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Yaroslav Paniot

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Via Email: info@usfs.com.ua

TO: **Mr. Mikhail Makarov**
President of the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation
Mrs. Marina Amirkhanova
Head Coach Ukrainian Figure Skating National Team
Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation Council Members

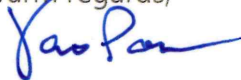
Dear Presidium of Ukraine Figure Skating Federation,

It is with humble gratitude I write to express my sincere appreciation for your decision to issue a Release Letter so I may resume participation in ISU competitions in my home country as a member of the USA Federation. I could not continue to pursue my competitive goals as a future US Citizen without your support of this transition.

It is important I speak to the extremely controversial comments attributed to me throughout the Sport24 article posted January 26, 2021 which so poorly and inaccurately reflected my long and valuable relationship with the Ukrainian Figure Skating Federation (UFSF). I truly have no explanation why this story so negatively portrayed not just my relationship with UFSF, but also manufactured extremely negative versions of my personal view on training and competing in America during Covid and at my former rink while preparing for 2018 Olympics. The story went even further to unnecessarily attack my genuine respect for Evgeni Plushenko – all these versions greatly recontextualized and sensationalized when retold for good effect. All this troubled me but most disappointing was the article's poor translation of my valued relationship with UFSF, past or present. I have no reason, desire or intention to express anything that reflects badly on the UFSF. I am deeply disappointed for this to happen and respectfully ask you accept my very sincere apology for contributing to that opportunity for storytelling.

As I wrote in my letter to you in 2019, I always remain extremely grateful for the support and many opportunities the UFSF provided me to compete at the elite level in the sport of figure skating. It was my dream as a child, and it was the opportunity and development provided under the UFSF that helped me achieve my goals and I will always respect and value your support and relationship.

Warm regards,



Yaroslav Paniot