



OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Adress: Bul. Asnom 1, 1000, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia,
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OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS)

To: Olympic Committee of North Macedonia, Skopje

Ref. No. 02-281/1

Date: December 14, 2025, Skopje

SUBJECT: Submission of Opinion.

REFERENCE: Your Request No. 03-262/1 dated December 4, 2025.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached to this letter, we submit the reasoned Opinion of the Court of Arbitration for Sport at the MOC, based on the received request No. 03-262/1 dated December 4, 2025.

Skopje, December 15, 2025

President of CAS

Prof. Dr. Lazar Nanev

OPINION

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), as the competent body for disputes of an administrative nature regarding the elections and functioning of National Sports Federations pursuant to Article 36, Paragraph 2, Line 3 of the Statute of the MOC adopted on June 16, 2021;

Acting upon the submitted Request No. 03-262/1 dated December 4, 2025;

After analyzing the Law on Sports, the Law on Associations and Foundations, the IOC Charter, the Statutes of the relevant International Federations — the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) and the European Gymnastics (EG), and the Statute of the National Federation – Gymnastics Sports of North Macedonia;

On December 15, 2025, issues the following:



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OPINION

I.

1. A National Sports Federation must respect and accept the Statute of the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia as well as the Olympic Charter of the IOC. When electing its organs and bodies, it must act in accordance with its own Statute, which is harmonized with the Statute of the MOC and the Statute of the IOC.
2. **A National Sports Federation must notify and invite the representative of the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia to its Assembly at least 14 days prior to holding the Assembly, and subsequently, officially submit the Minutes of the Assembly to the Office of the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia. The Minutes must be submitted no later than 30 days from the day the Assembly was held.**
3. **The governing bodies of a relevant National Federation possess legitimacy only if they are elected within the conditions and mandate determined pursuant to the Statute of the MOC, the Statute of the IOC, and the Statutes of the relevant International Federations.** The provisions of these Statutes have the status of *lex specialis* in relation to the positive legislation in the field of sports. They derive their legitimacy based on autonomy and good governance in accordance with the Olympic Charter.
4. **A Decision for performing sports activity by a sports club does not constitute a prerequisite and is not a condition for membership and the right to vote in the election of governing bodies in a relevant National Federation.** All elected governing bodies pursuant to the Statute of the relevant National Federation have legitimacy if they are elected within the conditions and mandate determined pursuant to the Statute of the MOC and the Statute of the IOC. Since these provisions have the status of *lex specialis*, any registration in an administrative body for the change of governing bodies contrary to the Statute of the MOC, the Statute of the IOC, and the Statutes of the relevant International Federations **cannot produce legal consequences for the legitimately elected governing persons.**
5. **The Olympic Committee of North Macedonia and the National Sports Federations have rights and obligations of autonomy**, which include the free establishment and control of the rules of sport, determination of their internal structure and governance, enjoyment of the right to elections free from any external influence, and responsibility for ensuring the application of the principles of good governance. **Any external pressure is considered a violation of the Olympic Charter.**
6. **Each National Federation may have only one official representative of its country with a mandate from all member clubs.**



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II.

Pursuant to the submitted request No. 03-262/1 dated December 4, 2025:

It is established that Mr. Ljupcho Arnaudov is the official representative of the National Federation – Gymnastics Sports of North Macedonia.

EXPLANATION

The Olympic and sports movement, proceeding from the principle of autonomy, must respect the principle of "**responsible autonomy**." This implies rights (freedom of association, power of self-regulation and self-governance, definition of sports rules and internal governance rules by the Olympic and sports organizations themselves, without undue external interference, etc.), but also obligations (respect for the general legal framework applicable in the country, respect for the Statutes, rules, and regulations of the relevant International Sports Organizations/Federations concerned, basic principles of good governance, credibility, reputation, etc.).

Pursuant to Article 23, Paragraph 1, Line 1 of the MOC Statute, National Sports Federations that are members of the MOC must respect and accept the Statute of the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia as well as the Olympic Charter of the IOC.

