



RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES TASK FORCE

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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INTRODUCTION

This Task Force report has been structured in three parts: in the first part, an explanation on the goals set and the methodology used to gather information and resource checking; in the second part, a summary of various consultations divided by topics; and in the third part, the Task Force recommendation on how implementation can take place.

Few appendixes at the end, as well as references and links throughout the documents, give access to sources used to compile this report.

1. TASK FORCE GOAL AND WORKING PROCESSES

1.1. GOAL

What we are considering

Allowing athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports to compete as neutral athletes under the terms proposed by the IOC

What will not change

- Athletes will not be able to represent Russia or Belarus.
- No flag, anthem, colours or any other identifications whatsoever of these countries displayed at any sports event or meeting, including the entire venue.
- No Russian and Belarusian government or state official can be invited to or accredited for any international sports event or meeting.
- No international sports events organised or supported by an IF or NOC in Russia or Belarus.
- Officials (Routesetters and Judges) with Russian or Belarusian passports remain suspended.

1.2. TIMELINE

10 May 2023	Task Force formed at Executive Board meeting
11-31 May 2023	Consultation period and drafting of document
7 June 2023	Task Force results to be presented at Executive Board meeting



7 June 2023	The IFSC Executive Board approved to start a process for the reinstatement of Athletes with Russian and Belarusian passport as neutral athletes, starting from 2024.
8 June 2023	The decision was presented to the IFSC Athletes' Commission.
9 June 2023	The decision was presented to the IFSC National Federations.
12 June 2023	The IFSC issued a press release [here] .

1.3. PROCEDURE

Questions to answer

- How do we assure anti-doping procedures have been followed?
- Options to check military participation - self disclosure or other method?
- How do we assure athlete safety at our events - IFSC or Event Organiser responsibility?
- Will we allow Event Organiser discretion?
- Timeline of implementation
- Financial considerations

Topics for the future

- Youth athletes being permitted – same conditions or different?
- What would need to change for Russia and Belarus to be allowed back under their own flags (cease fire?)
- How can we be consistent for future conflicts?
- Any regulations/procedures if the hosting country does not allow entry of RUS and BLR athletes, or any other country (same as for eg Iranian athletes denied visas)

List of Consultations

- IFSC Athletes Commission:
 - Meeting held on 13/04/2023
- IOC Athletes Commission:
 - Kaveh Mehrabi, IOC Athletes Department Director
- IOC Sport Department:
 - Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director
 - Bram Schellekens, IOC Head of Summer Sports & IF Relations
- Event Organisers:
 - Urs Stöcker and Sandro Pfister from CAS, World Championships hosting federation (SUI)
- Anti-doping (ITA provider):
 - Samuel Balet and Richard Mann
- European Council:



- Tijl Smits, President of Europe Council
- Ukrainian Climbing Federation:
 - Mr Serik Kazbekov, Vice President of Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UMF)
- Israeli Federation
 - Refael Cohen, Vice CEO of the Israeli Climbing Federation (ILCA)
- Providers for intelligence and investigation services

2. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS

2.1. ATHLETES' OPINION

IFSC Athletes Commission

The IFSC Athletes Commission met on 13 April 2023 and exchanged on RUS/BLR situation with President Sclaris. As usual no recording of these monthly meetings was taken to allow for more open conversation without concern and especially on this emotive topic: notes rather than minutes are taken.

There was no majority from the Athletes Commission for or against reinstatement of athletes with a RUS/BLR passport to competition under a neutral flag.

The Athletes Commission raised questions in discussion to understand how this might be achieved and the regulation around it. These queries/concerns included:

- When would this take place? What would the timeline be?
- Would athletes be eligible for Olympic qualification / OQS / World Championships
- Would youth athletes be included?
- Entry to a country may not be guaranteed – how is this managed?
- Should we explore any greater impact on the return to competition within the athlete community?
- How is it possible to check whether an athlete may be army/military affiliated?
- What are the current UKR laws / policy on athletes competing alongside RUS/BLR passport holders
- What will be the difference between the outlines passed by IFs and the IOC and the NFs in question
- How would this be managed through entry processes for IFSC International events, how would this filter down to Continental events or would it not take an effect here?
- What do other sports think? What are other sports doing?
- Anti – Doping – what has been the current picture of testing for RUS/BLR/UKR athletes under these circumstances?
- Anti – Doping – what will be in place if athletes compete under a neutral flag and how testing and its validity be guaranteed?

