

COMMUNIQUÉ

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GUILLAUME BURGER'S OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION IS INVALIDATED:

AN UNBELIEVABLE SCANDAL!

By finishing second in the final of the K1 1000m yesterday during the Olympic qualifying regattas in Szeged in Hungary, Guillaume BURGER, its coaches and partners and France thought yesterday to get the additional quota for the K1 1000m for Tokyo. The kayaker from the club of Saint Grégoire thus testified, with happiness, his joy in the media and the accomplishment of his career. However, this was without considering the intervention of the general secretary of the International Federation of Canoe Kayak (ICF) which informed the FFCK that he subsequently invalidated his participation and therefore his qualification. Despite the many discussions with the ICF, the FFCK has not yet been heard and will study all possible ways to repair this unspeakable fault that the general secretary recognizes himself. The FFCK will use all means to support Guillaume BURGER and denounce this scandalous decision by launching an appeal for support for his athlete. Guillaume BURGER and France must not be the victims of another's fault.

Jean ZOUNGRANA, President of the FFCK:

"There is nothing more unbearable than learning that one of our athletes could be the victim of such an individual error, a real unforgivable fault.

This situation is unacceptable, and one cannot imagine for a moment that the interests of the athletes could be ignored in this way.

Our sincerest thoughts must go first to Guillaume and then to the whole France team particularly shocked by this scandal.

I am convinced that the sporting community of canoe kayak will mobilize to have this fault corrected. The IOC is the guarantor of fair play and the interests of the athletes. I am convinced that they will be able to mobilize alongside us to redress this glaring injustice."

Ludovic ROYÉ, National Technical Director of the FFCK:

"This is a real scandal! The general secretary of the ICF invited and allowed Guillaume BURGER to participate in the Olympic qualifying regatta on the K1 1000m and decided a few hours after his 2nd place to invalidate his participation. A huge mistake has been made and we cannot let it go. He does not want to hear from us and only recognizes an "administrative error". This is to deny the unacceptable consequences of this situation!

A fault that literally broke Guillaume BURGER and their trainers after his enormous journey over the past two days. He is bruised because his dream is shattered, he who gave everything to go to the Olympic Games. How can we treat athletes like this? How can we have such inhuman behavior and so far removed from the values of Olympism? This is a profoundly serious prejudice, and we will not abandon because the person responsible for this situation is not able to find a solution ...

We have gathered our athletes and trainers to support Guillaume and we are united in this mobilization. We will use all remedies because it is important to protect our athletes and their integrity. We are not going to give in to this injustice. "

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