

Mr. Andrew PARSONS,
President of the International
Paralympic Committee

26 September 2024
№ 11075/10

Dear Mr. President,

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, the National Sports Committee for the Disabled of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Chess Federation express their respect to the International Paralympic Committee, recognizing the extremely significant work of the IPC in the struggle for peace against war and violence.

As it has become known, during the FIDE General Assembly held on September 21-22, 2024 in Budapest, Hungary, FIDE decided to consult with the IPC on the possibility of partially revising the restrictions for the chess federations of Russia and Belarus, allowing vulnerable groups, including players with disabilities, to participate in all FIDE competitions.

Dear Mr. President,

The war continues and has become the bloodiest war in Europe since World War II. Since the beginning of the full-scale military aggression by Russia, the Ukrainian sports community has lost more than 500 athletes and coaches, including 21 chess players, and two more are missing. More than 500 sports infrastructure facilities, including 16 Olympic, Paralympic and Deaflympic training bases, have been destroyed or damaged.

We would like to emphasize that the entire Russian and Belarusian sports community is an instrument of Russian and Belarussian state policies. It is important to note that Russia openly and cynically demonstrates this by stating at national sports forums that Russian athletes and the army are united and that they are together in this terrible, bloody war that Russia is waging in Ukraine. The entire civilized world recognizes Russia's brutal violation of international law, but it is unfortunately obvious that the Russian and Belarusian sports communities – athletes, coaches, managers of the Russian Olympic and Paralympic movement and other sports – actively support Russia's war, violence, occupation and terror. That is why we continue to insist that

neither the national teams of the Russian Federation nor the Republic of Belarus have the right to participate in international competitions under the auspices of FIDE.

Today, Russia, with the support of Belarus, continues its criminal war in Ukraine, and this gives no reason to revise the restrictions on the chess federations of Russia and Belarus, even for vulnerable groups such as players with disabilities. The Ukrainian population, including the vulnerable groups, are under daily attack from Russian missiles and drones. They are deprived of the opportunity to live a normal life, let alone participate in sporting events.

We sincerely hope that you will support Ukraine's principled position on the impossibility of allowing representatives of Russia and Belarus to participate in international competitions under the auspices of FIDE. As long as Russian troops, with the support of the Belarusian government, continue to commit acts of genocide against the Ukrainian people, all existing restrictions on the sports federations of Russia and Belarus and their athletes should be maintained or even strengthened.

We are counting on your solidarity with the Ukrainian Paralympic and sports movement.

Minister
of Youth and Sports of
Ukraine



Matvii BIDNYI

President
of the National Sports
Committee for the Disabled
of Ukraine



Valeriy SUSHKEVYCH

President
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Oleksandr KAMYSHIN