: <http://spbbf.jimdo.com/> and also on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SPBBF-427828940757783/?ref=hl>

Tonga - TBBF

Whilst the SPBBF was given every assurance the Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF) was participating at the 2016 SPBBF Championships in Tahiti, we were let down and soon realised through media reports that Talaiasi Nau, the primary officer of the TBBF had affiliated to the IFBB, which isn't even represented by a continental federation in the Pacific.

This news was especially disappointing to all member countries of the SPBBF, because just the year prior, Talaiasi Nau had accepted a senior appointment (Executive Vice President) to the SPBBF at the SPBBF Congress, held in PNG during the games in recognition of coming work for the 2019 Pacific Games.

Not only has Talaiasi disadvantaged many of his own members, he together with his affiliates actively encouraged other member countries of the SPBBF/WBPF to affiliate to the IFBB on the basis that if they don't, they will not be able to take part in the 2019 Pacific Games.

Furthermore, the TBBF and the TBBA NZ have fielded bodybuilders in events sanctioned by not less than four different federations this past year, it has become very confusing for the athletes and delegates of member countries (including Tonga).

Disciplinary Measures - sought by the SPBBF Congress

The 2016 SPBBF Congress supported a motion that appropriate disciplinary measures be taken against Talaiasi Nau, President of the Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF).

It was noted Talaiasi had been appointed by the SPBBF Congress just the year prior to the esteemed title of SPBBF executive vice president and his selfish actions were unbecoming of an executive member of the SPBBF and he had brought dishonour to the SPBBF.

The SPBBF considers Talaiasi Nau violated the SPBBF constitution and code of ethics. More so his reckless behaviour had little regard for the needs of the many good officials and athletes of member federations throughout the Pacific who together represent the SPBBF.

On closer inspection, we note the TBBF was not a financial member of the SPBBF, on the basis it had not renewed its membership. So on this basis we are unable to suspend a federation that isn't a member even though the TBBF has been the SPBBF and WBPF's affiliate in Tonga.

However, as Talaiasi Nau held a title on the SPBBF executive committee and he did not submit a letter of resignation from the SPBBF (given also a notice period), it was considered necessary to formalise and record his expulsion from the SPBBF.

Expulsion of Talaiasi Nau from his appointed position of SPBBF Executive Vice President has been recorded in accordance with Article 33 of the SPBBF Constitution as of the 2016 SPBBF Congress held on the 28th October 2016 in Tahiti.

It is also recorded that because Talaiasi Nau is the primary officer (President) of the Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF), therefore the SPBBF does not recognise the TBBF, nor any other officers affiliated to this entity.

This includes officers of the TBBA NZ, a sister organisation to the TBBF based in Auckland, NZ which has a self-appointed executive.

It appears Talaiasi Nau and his affiliates assumed their actions would see the IFBB appointed to manage the 2019 Pacific Games in Tonga, in favour of the WBPF on the basis of TBBF's recent affiliation to the IFBB.



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It is our view this is simply not possible and we would greatly appreciate clarification of your position so far as the status of TBBF and Talaiasi Nau.

Regional screening program (drug testing)

We are proud the SPBBF is the only federation for the sport of bodybuilding in the Pacific region that conducts drug testing.

The SPBBF Championships are drug tested each year in conjunction with the RADO program for sport and this is an important instrument to ensure our sport remains drug free in the South Pacific. This value we believe will also see our sport remain in the Pacific Games program.

Because the Tonga Bodybuilding & Fitness Federation (TBBF) is no longer affiliated with the SPBBF and the WBPF, we are concerned about the potential for doping violations (given especially the IFBB do not drug test in our region).

Doping infractions in our sport at the Games could badly damage both the credibility of our sport and participation at future Pacific Games events.

We hold this view, because all of the doping infractions at previous games events were the result of athletes not tested prior to the games, and not participating in the preceding SPBBF Championships.

We ask please for your favourable consideration of our request of athletes (and officials) vying for selection to the Pacific Games, in that they are required to compete / officiate at the South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships the year prior.

Conclusion

Thank you and your colleagues for your patience and support.

We would be most grateful if you could please advise/confirm who the primary contact for our sport of bodybuilding in Tonga.

In the first instance, in advance of the Pacific Games, we have annual SPBBF Championships and development programs which welcome participation by Tonga.

The 2017 SPBBF Championships and Congress is being held this October in Honiara, Solomon Islands (from October 26th - 29th) and we extend a warm welcome to a team from Tonga that is awarded your approval and recognition.

Many thanks for your time to review and provide a reply.

Yours sincerely



Pierre Frogier
Président SPBBF

Roland Chodey
Secretary General

Ursula Te'o Martin
Assistant Secretary General

Copy:

Andrew Minogue, PGC
SPBBF
WBPF