



November 8, 2019

To: Lord Sebastian Coe: President;

c.c. Jon Ridegeon: CEO; Paul Hardy: Competitions Directors; Willie Banks: IAAF Council; Inaki Gomez: IAAF Athletes Commission Chair; Bernard Lagat: IAAF Athletes Commission U.S. Representative; Mike Conley; President; USA Track & Field; Max Siegel: CEO; USA Track & Field.

Dear Lord Coe:

The United States athletes watched in bewilderment as the IAAF announced that several disciplines would no longer be contested as Diamond League events during the upcoming 2020 Diamond League season. We join our international counterparts in wholeheartedly condemning these actions taken by the IAAF. As the international governing body for athletics, the IAAF is supposed to value all the events that comprise the sport. The announcement made on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November has made it clear, that is not the case.

The IAAF and Diamond League organizers have shown themselves to be completely out of touch with the sport they are entrusted to grow and protect. Please be clear that we understand changes need to be made in order to attract the appeal of a global audience, but the IAAF has shown no desire to include a sufficient number of athletes in the thought or decision-making process and this is where our frustration lies. By eliminating the opportunity for discussion, we see that you do not have the athletes as partners in this process. Consequently, the decisions being made appear self-serving and biased.

One of the stated goals of the Diamond League was to increase the global popularity of Athletics. Yet the actions taken seem contradictory to those objectives. Other events have already been excluded from the Diamond League circuit and now the IAAF continues to go down the same road of eliminating events they deem less popular and relegating them to second tier status.

The United States athletes have grown exhausted of accepting the unfavorable decisions made by the IAAF, which are typically made with minimal input from the athletes. It is our hope that you would immediately reverse these actions to remove the events from the Diamond League schedule, and bring athlete representatives to the table to correct this major misstep. In the meantime, we will support the efforts of those looking to create an international coalition of athletes while we convene a meeting to decide the next action steps that will benefit our athletes.

Our goal is not to be adversarial but to work in unison toward the ultimate goal of creating the best sport in the world for both the athletes, coaches, and fans. We hope that we can have meaningful dialogue and action and look forward to working with you and other key stakeholders to further advance our sport.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the USA Track & Field Athletes

Jeff Porter, Ph.D.

USA Track & Field, Athletes Advisory Committee Chairman