Furthermore, pursuant to Line 4 of the same Article, a National Sports Federation must conduct specific, real, and constant sports activity, be affiliated with the relevant International Sports Federation recognized by the IOC, and be governed and harmonized, in all possible aspects, with the IOC Olympic Charter and the rules of its International Sports Federation. The Statute of every National Sports Federation must be harmonized with the Statute of the MOC, the International Sports Federation of which it is a member, and the IOC Olympic Charter.

In this sense, pursuant to Line 5 of Article 23, the National Sports Federation is obliged to submit its Statute to the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia. If it makes any changes to the Statute, it is obliged to share those changes no later than 15 days after the adoption of these amendments by the Assembly of the National Sports Federation.

Pursuant to Article 11 of the MOC Statute, recognizing that sport occurs within the framework of society, the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia shall apply political neutrality. The MOC has rights and obligations of autonomy, including free establishment and control of sports rules, determination of internal structure and governance, enjoyment of election rights free from any external influence, and responsibility for applying good governance principles.

The Olympic Committee of North Macedonia acts autonomously, independently, and self-reliantly in its functioning and operations, and opposes all pressures of any kind, including



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but not limited to political, legal, religious, or economic pressures that may prevent it from complying with the Olympic Charter.

Pursuant to Article 23, Paragraph 1, Line 2 of the MOC Statute, for better acquaintance with the work and needs of the relevant sport, every National Sports Federation must notify and invite the representative of the MOC to its Assembly at least 14 days prior to holding the Assembly, and subsequently submit the Minutes of the Assembly officially to the MOC Office. The Minutes must be submitted no later than 30 days from the day of the Assembly.

Pursuant to Article 23, Paragraph 9 of the MOC Statute, non-compliance with any of the above-stated obligations by National Sports Federations subjects them to measures and sanctions set forth in this Statute.

Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 1 of the Statute of the National Federation – Gymnastics Sports of the Republic of Macedonia, the Federation is associated with and is a member of the Macedonian Olympic Committee (MOC), the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), the European Gymnastics (EG), as well as other international institutions and associations in the field of gymnastics. It represents the sports clubs that are members of the Federation before said institutions.

Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph 2 of the same Statute, the Federation acts and operates according to the rules and principles of FIG and EG.

Pursuant to Article 25 of the Statute of the National Federation – Gymnastics Sports, membership in the Federation is voluntary. Any gymnastics sports club that accepts the Federation's Statute and pays the appropriate membership fee may be a member. Clubs become members by signing an accession statement for membership.

Pursuant to Article 26, Paragraph 1 of the Federation's Statute, members have the right to participate in the work and decision-making of the Assembly with the right to one vote, and to participate with their representatives in the work and decision-making of the Executive Board, the Supervisory Board, and other organs and bodies of the Federation.

Pursuant to Article 36, Paragraph 1 of the Federation's Statute, the Assembly is the highest body of the Federation. The Assembly is composed of the Presidents of the clubs, the Commissioner for Development of Men's Sports Gymnastics (MSG), the Commissioner for Development of Women's Sports Gymnastics (WSG), the Commissioner for Judicial Affairs for MSG, the Commissioner for Judicial Affairs for WSG, the President of the Board of Coaches, the President of the Technical Committee, and the President and members of the Supervisory Board.



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Pursuant to Article 36, Paragraph 4, the Assembly elects a President of the Assembly from the ranks of the Presidents of the Clubs by a majority vote of the total number of members.

Pursuant to Article 39, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Federation's Statute, the Assembly is convened by the President of the Federation. An Extraordinary Assembly may be convened at the request of the Executive Board, at least one-third of the total number of Clubs, or the Supervisory Board.

Pursuant to Article 39, Paragraph 3, the Proposal for convening an Extraordinary Assembly is submitted in writing to the President of the Federation. The proposal must suggest and state an agenda with appropriate explanation, submit appropriate materials, and be signed by the proponents.

Pursuant to Article 39, Paragraphs 4 and 5, the President is obliged to convene an Extraordinary Assembly if the proposal is orderly and signed by the required number of proponents, no later than 14 days from the day of receipt. If the President does not convene it within this period, the proponents may do so.

Pursuant to Article 41, Paragraph 1, the Assembly may be held and validly decide if a majority of the total number of members of the Assembly are present.

