



Confederação Brasileira de Montanhismo e Escalada

Rio de Janeiro, November 18, 2013

To

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SPORT CLIMBING

REF: **Disaffiliation of the CBME**

Dear Fellows at IFSC,

Every year we have a hard time to pay the membership fee to the IFSC. This fact has aroused many internal discussions regarding the validity of CBME being associated to the IFSC. We have managed to keep the membership for all those years, but now we have to face a harsh reality. Let me explain.

Since the CBME Plenary Assembly (PA) of 2011 we have been discussing the possibility to leave the IFSC due to the high cost of the membership fee. On that meeting, I reasoned that we should maintain the membership. Everybody understood my point and at least we came to a consensus that we would maintain the membership one more year. This additional year would serve to the Competitions Committee (Diretoria de Competições, in Portuguese) to make competitions financially sustainable.

In 2012 a new group of people appeared with great motivation to make competitions happen: Pedro Leite, their leader, is a competition climbing enthusiast and also owner of an online climbing equipment shop, called Adrena Online. He presented a proposal to organize the National Boulder Championship with three stages in three different cities. He thought his initiative would encourage other event organizers and climbing gym owners to enter the game and organize competitions in 2013. Besides that, Pedro lives and runs his business in Belo Horizonte, a city where Competition Climbing has had meaningful growing in the recent years.

Naturally we thought it was a good idea to support Pedro and his proposal and deeply appreciated all his efforts. So, after the successful realization of the 2012 National Boulder Championship, at our next PA, on October 2012, I proposed Pedro to assume CBME's Competitions Committee. He accepted and developed a program to organize Brazilian Climbing Competitions according to the IFSC rules, starting 2013. It was also agreed that the Competitions Committee should pay the IFSC membership fee in 2013, as a way to show its financial sustainability.

Pedro did again a fine job and prepared a set of documents including rules and conditions for event organizers. He asked event organizers and climbing gyms in Brazil to comment on his proposal, but got no response nor got any applications for organizing a competition this year. Thus, one more year has passed and we were not able to organize a 2013 National Championship nor the Competitions Committee could gather the necessary funds to pay the IFSC membership fee in 2013.

Regionally, the competition scene in Brazil is not that favorable as well. In 2013, there were only three federations organizing competitions: one in São Paulo for kids (no masters competition), one in Rio Grande do Sul with one stage only, and one in Rio de Janeiro with three stages.



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We understand that we need to invest in local, regional, and national competitions before investing in international ones. We want to motivate the athletes, climbing industry, and the organizers to carry these competitions in order to inspire Brazilian athletes to push their limits and to train hard. We want to include more people in the competitions scene and increase the number of athletes competing. For that, we need resources.

At this point we shall note that almost all the money we gather to pay IFSC membership fees comes from the regional federations and its origin is not connected with competition climbing. In fact it comes from association fees paid by individual members, whose large majority are mountaineers, mountain hikers or rock climbers, with only a slight interest in competitions.

Thanks to the resources we got from the event called Brazilian Mountain Week (<http://www.semanademontanhismo.com.br>), a huge event we held in April 2012, mainly dedicated to discussing mountaineering, mountain hiking and rock climbing issues in our country, we were able to pay the 2013 membership fee. However, we have no plans to have such a big event again and we cannot see that we will have the funds to pay the IFSC in the next few years.

So, at the last CBME PA on past October, it was decided that we should disaffiliate the CBME from the IFSC.

Everybody at CBME Board think this situation is undesirable, but we have to face the fact that the competitions climbing scene in Brazil is really unfavorable. Maybe it is better to get things together, developing strong regional and national events before we get back to the international scene.

We want to be sure that our status before the IFSC will not generate financial obligations now or in the future, in case we ask for a new membership. It is important to note that this is our present intention.

We are very sorry about this situation, but we think this is the better solution given the above reported history and the present situation. We hope you understand our position.

Best regards,

Silverio Nery
President of the CBME