



Prague 26 June 2023

WE SUPPORT UKRAINE

Dear hockey colleagues, hockey friends,

In March 2022 we convened our standpoint and concerns related to the (still ongoing) aggression in Ukraine.

Lately we are noticing in the media a slight weakening of, especially, the western media view when it comes to allowing Russian and Belarus athletes back in certain sport events, among which the Paris Olympics. On behalf of the Czech Hockey Federation we would like to share with you that we still adhere to our initial standpoint which is/was:

* We will not participate in any event taking place in Russia and Belarus in the unforeseen future

* We will not welcome any Russian or Belarus hockey players/officials/teams in the Czech Republic until their governments will adhere to the Olympic values

Though it's not up to us to decide, we also do not support the return of Russian and Belarus players/officials/teams in any other events until the aggression is over.

This view is supported by our National Sport Agency (sport ministry). We are aware that there are different views on the topic but we appreciate you to show solidarity to our Ukraine hockey friends.

Though we believe in one European hockey family including all European countries, the current conflict is not in line with the values we cherish. We categorically condemn Russia's and Belarus's activities. We do not want to blame people who are not directly involved but at the same time we can not ignore the fact the Russian and Belarus leadership is acting at this moment. We believe every citizen has the possibility and responsibility to put an end to this.

Our continuous support goes to the Ukrainian hockey family.

Kind regards,

Gino Schilders
President Czech Hockey Federation

Český svaz pozemního hokeje__Czech Hockey Federation
Vladivostocká 1460/10, Praha 10, 100 00, Czech Republic
E-mail: csph@pozemnihokej.cz

www.pozemnihokej.cz
twitter.com/PozemniHokej
facebook.com/pozemnihokej
instagram @pozemnihokej

