



EUROPEAN
POCKET BILLIARD FEDERATION

EPBF · Clercstr. 2 · 6441 CT Brunssum Netherlands

Brunssum : August 2019
To : EPBF members
EPBF athletes
Concern : Chinese 8-Ball in Europe

Dear members,
Dear athletes,

As you probably know the **pool billiard** discipline, at least according to the WPA, Chinese 8-Ball did come to Europe. The Chinese company JOY Billiards did create the federation ICEA (International Chinese 8-Ball Association). Most of the EPBF members did, approx. 1 year ago, receive a letter from JOY / ICEA with a commercial proposal. Not all members did receive it because in several EPBF member countries other promoters were asked before JOY / ICEA approached the EPBF member.

When this was reported to the EPBF we did, several times, send a letter to JOY / ICEA asking why they don't approach the EPBF members first. This was / is part of the contract, at least that is what the WPA claims, between the WPA en JOY / ICEA. We never did receive a satisfactory answer from Joy / ICEA. In spite of several EPBF complaints to the WPA, JOY / ICEA didn't care and they did go on with their activities.

Besides of the several EPBF attempts to get in contact with JOY / ICEA it was the WPA President Mr. Anderson who did arrange finally a meeting between myself, as President of the EPBF, Mr. Anderson, as WPA President and the CEO of JOY. This meeting took place in Amsterdam March 2019. The purpose of the meeting was, from the EPBF point of view, to get an agreement or understanding on 2 points. (1) to make sure that JOY / ICEA do contact the EPBF member first if they want to get active in a certain country in Europe and, (2) respect the EPBF sports calendar and the national sports calendar of the EPBF members when it comes to activities in that particular member country. These 2 simple points should be the basis for a short-term co-operation which then should lead to a deeper co-operation in the future.

These 2 points only should be confirmed in a kind of MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between JOY / ICEA and EPBF.



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In spite of the simplicity of this MOU, JOY / ICEA did just frustrate the making and signing this document by just writing more and more in that MOU. Points that were not agreed and / or discussed This was a very frustrating process.

Between the meeting in Amsterdam and the letter today a few members did report that JOY / ICEA did approach other promoters in their country to become their partner and again it was shown that JOY / ICEA don't want to co-operate and or work together with the EPBF and / or their members. In one EPBF member country it did escalated even more, and it could be that this all turns out in a court case.

Also, it was announced that JOY / ICEA want to start Euro Tour events in Chinese 8-Ball and again without any information and / or discussion with the EPBF or one of its members. Of course, it can be stated that everybody is free to host events, which I do agree with, but in the light of the meeting in Amsterdam and the statements from JOY / ICEA that they want to co-operate this is of course not the best start.

Having all this in mind the EPBF board did have a discussion and an evaluation of this issue and the attempts from the EPBF side to come to a co-operation and / or an agreement with JOY / ICEA. The EPBF board is of the opinion that from the EPBF side all possible was done to come to a co-operation or agreement but that it is JOY / ICEA that frustrate this process. During the EPBF general Assembly in May it was already mentioned that this issue needs attention and the board will make a decision. It did take a bit longer because the EPBF board wanted to see if things became better after the GA with JOY / ICEA, but unfortunately, as stated in this letter it only got worse.

The latest information we did get that JOY / ICEA did announce at least 2 Euro Tour events, as far as we know, in the upcoming period with, again, no consultation of our members in these particular countries.

With having this all mentioned in this letter in mind the EPBF did make the following decision:

It is not the EPBF's intension to forbid EPBF members and / or their athletes to participate at the JOY / ICEA Euro Tour events or any other events hosted by JOY / ICEA in the future. What we want to do is to ask EPBF members and / or their athletes to make a choice whether they want to belong the JOY / ICEA group or the EPBF.



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This means that if the EPBF members and / or their members join the JOY / ICEA events it is a clear indication for the EPBF that these Members and / or their athletes choose to be part of the JOY / ICEA group and don't want to be part of the EPBF events anymore. In principle the EPBF member and / or their athletes have to make a choice where he / she wants to belong to.

If the choice is to participate at JOY / ICEA events, which is determined by participation at the first JOY / ICEA event, it will be not possible anymore to participate at EPBF events (Euro Tour Men and / or Women & European Championships till the end of 2020. What will be the rule after 2020 will be up for evaluation and developments with regards to an agreement with JOY / ICEA in the future.

It is with regrets that the EPBF board needs to use this kind of strong "instruments" but after all the good intensions from the EPBF side it is now time to put some pressure towards JOY / ICEA to get them at the table again in order to find ways to respect each other. It will be not an easy job to find this after the last few months but the EPBF board did and do express their intension to clear things up via conversations and meetings.

We can only hope that we could bring across our concerns and hope of course that all European members and athletes stay loyal to our point of view. Only together we can keep our beloved sport and organizational structure at a certain level.

If you have, after receiving this letter, questions or comments, please don't hesitate to send it.

With kind regards,

Gre Leenders

President EPBF



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