Pursuant to Article 42, Paragraph 1, Decisions of the Assembly are considered adopted if voted for by more than half of the present members of the Assembly.

Membership in the Olympic and sports movement is free and voluntary. However, if Olympic and sports organizations from the country have decided to be part of the movement by fulfilling the conditions for recognition by the IOC or membership in relevant international federations, it means they must all respect these conditions and adhere to the Universal Principles and rules governing the movement.

Consequently, relevant government authorities, including the Ministry of Sport and the Central Registry of the Republic of North Macedonia, must also respect these principles and create necessary conditions so that sports legislation and organization are fully harmonized with these principles.

It is an indisputable fact that Olympic and sports organizations are non-governmental, non-profit organizations with legal entity status, guided by their Statutes (adopted by their Assemblies) in accordance with the general legal framework and the universal principles of the international organizations to which they belong.



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The Law on Sports (Article 5) allows citizens to freely and voluntarily associate and establish sports associations to exercise needs for engaging in activities and protecting rights in sports. Association is conducted under conditions determined by the Law on Associations and Foundations (LAF).

According to the LAF (Article 10), organizations are independent in governance, determination, and realization of goals and activities determined by their Statute in accordance with the Constitution and law. Acquisition of legal entity status under the LAF means they exercise all rights and obligations in legal traffic, and no other law may limit their rights as registered organizations.

The Law on Sports prescribes that a National Sports Federation is one in which more than half of the sports clubs in the country with decisions for performing activity of the same type of sport are associated. It emphasizes that **only one national sports federation may be established for one sport.**

The MOC Statute (Article 11) guarantees autonomy and good governance. The MOC acts autonomously, independently, and opposes all pressures—political, legal, religious, or economic—that may prevent adherence to the Olympic Charter.

Based on Article 17 of the MOC Statute, members must fulfill conditions to establish and maintain membership, accept the IOC Olympic Charter and MOC Statute, and strictly adhere to them.

National Federations must operate according to their Statute, the MOC Statute, and the IOC Statute.

Furthermore, full members with voting rights in the MOC must be National Sports Federations coming from sports on the program of the Summer or Winter Olympic Games and be members of the relevant International Sports Federation recognized by the IOC.

Therefore, a National Sports Federation must respect and accept the Statute of the MOC and the IOC Olympic Charter.

Also, pursuant to Article 23 of the OC Statute, every national sports federation must strictly notify and invite the OC representative to its Assembly. Any action contrary to Article 23 is considered a violation of the Olympic Charter, and decisions adopted cannot produce legal consequences.

Governing bodies of a relevant national federation possess legitimacy only if elected within the conditions and mandate determined pursuant to the MOC Statute, IOC Statute, and Statutes of relevant International Federations.



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A decision for performing sports activity by a sports club is not a prerequisite for voting rights. Any registration in an administrative body for changing governing bodies contrary to the OC Statute, IOC Statute, and International Federation Statutes cannot produce legal consequences for legitimately elected governing persons.

The MOC and National Sports Federations have rights and obligations of autonomy... any external pressure is considered a violation of the Olympic Charter.

Each National Federation may have only one official representative of its country with a mandate from all member clubs.

From the inspection of Request No. 03-262/1 dated December 4, 2025, and the analysis performed, CAS indisputably establishes the findings as stated in the disposition of this Opinion.

Pursuant to the Memorandum in the preamble of this Opinion and the IOC Statute on the autonomy of sport, the legal framework must in no case be used to enable government bodies, specifically the Ministry of Sport of the Republic of North Macedonia and the Central Registry, to engage in micro-management or internal operations of Olympic and sports organizations, nor to serve as a substitute for their statute, rules, and decisions of the competent authorities of each Olympic and sports organization.

In Skopje, December 15, 2025

President of CAS
Prof. Dr. Lazar Nanev
Vice President of CAS
Prof. Dr. Gordana Lazhetikj

TRANSLATION AUTHORIZATION

This English translation is authorized by the President of the Olympic Committee of North Macedonia for official international communication purposes.

Daniel Dimevski

President Olympic Committee of North Macedonia

