



BRITISH SOMBO FEDERATION
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President Martin Clarke Chairman Robin Hyslop



Dear Members

I am becoming increasingly concern about the direction FIAS has been taking over the past 2 years. Since the inception of FIAS under the founder Fernando Compte in 1985 I have been involved at all levels. In 1986 I founded the British Sombo Federation a properly constituted Amateur body this is recognised by UKSport (Government funded sports Organisation) as the Governing body for Sombo (Sambo) in Great Britain.

Since 1985 I have seen many changes up and till recently those changes were for the better. Yet now I see a lot of disharmony, which I feel, could lead to the destruction of FIAS and relegating Sambo to be just a Sport practised in Russia like it was in the 1930's

So what are the problems?

- 1) There seems to be a total disregard to the FIAS Statutes (FIAS Constitution)
- 2) Important questions are never answered by FIAS. Since April 2012 I have asked about an organisation called the Commonwealth Sambo Association as of yet I have never had a definitive answer to whether this is an authorised FIAS Body
- 3) Different Country organisations have appeared claiming to be FIAS members yet none are on the FIAS Web site and none of them have been accepted by the FIAS Congress as per FIAS Statutes
- 4) Suddenly we have two Pan American and Asian Federations, for example The Pan American Sambo Federation President is Jack Kogan this is on the Web Site. Yet some others are attempting to form a rival organisation with help from FIAS Staff a recent Facebook message said that Trinidad and Tobago would be running the 2014 Pan American Championship now according to the FIAS Web site they are not members of FIAS or Pan American Sambo Federation. If this is the case why is FIAS Staff involved in promoting a rival organisation?
- 5) Why are FIAS Countries being undermined by FIAS Staff I refer to rival Country Organisations being formed to discredit existing organisation. If a Country has an internal problem it should for them to sort out by using their constitution. FIAS should not be involved unless asked by the FIAS affiliated body

- 6) There have been moves to discredit the British Sambo Federation by suggesting that we have just a handful of Samboists and that we are not a proper organisation. The BSF is a true constituted Federation, which consists of Home Country Counties and Associations. Most of these associations are Multi Style organisations and have a membership of over a 1000 and if required we could produce a list of names
- 7) Last year I attended 4 International Sambo events Dutch Open, World Masters, European and World Championships all were very well organised. At the Europeans we the BSF were made very welcome, they also paid for our accommodation but most importantly the various countries could Network and talk to each other this did not happen at the World Masters or World Championships. These major events should be not just about the competition but about Country Presidents cementing friendships and airing grievances sometimes in a Formal setting i.e. Congress but most of the time in informal meetings

There are many other things I could mention emails have been sent accusing people of corruption and bribes I know nothing of this and will not accuse anyone unless facts are presented Gossip is not facts. I personally have no interest in having any sort of authority in FIAS but do believe we should strictly abide by the FIAS Statutes.

Many people have emailed me some suggesting forming a rival International Sambo Association, another has suggested that change the name of Sambo to Jacket Wrestling neither ideas will do any good I can remember when FIAS split into two factions in 1993 this did not enhance Sambo to the World of Sport and it was when David Rudman became President he united Sambo once again.

My own feelings is if Sambo is to continue growing we must realise that it is an International Sport that started in Russia not the other way round, we must support countries who have no financial aid to attend Continental and World Championships, we need to move FIAS HQ to a neutral Country, giving credence to the fact it is an International Sport, we need for FIAS to be more open and accessible to its membership and we need to scrutinise new countries wanting to become members. The obsession of becoming an Olympic sport should be curbed, are we to believe that Sambo will become an Olympic Sport when wrestling may be removed from the Olympics? We should concentrate on such things like the World Combat Games, World Games and other Continental Games.

Most of all we need an Extra-ordinary Meeting of FIAS to clear the air and sort out our problems; this needs to be in a neutral country with FIAS paying for the delegates to travel. Financing the meeting is essential as this will be a fair and just meeting and not one based on who can afford it.

Martin Clarke
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BSF President