



PRESS RELEASE

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International Gymnastics Federation tries to seize control of parkour:

Parkour NZ asks Gymnastics NZ to vote no.

Parkour NZ have issued an [open letter](#) to Gymnastics NZ, asking them to vote no, or otherwise abstain from voting, to including parkour as a new gymnastics discipline at the upcoming International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) congress in Baku, Azerbaijan on December 2nd – 3rd. The FIG are attempting to retrospectively justify two years of working outside the bounds of its governance, authority, and the scope of its statutes, to try and usurp parkour.

Parkour NZ, the NSO for parkour in New Zealand says in their letter, *“It is crucially important for the New Zealand gymnastics community to understand that the New Zealand parkour community, from its grassroots practitioners to its elected representatives, is in firm opposition to parkour under the FIG.”* Parkour NZ further remind Gymnastics NZ that the FIG has no mandate from Parkour Earth, the International Federation for Parkour/Freerunning/Art du Déplacement (parkour), and thus have no right to even call this vote.

Damien Puddle, CEO of Parkour NZ, has said “If Gymnastics NZ voted yes at the FIG congress it would demonstrate a clear conflict of interest, given our status as the NSO for parkour in New Zealand.”

The letter concludes: “We appreciate your due diligence in this matter and welcome your support in championing good sport governance in the wake of other appalling situations among other sporting communities in our nation. Thank you for respecting our right to look after our own affairs.”

The letter includes a comprehensive list of FIGs many improprieties over the last two years and is signed by all members of Parkour NZ’s elected and co-opted board.

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