

XXI IFSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22-23 MARCH 2024

NF FORUM OUTCOMES



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING



THE ROLE OF THE IFSC

How far do you think that sports organisations should get involved in issues beyond their core remit (sport)?

Sport is sport – independence, neutral

- Sport has an important influence on people, especially sportspersons as role models for the youth.
- Sport is a forum to bring people together in peace to share their passion and compete in a healthy way, it should not be used as a medium to exclude.
- When political issues affect sport, the real losers are those who love the sport: athletes and fans.
- An IF should protect its athletes, not punish them due to geopolitical issues outside their control. Athletes are also usually the most rational forward-thinking ones, due to their youth and their ability to travel, train, and compete across the world with other athletes from other cultures.

Sport is part of the world we live in, cannot be fully separated from geopolitical issues

- Athletes are ambassadors of the sport and of their countries, important for them to be aware of current events and prepared for questions on these issues.
- IF has important role to defuse issues, reminding all that the core aspect bringing everyone together is sport.
- Sport is not a closed box, geopolitical issues do filter in and put pressure on NFs and IFs.
 - o Sport is pressured from governments, the public, by commercial interests, making it hard to remain fully neutral.
 - o Sport is used by all governments for external projection, as propaganda.
- An IF taking a strong stance helps NFs to move, as it gives the direction of the movement.
- The political stance to ban South African sport during apartheid proved to be one of the strong reasons that led to the end of apartheid.
- IF position on issues does have importance in the international sphere, it has weight.
- It is hard to maintain neutrality inclusivity defence of athletes etc., when the big political players of the world are on stage. Sometimes NFs are forced into a decision, faced with potential loss of support from own government.
- Saudi Arabia – backlash on NEOM event: perspectives on the country are different, also depending on media outlets' focus of reporting. Getting the right, complete information concerning decisions of IFSC out to stakeholders and the public is very important.

What are you expecting the IFSC to do when these situations about geopolitical and sustainability issues reach the international level?

Geopolitical

- It's the Executive Board role to set the strategic vision of the organisation and the values it stands for. The IFSC should provide NFs with guidelines to achieve this vision and an international stance on important issues to aid NFs to decide how to react to certain issues (to the extent that national laws/governmental decisions allow NFs to have own stance).
- The Executive Board should always involve athletes and aid them with guidelines to help react before political issues, but not expect them to take the weight of decisions.
- Find general values to add to the Strategic Plan, in order to give the IFSC and EB the ability to take fast decisions on similar instances.

Sustainability

- Create a policy to use incrementally more eco-sustainable materials and equipment and re-use them in more than one event.
- Create a starter kit for newer NFs, either with contacts to find equipment or directly with actual equipment.
- Perhaps set up a "mentor programme" pairing newer and smaller NFs with bigger NFs in their vicinity which could help in their development.