Some of the above questions find an answer in this report, however, the Task Force acknowledges the importance and urgency to host a joint meeting with the Athletes Commission to answer the questions raised above, noting that the consultation process is open and the Task Force welcomes discussion.

IOC Athletes Commission

The IOC Athletes Commission is generally in favour of the inclusion of RUS and BLR athletes under neutral status on the ground of non-discrimination. It is worth noting that while it is easy to hear strong extreme voices, which very often are the only one reported in the media; it is safe to say that the silent large majority have more moderate opinions.

Athletes Forum were held in all continents, and the opinion shared was quite different across the globe.

At the African Athletes' Forum held in Algiers on 12 March 2023, athletes unanimously expressed their full support of the resolution adopted by the ANOCA executive board on 3 March 2023, welcoming the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes competing as neutral athletes in international competitions. In their discussions they reiterated that athletes should never pay



the price of a conflict whatever it is and wherever it is. Politics should not put pressure on Sport to withdraw from its fundamental values of solidarity and unity [\[ref\]](#).

At the Asian Athletes' Forum, the athletes fully supported the autonomy of the Olympic Movement based on the basic principles of Olympism without any discrimination based on nationality, religion ethnicity. [\[ref\]](#)

In this respect, the forum participants concluded that athletes should not be punished for the actions of their governments. Athletes should have access to international competitions (including the Asian Games) without any form of discrimination. With regards to the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes, they should return to international competitions with clear conditions including;

- No Russian or Belarusian Government officials present.
- Athletes competing as strictly neutral athletes - no flag or national symbols.
- Complying fully with all applicable anti-doping rules and regulations.
- Fairness to Asian athletes in any qualification pathway.

2.2. UKRANIAN CONSULTATIONS

President Scholaris met several times with Mr Serik Kazbekov, Vice President of Ukrainian Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UMF). President Scholaris also had a call with Mr Vadym Guttsait, Minister of Sport of Ukraine and President of the National Olympic Committee of Ukraine, on 6 April, and a new call on 6 June. Mr Kazbekov confirmed that they have received very clear orders from their government to abandon any competitions if there are registered RUS and BLR passport athletes, even if under neutral status.

2.3. G7 STATEMENT

On 22 May, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) welcomed the reference to sport in the Group of Seven (G7) Leaders' Statement on Ukraine, which they issued during their summit in Hiroshima, Japan. The statement says that the G7 are "fully respecting the autonomy of sporting organizations" and want to ensure that "Russian and Belarusian athletes are in no way appearing as representatives of their states". This is fully aligned with the position of the IOC in this respect.

2.4. SPIRIT OF OLYMPISM

The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play [\[from IOC website\]](#).

Following the spirit of Olympism, we should aim to not politicise athletes nor discriminate them based on their passport as that has would be a violation of human rights [\[United Nations\]](#).

2.5. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

The International Testing Agency (ITA), currently managing the anti-doping testing for IFSC, can put in place a bespoke testing programme for AIN athletes with recommendations based on the specific risk of the sport. ITA can certify that the testing happens only with independent NADOs (agencies).

2.6. MILITARY PARTICIPATION

Other sports' experiences

The experiences with different sports are varied. The vetting process is the key and not an easy task: understand the type of contract athletes and their team officials have, whether is civil or military, is not simple. There might also be cases where the athletes are forced to sign specific agreements.

The question to ask is where to place the threshold for us, what would work. So far federations have taken different approaches, softer or stricter.



Most sports have the NF complete the forms, but the IFSC has suspended the NF and we do not expect them to return shortly.

It is important to consider where to draw the line in terms of timeline to be considered. Following IFSC Athletes Commission feeling, probably the IFSC threshold would have to be high, and limit to athletes who since the time of start of the conflict have had no connection with the military.

Taekwondo has taken a lenient approach, while Judo somewhat stricter.

