



Общероссийская общественная организация
ВСЕРОССИЙСКАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ ГРЕБЛИ НА БАЙДАРКАХ И КАНОЭ
RUSSIAN CANOE FEDERATION

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**RUSSIA DEFENDS THE PEACE.
RUSSIA DID NOT LAUNCH THE WAR IN UKRAINE - RUSSIA IS
ENDING THE WAR**

Address of the Russian Canoe Federation to the sports community

On February 24, 2022, when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a special military operation in Ukraine after the recognition of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics, the whole world seemed to split into two parts. One part found it to be a right decision, because understood that it was a compulsory measure, the only way to stop the fratricidal war in Ukraine, unleashed by the nationalist government of Ukraine, which seized the power in 2014 in a coup d'etat, and to save the people of Donetsk and Lugansk, which had been bombed, genocided and victimized for the last 8 years by the Russophobic Neo-Nazis. The second part took the side of Ukraine, called Russia the aggressor, which launched the war, bombed and killed innocent Ukrainians and wants to conquer their territory...

The situation is further complicated by the fact that the Ukrainian fighters, destroying the Russian population, are supported by the same anti-Russian nationalists from the United States and European Union countries. It is with their help that Nazi ideas against the Russian people have been cultivated in Ukraine and plans to destroy Russia have been developed. It was they who supplied and are supplying weapons to the Ukrainian fighters.

Using their false propaganda, provocations, spreading fakes in social networks, Ukrainian Neo-Nazis have achieved their goal - to disorient the population, who in a large flow of information can hardly distinguish a lie from the truth... Fascist Ukrainian thugs learned well the lessons of the famous Nazi criminal Joseph Goebbels, who said that "a lie repeated a thousand times eventually becomes the truth." And we must say - they surpassed their teacher.

At this complex time, we believe it is our duty to express our support for the only proper decision made by our President Vladimir Putin to provide assistance to the People's Republics of Donbas and to deploy Russian troops into Ukraine, which should stop the many years of inhumane obscurantism of Russophobes in Ukraine and stop the eastward advance of NATO bases that threaten our country.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu stated that the main goal of the special military operation in Ukraine is "to protect the Russian Federation from the military threat posed by Western countries that are trying to use the Ukrainian people in the fight against our country." He also said that the Russian military is conducting the operation "in order to protect the people of Donbass and to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine."

Notably, it is stressed that the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation strike only military infrastructure and Ukrainian troops; there is no threat to the civilian population.

Unfortunately, the Russian President's decision failed to find the support of most sports federations and organizations, including the IOC. It is very disappointing that the International Olympic Committee, without having analyzed it and without trying to understand what is going on, has taken the position of the Western countries and the United States.

For some reason, when nationalist battalions supported by the Armed Forces of Ukraine bombed their own population in Donetsk and Lugansk during the Beijing Olympics, Mr. Thomas Bach did not consider it a violation of the Olympic Truce and did not deprive the Ukrainian team of the national anthem and flag. And when Russia decided to stop this fratricidal war and deployed troops into Ukraine to free the land of Ukraine from the genocide of the Neo-Nazis and restore peace in Ukraine, **instead of supporting this movement FOR PEACE, the leaders of the sport, which we used to think should stay out of politics, ranked Russia as "invaders" and started scaring us with restrictions and sanctions.** The IOC has called for no international competitions to be held in Russia, and some national Olympic committees have even suggested that Russian athletes should not be allowed to participate in international competitions.

The leaders of the Paralympic International Committee, who on March 3 decided not to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in the Paralympics 2022, could not resist the powerful pressure of politicized national teams threatening to boycott the Paralympics. This once again proves that, unfortunately, the IOC and IPC use sport as a political tool, completely forgetting about the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter: *playing sports is one of the human rights. Everyone should play sports, without being discriminated against, in the spirit of Olympism. The exercise of the rights and freedoms provided for in the Olympic Charter must be ensured without any form of discrimination: racial, linguistic, religious, political, colour, sex, sexual orientation, dissenting opinion, national or social origin, possession of property, birth or other status.*

In the decision of the IOC to recommend to the international federations to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes from participation in all competitions, as well as in the removal of the teams of Russia and Belarusia from participation in the Paralympic Games by the IPC, there is clearly a political character, a manifestation of discrimination based on nationality - in other words - Russophobia. How else to explain that such sanctions have not previously been applied to American athletes when the US carried out military operations and bombed Iraq during the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

This confirms once again that the world, including sports, is ruled by inadequate politicians who do not want to and do not try to understand what is going on, and who believe that they can unilaterally trample the provisions of international law and dictate their terms.

We address to the entire sports community, and especially to its young representatives, who find it difficult to understand in the enormous flow of information what is happening to our country right now, where the truth is and where the lies are... **Do not believe the false statements that Russia launched a war, that it seeks to conquer Ukraine, that the Russian army is bombing residential quarters and destroying innocent civilians. In reality, it is exactly the opposite.**

In response to this huge flood of slander and lies on the Internet, the Russian government has launched an **information resource** called «**Объясняем.рф**» ("Explain.rf") with verified, official, up-to-date information. So, if there are any questions or misunderstandings, visit the website and you will find out what is really going on.

Time will pass, life will put everything in its place, common sense will prevail over madness, and the whole world, including Mr. Thomas Bach and all those who gave in to him, will be ashamed of their failure to understand (or unwillingness to understand) that Russia is not conducting a war with Ukraine, but, on the contrary, **Russia wants to STOP THE WAR ON UKRAINE**, they will be ashamed of the fact that they were on the bit of those who organized the mobbing of the Russian population and Russian athletes, that they have now made us outlaws and want to humiliate us and smash us with sanctions and restrictions.

BUT LIFE HAS REPEATEDLY PROVED THAT VICTORY GOES TO THOSE ON WHOSE SIDE THE TRUTH IS. AND THE TRUTH IS ON THE SIDE OF RUSSIA, BECAUSE THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF RUSSIA, LIKE NO ONE ELSE, VALUE HUMAN LIVES AND WORLD PEACE! AND THAT MEANS VICTORY WILL BE OURS!

Board of the Russian Canoe Federation