

Recommended Conditions of Participation for Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel with a Russian or Belarusian Passport in International Sports Competitions Organised by the International Federations and International Sports Event Organisers

Introduction

In reference to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board statement of 28 March 2023, the IOC has consulted with its stakeholders regarding different considerations for a pathway for the potential exceptional participation of Individual Neutral Athletes and support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport in some international sports competitions governed by International Federations (IFs) that have taken protective measures against Russian and Belarusian athletes following the IOC recommendations of 28 February 2022.

In this regard, the below Recommended Conditions of Participation have been produced in consultation with the IFs and international sports event organisers to provide guidance on the definition of neutral participation and its consistent implementation should an IF and/or international sports event organiser decide, at its sole discretion and in accordance with its rules/statutes – also taking into account the IF's individual circumstances – to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to return to international sports competitions. For the purposes of this document, “international sports competitions” refers to all IF events at any level.

In the event any Individual Neutral Athlete or their support personnel fails to respect the conditions of participation determined by their IF and/or an international sports event organiser on the basis of these Recommended Conditions of Participation, the IF and/or the international sports event organiser concerned shall follow and enforce the disciplinary rules applicable to the event (in most cases, these are the rules/statutes of the relevant IF). As far as possible, IFs and/or international sports event organisers are asked to keep the IOC informed of the outcome of all resulting disciplinary proceedings, including, but not limited to, eligibility for future competitions.

For the avoidance of doubt, and as noted in the IOC Executive Board statement of 28 March 2023, these recommendations do not apply to the participation of athletes and their support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 or the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. This decision will be taken at the appropriate time, even if they are considered to have qualified according to the qualification criteria set by their respective IFs.

Recommended Conditions of Participation

The Recommended Conditions of Participation for Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel with a Russian or Belarusian Passport in International Sports Competitions Organised by the IFs and International Sports Event Organisers are as follows:



Topic	Recommendation
Participation	Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel may return to international sports competitions only in an individual and neutral capacity, and not in any way as a representative of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, or any other organisation in their country, including their National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Federation (NF). Individual Neutral Athletes and support personnel who are contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies cannot participate in any international sports competition. Only individuals with a high-performance, medical or technical role should be considered for support personnel accreditation, to allow Individual Neutral Athletes to have access to the same support personnel as other competing athletes. Russian or Belarusian government or state officials cannot be invited to or accredited for any international sports competition, including as the guest of an IF or international sports event organiser, or in the support personnel roles noted above.
Team sports and team events in individual sports	Teams of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport cannot be considered. The definition of team sports or team events shall follow the IF regulations.
Active support for the war in Ukraine	Only those Individual Neutral Athletes and support personnel who have not acted against the peace mission of the Olympic Movement by actively supporting the war in Ukraine may be invited to participate in international sports competitions. Contracted members of the Russian and Belarusian military or national security agencies are considered to support the war. With regard to other active supporting measures, all relevant circumstances, in particular public statements, including those made on social media; participation in pro-war demonstrations or events; and the displaying of any symbol supporting the war in Ukraine, for example, the “Z” symbol, have to be taken into consideration. In order to ensure a harmonised interpretation of these criteria, the IFs should consider creating a single independent panel under the umbrella of the IF associations (ASOIF, AIOWF, ARISF) to take the decisions.



Anti-doping	Any such Individual Neutral Athlete, like all the other participating athletes, must meet all anti-doping requirements applicable to them, particularly those set out in the anti-doping rules of the IFs. Each IF is responsible for the individual checks of any athlete prior to their participation in competitions under its authority. It is recommended that IFs strongly consider including all Individual Neutral Athletes in their registered testing pool. In addition, each IF should communicate details of its overall doping control programme to all participants, respecting confidentiality and personal data requirements, in order to ensure a level playing field and fair treatment for all athletes.
Event registration	Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel must, wherever possible, register for and enter themselves into the event on an individual basis directly with the IF or the international sports event organiser.
Participation name	The participation name and code must have no association with the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs. Public displays of the country name or Russian/Belarusian sports organisations are not permitted in any language or format. Athletes must participate in competitions as “Individual Neutral Athletes” in English and “Athlètes Individuels Neutres” in French, and use “AIN” as the acronym.
Emblem	An emblem/logo cannot be used in any context. If this is not possible due to IF regulations or a sport’s technical requirements, the IF emblem or the AIN acronym should be used.
Flag	The flags of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (current or historical) cannot be flown or displayed in any official venue or area controlled by the IF and/or the international sports event organiser. When a flag needs to be used to reference Individual Neutral Athletes (for example for ceremonies, in protocol sets and in-venue, TV/media graphics and social media), the flag of the event or another completely neutral flag must be used; or no flag should be used at all. IFs and international sports event organisers must ensure that spectators are prohibited from bringing flags of, and other items that may be associated with, the Russian Federation or Republic of Belarus (current and historical) into the venue.



Anthem	The Russian and Belarusian national anthems (or any anthem linked to the Russian Federation or Republic of Belarus) must not be played or sung at any moment during an event in any official venue or any other area controlled by the IF and/or the international sports event organiser. For medal ceremonies involving Individual Neutral Athletes, the anthem or song of the event, any other neutral melody or the IF hymn must be used.
Uniforms	Uniforms must be completely white or unicolour, unless not feasible due to IF regulations. Uniforms (competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonies, casual, etc.), clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items belonging to Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel that are worn, used and/or otherwise displayed at official venues and any other areas controlled by the IF or event organiser must not contain: - any recognition of or reference to the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs, or any national identification of Russia or Belarus (such as a flag, coat of arms or any other national symbol or emblem, be it official or unofficial) in any language or format; - any commercial or non-commercial emblems or identifications of any Russian or Belarusian organisations or entities; - any expression (message, graphical element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation. The above rules complement each IF's rules applicable to uniforms, clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items. Any such items must be submitted to the IF for its prior approval, in line with rules to be enforced by the IF in accordance with its statutes and regulations applicable to its events.
Medals	Individual Neutral Athletes can be awarded medals for their performances but cannot be included in any medal table drawn up per country, given that they are participating in an individual capacity.
Neutrality	Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel must fully respect the IF regulations, the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the IF's/international sports event organiser's conditions of participation on the basis of these Recommended Conditions of Participation. To adhere to the requirement of neutrality, Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel must refrain from any activity or communication associated with the national flag, anthem, emblem or any other symbol of



	the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, their NFs or NOCs, or support for the war in Ukraine, at any official venue or in the media (including interviews, social media – retweets, reposting, etc.) prior to, during and following the international sports competition. This includes any national events related to their participation in the competition. They must not make any statements or comments, take any action, or conduct themselves in any manner that may be prejudicial to the interests of the competition, its integrity or the participant's neutrality required as a condition of participation. The IFs must ensure that, in the event of any infringement of the conditions, they are in a position to take the necessary action and issue the necessary sanctions.
International Technical Officials (ITOs)	Russian and Belarusian passport-holders officiating competitions as ITOs, judges or referees should not display or otherwise express an association with their nationality. ITOs should be considered under the umbrella of the IF and represented by the IF flag or acronym where necessary, in accordance with IF regulations. ITOs who are contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies cannot participate in any international sports competition.