Potential providers

A list of potential providers of intelligence and investigation services has been put together by the IOC and the ASOIF. The Task Force has started seeking quotes. There is a broad range of costs for this service depending on the dept of the research, the methodology used, the reporting, and other factors. All providers seem to be in high demand at the moment, making it more difficult to receive timely communication. Additionally, some providers are not able to accept any payment from Russia due to sanctions.

2.7. QUALIFICATION PROCESS AND PARIS 2024

There is yet no decision from the IOC on Paris 2024 and the decision on participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes might come not earlier than the end of the year, as the IOC might want to see how the situation progresses.

2.8. NEUTRAL ATHLETES AND THEIR TEAM OFFICIALS DECLARATION: EXAMPLES OF OTHER IFs

For reference, full documents can be found in the one drive folders: links in Appendix I.

World Taekwondo

World Taekwondo has let RUS and BLR athletes compete under neutral status at the 2023 World Taekwondo Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, 31 May-3 June. AIN athletes signed an Athlete Pledge, with quoting: *"I pledge that I – in the broadest sense of the word – have not been involved in or provided support to any military or combat operations, military or combat related operations or activities in the war against Ukraine"*; and *"I pledge that I – in the broadest sense of the word – have not been involved in, directly or indirectly, or provided support to the publication of statements, opinions or expressions on my own or other social media platforms in supporting the war against Ukraine"*. Additionally there is the request to maintain the neutral status of no flag, no colour, no anthem, etc.. during and after the participation to the World Championships. In case of violation, sanctions are in place.

UCI - Cycling

Cycling has let RUS and BLR athletes compete as AIN athletes, with following main conditions:

- No RUS and BLR team participation, but only allowed individual athletes participation as members of other (non-nationality based) teams.
- The National Federations of Russia and Belarus shall not be involved in the registration of riders for UCI events, but process runs via UCI directly.
- In and out of competition ban for any RUS and BLR flag anthem or symbols, etc...
- Russian and Belarusian company brands are considered damaging to the image of the UCI, so generally banned unless clear statements are made against the war.
- Sanctions in case of violations.
- With regard to the support personnel, only persons holding a high-level medical or technical function which is essential to the participation of *Individual Neutral Athletes* may be granted accreditation.



International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)

The IWF reintroduced RUS and BLR athletes as AIN athletes based on the following statement: *“The IWF is called to draw a delicate balance between, on the one hand, the need to show solidarity with Ukraine and respect for the countries supporting its sufferings and to secure the proper conduct of competitions in a safe and serene environment, but on the other hand also, the need to preserve as much as possible the opportunity for all individual athletes to practice sport irrespective of their nationalities.”*

Main conditions are:

- Declaration to follow the policy and that: *“I undertake to continue to abstain from expressing any support to the war and will immediately and voluntarily notify any relevant change in my activities that occurs after the date of this declaration.”*
- Application is sent via National Federation.
- Sanctions may be implemented directly and immediately by the Executive Board. The decision of the Executive Board becomes immediately enforceable with possibility to object via Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.

2.9. SAFETY OF ATHLETES AT COMPETITIONS

Other sports’ experiences

The one experience with the reintroduction of RUS and BLR athletes under neutral status is with Judo having hosted the World Judo Championships in Doha (7-14 May 2023, [here](#)). There was no particular problem during the event other than some banners and flags amongst the crowd which were managed by asking the spectators to leave the premises.

Something to take into account is the location of the event as there are some governments that do not let Russian citizens in the country.

Other than that, from the IOC perspective, there does not seem to be the need to put in place any ad hoc safety measures. Usual protocol should be enough. For the public, best to rely on the experience of each country/event organisers, as they are the one mostly aware of the situation. The Task Force informed the WCH event organisers which will now take this into account.

IOC is going to continue to share experiences from other sports (including competitions held in Europe) which had the participation of RUS and BLR athletes under neutral status.

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships

According to the contract signed by the hosting federation for the IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships, the hosting federation / organisers are in charge of the safety of athletes. If the inclusion of RUS and BLR athletes under neutral status takes place, the WCH organisers would be responsible for their safety and this will have an effect on the budget and organisation of the event. Probably, neutral athletes would need personal protection, like bodyguards. Usually embassies offer such service, but in this case it is not the best solution. From a competition procedure point of view, the WCH organisers would not have space to ensure separation between athletes nor special treatment for them to compete as the venue has already quite limited spaces.

