



Lebanese Basketball Federation
Dr. Robert Abou Abdallah, President
Mr. Ghassan Fares, Secretary General
Jal El Dib Highway White House Hotel,
Bloc B 3rd & 4th Floor,
Beirut
LEBANON

18 July 2013

Reference: Suspension of the Lebanese Basketball Federation

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We acknowledge receipt of the documents and information requested in our email of 16 July 2013 following your request to reconsider the suspension of your federation. This information undoubtedly allows us to shed more light on the current situation in Lebanon. Thank you for your cooperation in submitting this information promptly.

At the outset, we wish to reiterate that the suspension of your federation has not been a decision taken hastily by FIBA. It was indeed approved by the FIBA Central Board due to events of the utmost gravity whereby one club has been able, with external political support, to disrupt entirely the smooth running of the Lebanese national championship. It has also been able to obtain a decision by a state civil court cancelling technical and sporting decisions taken by your federation.

This scenario represents without any doubt the most serious violation of the FIBA General Statutes and all principles under which the Olympic sports movement is founded. Despite the financial impact or political interests that sport generate, it is clear that it must remain at all costs a competition whereby merit, integrity and fair play prevail.

This matter demonstrates a profound dysfunction of the Lebanese Basketball Federation since one club alone has been able to stop your championship. In complete violation of the FIBA General Statutes and the obligations of all national member federations of FIBA, your federation was not and still is not properly armed to face political interferences and solve sporting disputes within its own structures.

The FIBA Central Board was therefore of the firm belief that the Lebanese basketball family must now assume the consequences of its organizational deficiencies and actions. For as long as key governance principles are not implemented in the statutes of your federation and in the latter's policies and management, and approved/agreed to by all stakeholders it shall not be readmitted with full rights with FIBA and be allowed to participate in the most important international basketball competitions.

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In the meantime, we have reviewed the efforts undertaken by your federation and acknowledge your decisions to hold an Extraordinary General Assembly to adopt new appeals' and protests' regulations and to resume the national championship in September. At the same time however, we regret to note, as it relates to:

a) the withdrawal of the court case:

- The case has not been withdrawn by your member clubs nor has there been any indication that they wish to settle this matter within the basketball family;
- the court of appeal took a decision on the procedural aspects only and ruled that the first instance court was not competent to decide on this matter. In theory therefore, the clubs may refer this matter to the competent administrative jurisdictions;
- the decision of the court of appeal is subject to appeal to the supreme court thus possibly leaving this matter pending for a substantial period of time;

b) the signature of the MoU by all 1st division clubs:

- the MoU has been signed by half of the clubs only despite the express request made by FIBA, FIBA Asia and the Ministry of Youth & Sports that all comply with its proposed terms.

In addition, we have received information according to which close to half of the members of the LBF Management Board has allegedly resigned for political reasons. Other sources mention further serious issues affecting top officials of the federation. Finally, the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly does not provide for an item to deal with the serious actions taken against the federation by one of its members.

Despite your attempts and those of the FIBA Asia Secretary General within the past few days to find solutions to these issues, the situation remains highly unstable and the governance issues affecting basketball in Lebanon are much deeper and much more serious than the mere absence of proper appeal and disciplinary regulations within your statutes. Accordingly, we are regrettably not in a position to reconsider our decision of 11 July 2013 and the Lebanese Basketball Federation remains suspended.

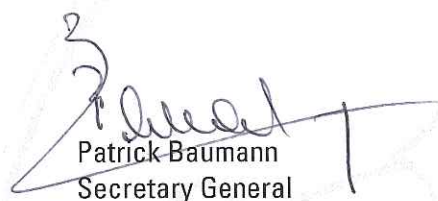
We wish to underline that it is not FIBA's and FIBA Asia's wish to penalize athletes, technical staff, sponsors and basketball fans who have longed worked and awaited for the participation of Lebanon in the FIBA Asia Championship and possibly the FIBA Basketball World Cup. This is why FIBA offered your federation the opportunity to solve these matters urgently with our letter of 28 June 2013. Regrettably, the Lebanese basketball family remained too divided to make use of that opportunity.

It is now urgent for the basketball family in Lebanon to work on solving these internal issues. Until proper structures and statutes are not put into place to ensure that basic national federation's activities -such as the holding of a national championship- can be carried out smoothly, with proper regulations and without political interference, FIBA will not lift the suspension of your federation.

As already indicated in our previous correspondence, FIBA and FIBA Asia remain of course fully committed to helping your federation in its reorganization process. In this regard, please be informed that FIBA will establish a Working group in due course to (a) meet with all parties in Lebanon, (b) supervise the Extraordinary General Assembly and (c) help you establish a federation that functions independently and effectively, in accordance with all principles enshrined in the FIBA General Statutes.

We sincerely hope that basketball in Lebanon will soon enjoy a well governed and solid organization as well as a peaceful environment allowing your clubs and national teams to reach new heights, domestically and internationally.

Yours faithfully,



Patrick Baumann
Secretary General

Copy: FIBA Asia
Lebanese Olympic Committee