



To: Member Countries, Athletes (past, present and future) and Supporters of Jump Rope/Rope Skipping

From: **Shaun Hamilton**, President - World Jump Rope Federation (WJRF),
Takashi Ogawa, President - Fédération Internationale de Saut à la Corde (FISAC-IRSF)

Merger of FISAC-IRSF and WJRF - Formation of International Jump Rope Union (IJRU)

On behalf of the FISAC-IRSF and WJRF Board of Directors, Continental Vice Presidents and representatives, we jointly submit this letter to the global Jump Rope/Rope Skipping community.

It is with great pleasure that we, FISAC-IRSF and WJRF, announce the formation of a singular, unified International Federation for the sport of Jump Rope/Rope Skipping.

Our goal is to merge both organizations (FISAC-IRSF and WJRF) to create a new International Federation that will be recognized by the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF-formerly SportAccord). This recognition will place our sport firmly in line with the Olympic movement and best practices of sport.

The unified organization will be known as the *International Jump Rope Union* (IJRU). The development of IJRU will occur during a transition period leading to a jointly managed World Championship. Both organizations will maintain their respective World/International Jump Rope/Rope Skipping Championships until the first combined event, tentatively scheduled for Summer 2020. IJRU will take full administrative control of the sport globally in the Summer of 2019; and both former organizations will commence transition arrangements to diminish their respective role within the global community.

A Transition Working Group has been established, comprised of a balanced representation from both FISAC-IRSF and WJRF Board of Directors. This group has, and will continue, to work collaboratively to establish the new organization's foundation. The objectives of IJRU is to:

- Promote, grow and encourage development of Jump Rope/Rope Skipping,
- Provide fair and drug free sport environments,
- Promote and encourage the development of international relations,
- Develop and adopt streamlined and standardized components, rules and regulations
- Promote and organize World Championships and other IJRU competitions,
- Encourage increased awareness for Jump Rope/Rope Skipping throughout the world with the support of other interested parties, and
- Carry out such other activities as may be desirable to promote our sport.

The IJRU Transition Working Group is creating a fully integrated communication package that will include:

- IJRU branding,
- Website and Social Media presence,
- Initial IJRU Constitution, and
- Initial Leadership structure and Executives and Officers Bearers

The release of this information is planned for March 2018 incorporating details about the merger process and procedures. All of the above information has been recorded and signed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FISAC-IRSF and WJRF and submitted to GAISF to showcase our intentions in October 2017.

In addition to the aforementioned recognition benefits, the core reasons for this merger are as follows:

- 1) **Athletes:** Our athletes are very special people; they have the unique ability to demonstrate innovative and breathtaking skills and help reimagine human possibilities with a simple rope. Their ability to make an instant connection to all who witness the sport is invaluable. They are dedicated to fair play and exemplify the true ideals of sport. The International Federation's leadership will be dedicated to advancing the sport to benefit all athletes.
- 2) **Sport:** The sport of Jump Rope/Rope Skipping must be migrated onto the world stage. Someone once said, "there is a skipper in all of us". We believe this is what makes our sport so special. Our activity is ubiquitous throughout the world. It is inexpensive, portable and easily accessible to millions. We keenly understand this unique opportunity and responsibility to bring together people of the world and Jump Rope/Rope Skipping. Thus, the mission of IJRU is;

"To effectively and compassionately govern and grow the global sport of Jump Rope by serving our sport and athletes in accordance with the values of diversity and inclusion, innovation and excellence."

We write this letter demonstrating our unified commitment to our athletes and to our sport. We invite you to review the FAQ (Appendix 1). We also welcome your questions and comments at info@IJRU.org

Sincerely,



Takashi Ogawa
President: FISAC-IRSF



Shaun Hamilton
President: WJRF

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why are the two organizations merging?

A. We feel it necessary that we bring these two organizations together to provide a brighter future for our athletes and our sport. We acknowledge that we can achieve more together. The International Federation sports community, which is governed by the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) formerly known as SportAccord, requires only one International Federation per sport for us to move forward and benefit from their involvement. Whilst ever we remain as two organisations, not united, we cannot move forward within the International Olympic Committee. FISAC-IRSF and WJRF see mutual benefits and strengths both organizations can assist in governing the sport.

Q. Is one organization taking over the other?

A. No. Both organizations are merging under one new umbrella organization with the initial Board of Directors having equal representation from both former sporting bodies.

Q. What will happen to FISAC-IRSF and WJRF?

A. Each organization will host its respective events in 2018 and 2019. In 2019, WJRF will hold its final event in conjunction with the first AGM of IJRU. Upon the completion of the 2019 events, both organizations will be dissolved according to their respective by-laws/ statutes and IJRU will take administrative control of our sport.

Q. What is the structure of this organization?

A. IJRU's Transition Working Group has consulted with International Federation experts and consulting firm TSE (<https://tseconsulting.com>) to assist in crafting of an International Federation structure that can propel our sport forward and in-line with the IOC best practice. The IJRU Transition Working Group will publish the structure when finalized. The TSE consulting organisation was recommended by GAISF to permit fair and equitable commencement of IJRU.

Q. Who will serve in leadership positions of this new organization?

A. A slate of initial key officers have been identified and will be communicated in the near future.

Q. What will happen to member countries where two or more governing bodies already exist?

A. A joint structured committee, comprised of FISAC-IRSF and WJRF officials, is currently analyzing the member countries from each organization to determine initial IJRU membership status. For countries with "rival" organizations, IJRU will communicate directly with those organizations and work towards resolution. Our aim is to assist in solving organizational disputes peacefully and professionally. We encourage organizations to follow our example of keeping the sport and athletes at the forefront of every decision to arrive at a workable solution.

Q. How are competition rules going to accommodate both organization's rules for the 2020 Competition?

A. A joint structured committee, comprised of FISAC-IRSF and WJRF officials, are currently reviewing both organization's competition rules and structure. This group will be soliciting public comments prior to the 2019 IJRU AGM where the 2020 competition rules will be presented. IJRU will ensure sufficient opportunities for consultation to engage with our global community is provided.

Q. How will the athletes be selected for 2020 World Championships?

A. IJRU will engage with National Governing Bodies to select their athletes to represent their respective countries. 2020 athletes will be required to register through their respective National Governing Body.

Q. Will there be annual competitions or bi-annual competition after 2020?

A. IJRU competitions will move to an 'every other year' format with continental championships in the off years of IJRU Championships. This schedule is subject to change as our sport grows but is in keeping with most sports World Championship schedules and other International Federations standard practices.

Q. How will IJRU communicate with member countries?

A. IJRU will continue to work through our respective Continental/ Regional leaders to help reach as many people as possible. A global communication event is planned to coincide with the IJRU inaugural meeting.

Q. When will all documents be available for review?

A. The Constitution is complete and will be available online after the initial communication launch event planned for March 2018.