When asked “The WCH is quite soon, but if you had more time to plan, would you consider things differently?” the organisers responded that it is a matter of experience more than time to be able to better prepare properly for such a large-scale event. Having to test new procedures for the first time at the biggest IFSC event is risky and worrisome.

Safety measures used by the Israeli Federation while travelling to IFSC competitions

The Israeli federation shared the details of their security arrangements. They are advised by a security agent from the Israeli sport department. Usually, the safety measures taken vary from country to country. All the cautionary measures taken by the Israeli team while travelling are fully managed by the federation and not by the event organiser.



2.10. COUNTRY'S ENTRY RESTRICTIONS AND NOCs POSITIONS

The Task Force focused on seeking countries' entry conditions of potential upcoming qualifying competitions happening in Europe in 2023: IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships, Bern (SUI); Europe Speed Qualifier, Torino (ITA); and Europe Boulder & Lead Qualifier, Laval (FRA). Switzerland, Italy, and France do not have any entry restrictions to RUS and BLR passports.

2.11. COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The Task Force acknowledges the need and importance to provide answers to the comments and questions raised by the Athlete's Commission and NFs.

Key points to properly communicate on are:

- Acknowledge of the IOC statement, and (eventually) acceptance with clear conditions;
- UN message against discrimination;
- Strong message against war and support to UKR;
- List of activities put in place so far to support UKR athletes and UKR federation;
- List of restrictions and bans that will remain in place against RUS and BLR [Point 1];

Refer to Appendix II for list of IFs statements and decision taken.

Additionally, here is a list of sport disadvantages for RUS and BLR athletes:

- No access to one full qualifying cycle;
- No access to the IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships;
- 2 quota per gender per discipline at World Cup.

3. TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

The Task Force recommendation to the Executive Board is to:

- A. Approve to start a process for the reinstatement of Athletes with Russian and Belarusian passport as neutral athletes, starting from 2024.
- B. Release a statement that "The IFSC Executive Board has decided to start a process for the reinstatement of Athletes with Russian and Belarusian passport as neutral athletes, starting from 2024" and that full detailed regulations on how this will be put in place with clear timeline will be released.
- C. Require athletes and their team officials with RUS and BLR passports to obtain neutral licences which covers the cost of independent verification of neutral athlete and their team officials declarations.
- D. Ensure proper anti-doping procedures are followed.
- E. Loss of performance based additional quotas for events.

The Task Force believes that the drafted recommendation is sustainable in the long term and it sets standards so that it could be re-adapted if needed. The focus was to do things properly, so that we have a system that can work within the current structure, implying both human and financial resources.

3.1. TIMELINE OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Arrange for a meeting with the IFSC Athletes Commission to answer the questions posed and to discuss any other concerns [Done on 8 June].
- Arrange for a NF call [Done on 9 June].
- Work on the details of implementation, including drafting of the neutral athletes and their team official declaration.



3.2. FINANCIAL PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

The Task Force recommendation is to charge applicants (Athletes and their Team Officials) of all costs related to the intelligence and investigation services and to the ITA anti-doping extra costs.

Considerations must be made also in terms of internal organisation of IFSC staff to take care of all additional procedures of Licence approval, selection of athletes, and registration to competitions (both International and European).

3.3. OPEN QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Uniform requirements.
- Athletes' selection policy & process.
- Possible extension of Neutral Athletes status to other federations (if issues arise) to ensure non-discrimination.
- Youth athletes being permitted and conditions for that.

