



South African Powerlifting Federation

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Dear SA Powerlifting Federation Affiliated Member

The South African Powerlifting Federation is the only recognised governing body of all Powerlifting in South Africa and is registered with the National Department of Sport and Recreation and is also a member of SASCOC. In addition, the SAPF is a member of the International Powerlifting Federation recognised as “an affiliated National Federation”. All of the foregoing bodies exist in order that athletes may compete at national level and represent their countries at international levels under a unified structure and sets of rules; level playing fields, if you will. Belonging to such structures, as a member or as an affiliated federation, puts onerous and stringent conditions on the federations which the federations have to carry out and be seen to be carrying out in order that they remain credible bodies, not only in the eyes of all officialdom but particularly in the eyes of the athletes who wish to compete under the umbrella of a federation they can trust and have faith in, a federation which has credibility.

The “onerous and stringent conditions” and the officialdom prove to be unbearable for some of the athletes who elect to gather outside of the federation into groups organised “to put the fun back into powerlifting”. Generally, these athletes have in common the fact that they have fallen foul of the federation’s doping rules at some stage and are not permitted to compete in SAPF and IPF sanctioned events. Herein lies the rub: The IPF, as the World’s governing powerlifting body, declares that *“An Athlete or official shall not participate in contests or competitions if there is any Athlete or official participating in any division, section or bodyweight class of that contest or competition who has been expelled or suspended from his or her international or national federation or who is serving the period of Ineligibility for a doping related offence.”* Violation of this rule results in a 6 month suspension from the federation. In other words, if you, an affiliated SAPF lifter, compete in a non-sanctioned event in which a banned athlete or official participates, then you yourself will be suspended for a period of six months.

The SAPF cannot and will not even attempt to restrict your freedom of association; you may go and lift and compete wherever and with whomever you so choose. But life is about choices and all choices have consequences. This letter serves only to advise you, so that you may be better able to make an informed choice.

Yours Faithfully,

For and on Behalf of:
SA Powerlifting Federation

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