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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

IOC Creates $300K Fund to Help Ukraine Athletes

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IOC President Thomas Bach has expressed "growing concern" at political developments in Ukraine and has given $300,000 to help its athletes.

Bach said in a statement that "the situation of Ukrainian athletes ... has dramatically deteriorated."

The emergency fund will be used for "Ukrainian athletes, through the Ukraine [Olympic Committee], for training and competition purposes."

Bach said the IOC was ''following the political, economic and social developments in Ukraine with the greatest attention and growing concern."

Tension between Ukraine and Russia has increased since the Sochi Olympics in February.

Bach said "I repeat my appeal of Sochi to all political leaders involved to enter into a summit dialogue in the Olympic spirit of mutual respect and peace."

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