

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between Panathlon International (hereinafter referred to as PI), with headquarters in Via Aurelia Ponente 1, Rapallo (GE) - Italy, represented by its legal representative Giorgio Chinellato, resident in Via Spalti 43, Mestre (VE) - Italy, in his capacity as International President

and

Hikikomori Italia ETS (hereinafter HI), with headquarters in Via Monfalcone 2, Nerviano (MI) - Italy, represented by its legal representative Marco Crepaldi, resident in Via Madonna 4, Pogliano Milanese (MI) - Italy, in his capacity as Founding President

### **Whereas**

- The collaboration between PI and Hikikomori Italia ETS has as its primary objective the implementation of joint actions so that sport may serve as an effective tool to counter the phenomenon of social withdrawal, also known by the Japanese term "hikikomori."
- The cooperation protocol between HI and PI aims to identify projects and initiatives that reflect the principles and values of both Associations, with the objective of evaluating a potential collaboration also beyond the Italian territory.

### **Considering that**

**PI** is a free, non-governmental, non-profit association with legal personality. Its purpose is to promote the sporting ideal and its moral and cultural values as a means of personal development and human solidarity. To this end:

- a) It fosters friendship among all Panathletes and individuals engaged in the world of sport;
- b) It acts, through systematic and continuous actions at various levels of competence of its Bodies, to disseminate the concept of sport inspired by ethics, responsibility, solidarity, and fair play as an element of human and cultural development;
- c) It promotes studies and research on sports-related issues and their societal implications, disseminating the findings to the public in collaboration with schools, universities, and other cultural institutions;
- d) It engages in concrete forms of participation by taking part in proposals, consultations, and planning processes in the field of sport, as provided for under national and regional regulations;
- e) It works to ensure that everyone has access to healthy sports education, regardless of race, gender, or age, primarily through the promotion of youth, school, cultural, and sporting activities;

- f) It establishes permanent relations with public, national, and local institutions and with stakeholders in the field of sport, providing constructive input to legislative and administrative initiatives, and offering tangible contributions in the organizational and operational phases;
- g) As a service club network, it opposes all forms of doping, violence, racism, and corruption, and commits to encouraging and supporting activities in favour of people with disabilities, programs for the prevention and recovery from drug addiction, initiatives of solidarity with veteran athletes, and education programs on non-violence and anti-doping;
- h) It supports the Olympic Movement in actions consistent with the Association's objectives.

**Hikikomori Italia ETS** is a national association with the aim of raising awareness among institutions and public opinion about the phenomenon of voluntary social withdrawal, while also offering support to individuals affected and their families. To this end:

- a) It organizes training and awareness-raising events throughout the national territory. Furthermore, it manages relations with the press and national media to promote accurate information about the phenomenon of social withdrawal;
- b) It coordinates and supports peer support groups promoted by the Hikikomori Italia Genitori ONLUS association, relying on the collaboration of professional psychologists who are trained and supervised nationwide;
- c) It provides free online spaces dedicated to young people who identify with the hikikomori condition, as well as to parents living this experience with their children, fostering dialogue and mutual support;
- d) It offers free psychological support to young people aged 18 to 35 experiencing social withdrawal, through online sessions conducted by psychologists collaborating with the association;
- e) It participates in national and international calls for proposals with the aim of fostering collaboration and building a network focused on the topic of voluntary social withdrawal.

### **It is hereby agreed that**

The Parties recognize the opportunity for the collaboration between PI and Hikikomori Italia ETS to be carried out under the terms set forth below.

PI undertakes to:

- Disseminate information and initiatives concerning the Hikikomori condition through press releases, newsletters, and social media across all Panathletic levels, to increase awareness and understanding of the phenomenon;

- Involve its Clubs to implement projects aimed at raising awareness among youth and families on the issue;
- Evaluate, through the Commission for Culture, Research, and Education, the possibility of addressing the topic during conferences, webinars, or other cultural and informational events.

Hikikomori Italia ETS undertakes to:

- Provide informational materials to facilitate awareness of approaches, support groups, and other forms of assistance for those directly affected by isolation and for those close to them;
- Collaborate with Panathlon International Clubs through the participation of experts in any initiatives organized at the local level, as well as in periodic meetings of the Panathlon International Clubs.

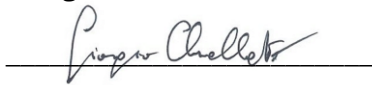
Given that PI is present in 31 countries across 4 continents, it will collaborate in establishing connections with other organizations potentially affiliated with HI to implement and disseminate the project referred to in this cooperation protocol.

Both Associations commit to displaying each other's logos and website links and to ensuring adequate visibility and dissemination of this agreement.

This agreement shall remain in force for a period of three (3) years from the date of signature, in order to allow for its implementation and/or adjustment considering practical experience and shall be automatically renewed from year to year unless either Party provides written notice of termination at least three (3) months prior to the respective renewal date.

*For Panathlon International*

*Giorgio Chinellato - President*



*For Hikikomori Italia*

*Marco Crepaldi - President*



Rapallo, 28th of July of 2025