



International School Sport Federation

59 rue Archimède - 1000 Brussels - Belgium

September 5, 2020, Brussels

To: ISF Members

Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure of writing to you as the school year starts for all of us. The beginning of each school year has its own challenges. With it, comes added tasks, generated by new programmes, new pedagogical approaches, new leaders in schools and ministries as well as obviously more kids eager to meet their friends, to learn, practice, and discover sports, all thanks to the devotion of physical education teachers.

The current sanitary crisis we are all facing has increased the understanding and importance of sport as an educational, social, and psychological tool ensuring the well-being of families in these difficult times. The crisis has also underlined the essential role of the complex institution called "school", which is sometimes taken for granted by the media and the public. School sport is essential, as for most youth it is their first path towards the practice of sport and for many, towards a sports career. The important role of physical education teachers as the backbone of our movement in teaching them the love for sport and its values must be further underlined.

I would like to therefore congratulate and thank you for your involvement in the initiatives that the ISF has developed to keep the ISF spirit alive and moreover, maintain the link between us all. We would also like to confirm that we are standing by you for the start of the year as it is only by cooperating that we will overcome this period. We will also work together in better promoting the advantages of school sports to the decision makers in order to have quality venues, programmes, and educational tools within the schools to ensure a safe environment for the development of future generations.

It is crucial to continue to spread awareness amongst the youth, displaying a strong message of hope and trust, by continuing to instill the values and spirit of sport within them, and reinforce the importance of practicing sport from an early age as well as the additional benefits of school sport.

The colleagues of the Executive Committee, myself and the General Secretariat are fully committed to present you an engaging programme full of activities for the coming months. We are looking to meeting with you very soon at ISF events for the development of school sport worldwide.

Thank you once again, and I wish you all the best.

Yours respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurent Petrynka'.

Laurent Petrynka
President

  **We are School Sport.**