

FAO: Her Majesty's Senior Coroner
Her Majesty's Coroner for the County of Dorset
The Coroner's Office for the County of Dorset
Bournemouth Town Hall
Bournemouth
BH2 6DY

Your ref: 171881

2 August 2022

Dear Madam,

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued following the Inquest touching on the death of Emiliano Raul Sala

I refer to the letter from [REDACTED] of the Coroner's Support Office dated 28 June 2022 enclosing a Report to Prevent Future Deaths dated 18 March 2022. The letter was addressed to [REDACTED] Chair of England Athletics. I apologise that no response has to date been provided to your letter, or to your previous letter to [REDACTED] dated 21 March 2022. UK Athletics, the National Governing Body for Athletics in the United Kingdom, is a distinct and separate organisation from England Athletics. UK Athletics was sent the correspondence from the Coroner's Office on 22 July 2022 and has endeavoured to provide this response as soon as possible thereafter.

By way of background explanation, UK Athletics is responsible for the operation of the British Athletics World Class Programme, which is funded predominantly by UK Sport. The World Class Programme provides support and facilities for the leading athletes in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. UK Athletics is also responsible for selecting the teams to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland at international events. Leading athletes also compete at events where their entry is not controlled by UK Athletics, such as the Diamond League series.

UK Athletics also has other regulatory functions, such as the licencing of coaches and Officials and the development of the sport, which we consider less relevant for the purposes of your concerns relating to private flights.

I note your concerns. Thank you for bringing them to my attention. UK Athletics will do all it can to prevent future deaths from illegal flights. Having made enquiries, we are not aware of athletes on the World Class Programme taking private flights. While a few leading athletes will earn considerable sums



REGISTERED OFFICE:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsell Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE
Tel: 0121 713 8400 | Fax: 0121 713 8452 | britishathletics.org.uk

Registered in England No. 3636940

from their sporting and linked endeavours in athletics, the sport is not funded to the same level as professional football, and we are not aware of the use of private flights by athletes.

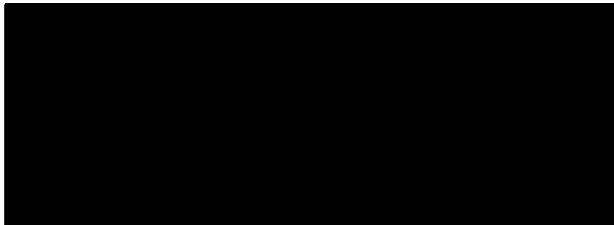
UK Athletics would propose the following action:

1. We will send the enclosed draft letter to:
 - a. all athletes on the World Class Programme;
 - b. all athletes outside of the World Class Programme who we are aware will be seeking selection for Great Britain and Northern Ireland Teams;
 - c. all known agents and coaches of the athletes in a and b above; and
 - d. the Home Country Athletic Federations for distribution to any athletes on their programmes where they consider appropriate (although we consider these athletes are even less likely to have the funds to consider a private flight).

Many of the World Class Programme Athletes will be taking part in the Commonwealth Games (28 July – 8 August 2022) and then the European Championships (15-21 August 2022). We propose sending the letter (subject to any thoughts you have on the contents) to athletes in mid-September when they are likely to be back in training and not distracted by competition or on holiday.

I look forward to your thoughts on the above proposals.

Yours faithfully,




Chief Executive Officer



REGISTERED OFFICE:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsall Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE
Tel: 0121 713 8400 | Fax: 0121 713 8452 | britishathletics.org.uk

Registered in England No. 3696740

To:

World Class Programme athletes, coaches and support staff
Known agents and support staff of athletes on the World Class Programme
Home Country Athletic Federations for distribution to athletes on their programmes

[] September 2022

Dear All,

Important Information regarding private flights

I write to you with important information about private flights which you should carefully note. While I understand that it is uncommon for athletes to use private flights and that most of you will not have considered taking a private flight, I would be grateful for your time in reading this important information.

UK Athletics has been contacted by Her Majesty's Coroner for the County of Dorset ("Coroner"). The Coroner recently held an Inquest into the death of a professional footballer, Emiliano Raul Sala. Mr Sala sadly died as a consequence of injuries sustained in an aircraft crash. The flight Mr Sala was on was operated as a commercial flight without the required authorisations, certification or permission being in place. The aircraft was chartered from an unlicensed operator.

The Coroner has asked UK Athletics to ensure that information is distributed that may prevent future deaths. Two of the specific concerns of the Coroner were:

1. There is a market in the illegal provision of flights for reward on private aircraft or flown by pilots without an Air Operators Certificate. This market exists particularly in the world of sport and music.
2. These flights do not meet the minimum safety standards for commercial operations, which could lead to future aircraft crashes and future deaths.

If you are considering taking a private flight, please carry out checks to ensure the flight is legal.

If you or any of your team have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,



REGISTERED OFFICE:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsall Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE

Tel: 0121 713 8400 | Fax: 0121 713 8452 | britishathletics.org.uk

Registered in England No. 3636940


Chief Executive Officer



REGISTERED OFFICE:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsoll Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE
Tel: 0121 713 8400 | Fax: 0121 713 8452 | britishathletics.org.uk

Registered in England No. 3686940