



## Official Statement

30<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Membership,

I am writing to give clarity on our recent Social Media Post, and why the decision was taken to not include one of our athletes.

Firstly, I acknowledge historical failures in managing situations before I took over as CEO, the hurt that this has caused, and the time it also took. Part of my remit is to bring more transparency to the federations working and to the membership. I hope that thus far we are seeing some evidence of that in recent publications around each board meeting etc.

At the World Championships this year an athlete took the decision to not comply with the terms of the international code of conduct for athletes and officials by not wearing the team uniform. How and why this occurred, and what measures were taken on the ground to mitigate the circumstances is currently subject to an investigation taking place by a board level review panel. A panel which I am sure will produce many lessons learnt examples, so we don't find ourselves in these situations moving forward.

We as a federation are duty bound to adhere to the terms laid out in our sponsorship agreement and by including videos of the Open team with athletes who are non-compliant, wearing competitors' apparel, we ourselves would then be in breach of our terms of agreement. Athletes also have a duty to abide by the terms to which they agree to, or to seek permission to act outside of these terms.

We currently have the most funded Open Classic team in the History of British Powerlifting; by risking the arrangement we have with our partners, by including non-compliant advertising of other brands in the celebration of our Open Team at European and World Championships, we then risk the stability of the whole team in this regard and the funding to which it has access. This is why I took the decision to remain compliant in our contractual obligations.

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These circumstances were mitigated during the championship by using stock compliant photos of the athlete in our daily round up, where we took the chance to celebrate the athletes achievements.

We as a federation want to be able to celebrate all our athletes but are mindful of our obligations to the Open Classic team at a handful of international events. Obligations which afford us to be able to develop our federation and raise the standard for each of the 6000 plus members.

We have since removed the reel and are seeking advice from outside sources on how we move forward in this regard.

James Brincat-Smith.

CEO

British Powerlifting.

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