



ATHLETES FOR UKRAINE e.V. Ludwigstr. 22 | D-83278 Traunstein

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ATHLETES FOR UKRAINE NOW ESTABLISHED

On March 6, 2022 the Association “Athletes for Ukraine e.V.” was founded. The goal of the association is to unite all athletes worldwide to take a stand for peace and solidarity and against war.

Jens Steinigen, 1992 Biathlon Olympic gold medalist, initiator and chair of the association, said, “I started Athletes for Ukraine because I cannot bear glaring injustice. Putin must be stopped immediately; for the Ukrainian people, who are defending our values with their lives as well. For our future and that of our children, for the future of all who want to live in freedom and democracy!”

He went on to say “Everyone can join and help, regardless of whether they are professional athletes, coaches, hobby athletes, fans or simply want to be active against the war in the Ukraine. Together we are strong! “

[Many prominent figures from the sports world have joined the association or support the idea.](#)

“We want to offer financial and humanitarian aid, to support aid projects working to restore families and children’s courage and confidence,” said Tobias Angerer, a founding member of the association and four-time Olympic medalist.

In addition to offering financial and humanitarian aid, the association has another specific goal: that until this war is over and the Russian troops have left the Ukraine, every sporting event worldwide contains images of some form of protest against this war in the Ukraine.

Wolfgang Pichler, successful Biathlon trainer, describes his motivation as follows, “I think if we all join together, we have a chance. It will be hard, but if we don’t do anything, it will be harder yet!” Currently active top athletes are taking a stand against this war. So too Felix Loch, three-time luge Olympic Gold Medalist: “

Amongst ourselves, we athletes are the biggest rivals, in the luge run, we fight for a 1000th of a second and give our best every day to win. For ourselves and our counties. But not at all costs. In the last few days, all of this has slipped into the background. Ukrainian athletes are now fighting a very real war here in Europe. We must support and help them and their families from here as best we can.”

It is important to the board, to give courage to the Ukrainian people and show them that we stand firmly by their side.