

Quito, 19th September 2017

CSFF OFFICIAL NOTICE

Dear South American Officials, Judges, Athletes and Trainers.

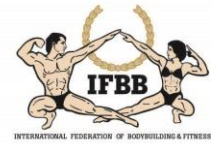
It is our obligation to bring to your attention the factual truth, resolutions adopted and the vision of what is being planned in our sport; given the information that was published in recent days concerning the situation between the IFBB, NPC and PRO LEAGUE; not without first reiterating the full support of all South American countries to the IFBB and our President, Dr. Rafael Santonja.

1. As you are aware, the first edition of Olympia Amateur Las Vegas was convened by the IFBB as an international event; athletes from several countries, as well as officials, coaches and judges - carried out the registration process. This championship was under IFBB directions. However, the NPC imposed control of this event within its national authority, appointing judges without international cards nor with the level of training required by our sport; with total lack of respect to our institution and international norms. This resulted in controversial outcomes, generating nonconformity from participating athletes.
2. From the above, the IFBB decided to withdraw its judges and officials from the championship, allowing for corresponding legal actions. An investigation was opened accordingly, with the NPC being provisionally suspended by our Disciplinary Commission for continued failure to comply with the IFBB Constitution and rules. It is important to notice that, until that time, the NPC (National Physique Committee) was the National Federation recognized by the IFBB in the United States, enjoying the same rights and obligations as the 192 National Federations affiliated and recognized by the IFBB.
3. After being suspended, the NPC issued a communiqué asserting disengagement from the IFBB on its own free will. Logically, this is within their rights. However, this does not eliminate the faults committed, as well as upcoming IFBB actions. We must be aware that, in recent years, the NPC has only polluted our sport; being a poor example with continued application of unclear regulations and opposing those used worldwide. They have allowed athletes from other countries to compete in their events without proper authorization from their National Federations. They have allowed an athlete to participate in several classes in the same competition by distorting the qualification parameters and aiding their income by allowing doping-sanctioned athletes to participate in their championships; in violation of international norms.
4. Conversely, IFBB and Pro League became disconnected organizations in 2005; they are completely different entities in organizational structures and charts.



CONFEDERACION SUDAMERICANA DE FISICO CULTURISMO Y FITNESS

Reconocida por la IFBB desde 2006



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The IFBB is an international sports federation enjoying recognition by the most important sports organizations in the world and managing to include our sport in the Olympic movement with official presence in several continents. Its president is democratically elected by voting members, based on its own Constitution and Rules.

The Pro League is a commercial enterprise; at least, it functions as such. In fact, they paid to settle an out-of-court agreement to avoid this accusation. Its Presidency is classified as such, since there is no federal structure with legal basis in the USA. This, of course, does not allow participation of all States in a democratic act designating its authorities, as it happens in other countries of the world.

5. The IFBB has been watching the progressive deterioration of professional bodybuilding with great concern and - in general - of all competitions at this level; announcing that it is restarting professional activities and events. We are already confirming our first competition in Helsinki for Bikini Fitness and Men's Physique on October 6, 7 & 8 weekend, as well as other IFBB professional events this year. There will be a COMPLETE calendar for 2018 with championships, NOT ONLY in the United States, but worldwide.

6. The **IFBB ELITE PRO** has been created with a new "soon-to-be-online" website to include dates, venues and complete details of several professional championships for the coming months in different worldwide locations. We, hereby, announce a new era in the world of Professional Bodybuilding & Fitness, with a new concept and structure that will provide real opportunities for athletes living outside the United States, plus safe and competitive footsteps for amateur athletes wishing to become professionals.

7. In addition, the IFBB takes control of professional judging with a fair & transparent system of clear rules and validation of results, guaranteeing the true placings of each athlete. **IFBB ELITE PRO** classes include: Men's Bodybuilding with several divisions, Classic Bodybuilding, Men's Physique, Muscular Men's Physique, Bikini Fitness, Body Fitness, Women's Physique and - great news for our region with Brazilian born - Wellness Fitness; strongly developed in South America.

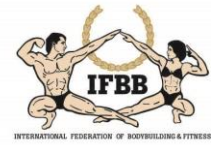
8. **IFBB ELITE PRO** is a completely new international structure in line with the IFBB, offering more opportunities to professional athletes from all over the world. Until now, a clear majority of athletes who have become professionals could not compete because of participation difficulties in the United States, with financial limitations, in an entity where result-management was always generating disappointments and uncertainties.

9. South America has paved the way for highly qualified amateur athletes into our professional ranks, via overall titles in South American championships and invitational events. Nevertheless, we have witness great disappointment as we lose them to the Pro League; which became their tombs, ending their sport careers without gains or glory due to



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the scarce opportunities and facilities they offered to Latin athletes. Likewise, the Pro League closed its doors to Latin judges, always handling judging at their convenience. That is why it is important to have a new organization with another structure and a new vision for professional athletes.

10. Arnold Classic Amateur winners will continue to receive their **IFBB ELITE PRO** cards in this new initiative. In addition, not only the overall champion will have a new PRO card, but also the champions in each category, thus multiplying opportunities. It is important to note that IFBB standard does not allow affiliated athletes to compete outside our acronyms (meaning other organizations) for both amateur and professional levels.

11. In addition to a new professional division, the IFBB is already working on a new Amateur Federation in the USA, which will debut in 2018 with its first competitive calendar. This will allow USA athletes to participate in all international amateur events around the world, with access to qualify as **IFBB ELITE PRO** athletes.

12. The Arnold Classic PRO competition in Barcelona this weekend goes ahead, as it should, given that the organizers have everything already underway. The Arnold Classic Europe (ACE) amateur competition continues to break records, this time with more than one thousand registered competitors. Kudos to the Spanish team with more than two hundred competitors, France, Italy and the United Kingdom with over one hundred each and several countries with dozens of competitors, such as Kuwait and Portugal, among others.

September 2017 will be remembered as the beginning of a positive change for our sport, providing new and better opportunities for athletes at the amateur and professional levels.

Sincerely,

Juan Fernando Paredes
CSFF PRESIDENT

Alcides Medina
CSFF SECRETARY