

PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL — CLUB LUCCA

Via Nicola Famesi 322 - 55100 LUCCA

Cod.Fisc.920 18110467 — email: [luccajpanathlon.net](mailto:luccajpanathlon.net)



ludis iunqit

Club Lucca

1961

To International President of Panathlon  
International Pierre Zappelli  
Rapallo

Lucca 9th January 2023

"Everyone is called to be a voice for the voiceless. You must make noise to give voice to the voiceless!"

Dear President,

We would like to take as reference and make our own these words of Pope Francis to take a position as Panathlon Club of Lucca, with an invitation and a heartfelt appeal to Panathlon International to intervene so that future choices to locate sports events always fall on countries that respect the basic values of Panathlon.

Having turned off the spotlight that 'dazzled' the entire world, which pretended not to see at what cost the recent World Cup was organised in Qatar, our Board of Directors feels it is appropriate to make its voice heard, to deliver to Panathlon international summits a recommendation that we hope will be shared by many Clubs like ours and, above all, will be picked up.

The choice of Qatar as the organising country should have been opposed in previous years for the absolute lack of respect for the civil rights of that country, for the corruption that influenced the awarding, for the poor safety during the construction of the facilities that caused thousands of deaths.

All serious reasons for scandal and disappointment for those who love real sport as we do.

We understand, however, that it makes no sense to look back at what happened in Qatar.

It is however fundamental to work for the future and we hope that Panathlon International will express itself in an unequivocal way if and when the choice of a venue not in line with the principles and objectives of Panathlon will be envisaged, which, as you know, are linked to the affirmation of the sporting idea and its moral and cultural values, as an instrument of formation and elevation of the person and of solidarity among men and peoples.

This may even begin with the prospective candidature, again as the host of the 2030 World Cup, by Saudi Arabia, which we know is another reality where many civil rights are trampled upon. Even in this case, the possible awarding of the top football competition by FIFA would only be linked to economic issues, without the slightest consideration of ethical and moral aspects.

We believe that for a movement like ours, which is committed on a daily basis to the promotion and dissemination of sports culture and ethics, avoiding new 'Qatar cases' is definitely among the priorities at international level.

Thank you for your attention and sincere wishes for a Happy New Year.

Guido Pasquini - President Panathlon International Club Lucca

## REFERENDUM / DEBATE

Does sport desert the 'deserts' of values ?

The Club of Lucca, through a letter from its President, (**see attachment**) relaunches and deepens a recently topical issue, following the World Cup held in Qatar.

**It was appropriate to assign the organisation of a world sporting event to a nation that has been criticised many times**

1. **For** its failure to observe universally shared human and social values?
2. **For** the indifference with which the many fatal accidents that occurred during the work on the pharaonic sports facilities were ignored?
3. **For** the flaunting of the power of money as an absolute value in settling technical disputes and political and federal negotiations?
4. **Is it now right**, after this affair, to proceed with the assignment of the organisation of the 2030 World Cup to Saudi Arabia, another reality where many civil rights are trampled upon, without any consideration for ethical and moral aspects?
5. **How do you assess such choices** and orientations of FIFA aimed only at the availability of financial resources?
6. **OR** should sport overlook these moral considerations and safeguard only technical and structural guarantees?
7. **FINALLY**: Should Panathlon International express itself on these considerations in an official form?

Send us your opinions and in the next issue of our magazine we will publish the outcome of the discussion and the recommended orientation for Panathlon International.

Send your (short) paper to:

[past-president@panathlon.net](mailto:past-president@panathlon.net)