

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

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## ***FAX MESSAGE***

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To: ISU Members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When Figure Skating faced the controversy surrounding the Pairs Event in February 2002 in Salt Lake City I, as the President of the ISU, felt duty bound to stand before the international media since I understood it was a grave situation that faced us at the Olympic Winter Games. In the three press conferences in Salt Lake City we were confronted with a concerted attack on the credibility of the ISU, since it was said that Figure Skating was not governed with proper rules and was conducted by unreliable judges.

The ISU understood that it was under extreme pressure to implement drastic changes and so the Union immediately reinforced its efforts with the strongest commitment in its history: to establish a more appropriate judging system in Figure Skating and to introduce major reforms.

In recent days Presidents of Member Federations have informed me of a document they received with an accompanying letter dated April 10, 2003 from Mr Ron Pfenning, acting President of the World Skating Federation (WSF).

Again, as the ISU President, I feel compelled to respond.

But this time we are not confronted by a real case as we were in Salt Lake City. On the contrary, it is an initiative that by its form and in the manner in which it was conducted should not even deserve a comment. In particular, using the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Washington to announce the creation of the WSF is an approach one could scarcely believe.

The content of the letter, however, as many other assertions, is so misleading that it is my duty to correct for ISU Member Federations the totally unfounded remarks and allegations that it contains. I ask the Member Federations to extend my message also to the referees, judges, officials and skaters.

Each paragraph in the letter contains unfounded allegations or misleading information. It is certainly not with messages such as this you have received from Mr Pfenning that the ISU's reputation and activity can legitimately be attacked.

**It is apparent that the very people who now speak about loyalty, ethical standards and integrity have been conspiring for months against the ISU and secretly creating the WSF while they were simultaneously members of the same ISU family, using its authority, even acting as officials and attending ISU Events at ISU expense!**

**Those people who claim that Figure Skating is "seriously ill" promise to take the necessary measures to ensure that the future of Figure Skating will be long and healthy. But what have they done, those people, during the decades of their presence in the ISU?**

**The attack on the Congress is unfounded and ridiculous. It is a real disgrace that people who sought election at the Kyoto Congress (the Congress that now they criticize) should raise such unjustifiable criticism months later for their own personal ambition. I do not wish to repeat our comments made in the ISU Press Release of 14 March, 2003 and therefore I refer to this document.**

**I cannot tolerate the discourtesy shown to the Speed Skating branch. Speed Skating and Figure Skating have loyally and respectfully cooperated for more than a century to build a Union that, thanks to its broad coverage of ice skating sports, has earned reputation, recognition and influence. The unity of the ISU cannot be jeopardized for the WSF's expressed aim of controlling the financial resources.**

**As to the important relationship with the IOC, the manner in which Mr Pfenning insultingly attacked the ISU demonstrated a total lack of style.**

**Mr Pfenning then concludes by mentioning the principles of the WSF, as if believing that the world of sport today needs lessons regarding principles and conduct from those people responsible for such shameless behavior over the last few months.**

**To state that replies and comments received from Members will be kept confidential is in itself revealing about the ethical values observed by those people.**

**The deepest insult to the Members of the ISU is at the conclusion of the letter, where Mr Pfenning undermines the Constitution and Regulations that have been created by the Congress over a century (i.e. the Member Federations) by stating that Circular Letter 583, which is precisely based on the Constitution and Regulations, is a threat.**

**Following up this letter that I consider it right to send you, in May the ISU will probably issue a Communication or Circular Letter with specific information also regarding the creation of the WSF, which will concern the relationship between the ISU and the Member Federations, the IOC and the National Olympic Committees.**

**Kindest regards**



**Ottavio Cinquanta  
President**