APPENDIX I - RESOURCES AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Dossier of documents received and collected: [here](#)

Other IFs AIN athletes declarations and policies: [here](#)

APPENDIX II - INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS STATEMENTS

IF	Link	Date of decision	Summary of decision	Conditions of inclusion
Badminton World Federation (BWF)	Here	20 April 2023	Ban maintained	
International Canoe Federation (ICF)	Here	29 April 2023	The International Canoe Federation (ICF) board has made the decision to allow eligible Russian and Belarusian athletes who are not in support of their State’s actions in Ukraine to compete as individual neutral athletes.	An independent panel will be set up to consider all applications from Russian and Belarusian athletes wishing to compete as neutral athletes
International Fencing Federation (FIE)	Sport Intern	15 May 2023	The FIE has already ruled to allow neutral Russian fencers to compete in its competitions following International Olympic Committee (IOC) advice to facilitate their return along with Belarusian athletes.	
International Golf Federation (IGF)	Here	5 May 2023	Athletes with a Russian or a Belarusian passport must compete only as Individual Neutral Athletes.	NA
International Judo Federation (IJF)	Here	29 April 2023	The IJF Executive Committee has decided to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to participate in IJF events as individual neutral athletes	to engage an independent, reputable company to perform background checks on all the individuals proposed for participation, including social media content, with specific reference to possible war propaganda
International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF)	Here	25 April 2023	The ExCo agreed to create an Ad Hoc Commission to explore the timeline for the return of these athletes under strict conditions of eligibility. The ISSF will work in close collaboration with the IOC and ASOIF on drafting respective eligibility rules, defining the independent review process necessary to also ensure that only neutral athletes, who are not contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies may be considered. The ExCo further expressed the need for a clear commitment from the ISSF member associations in Russia and Belarus to cooperate with the process by providing information on athletes, when requested in course of the review process.	

<p>International Surfing Association (ISA)</p>	<p>Here</p>	<p>14 April 2023</p>		<p>"ISA events are competitions with qualified teams who are entered by their national surfing federations," There is no provision in the ISA rule book for the participation of individuals outside their national teams, including for World Surfing Games and other events that play a part in athlete qualification for the Olympic Games via their National Olympic Committees. Should circumstances change, the ISA will review its position and submit updated recommendations to its Executive Committee," the statement continued."These decisions are the result of the ISA's strong condemnation of the Russian Government's invasion of Ukraine – a war which has been fought for more than a year.</p> <p>"As a top priority, the ISA is ensuring the safety of the public, athletes and officials, and is protecting the integrity of its competitions.</p> <p>"The ISA continues to express its solidarity with the people and surfers from Ukraine."</p>
<p>International Table Tennis Federation (ITF)</p>	<p>Here</p>	<p>30 March 2023</p>	<p>The ITTF Executive Board (EB) endorses the recent statement from the International Olympic Committee regarding status of players with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international competitions.</p>	<p>The ITTF has taken note of the IOC Executive Board's Recommended Conditions of Participation for these players. The ITTF will review them and consult with other IFs to create official guidelines that spell out explicit conditions of participation for players and support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport. Noting the current schedule, if all conditions are met, the earliest players could participate in an event is in May. As qualification for the ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals Durban 2023 has passed, players with Russian and Belarusian passport will be unable to participate.</p> <p>While a pathway for players and support officials is being considered, the ITTF will continue to keep sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian governments in place as decided on 1 March 2022. These sanctions include:</p> <p>No Russian or Belarusian government or state officials will be allowed in events organised by the ITTF and World Table Tennis</p> <p>No Russian or Belarusian national symbols, colours, flags, or anthems will be displayed at events organised by the ITTF and World Table Tennis.</p>
<p>International Weightlifting Federation (IWF)</p>	<p>Sport Intern</p>	<p>15 May 2023</p>	<p>weightlifting competitions are now added to the list of sporting events individual neutral Russians and Belarusians may be admitted to after the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) adopted the new invasion-related measures from the IOC.</p>	

Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI)	Here	3 May 2023	<p>- To authorise, under strict conditions, the participation of athletes of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality in events on the UCI International Calendar, including UCI World Cup and UCI Nations Cup events and UCI World Championships, as "neutral individual athletes", without them having any involvement or association with the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, their National Federation or National Olympic Committee.</p> <p>- To maintain the authorisation applied since 1st March 2022 to riders of Russian and Belarusian nationality to participate in events on the UCI International Calendar, as well as in UCI World Cups in certain disciplines, with their UCI registered team (or club team) provided that the team is not of Russian or Belarusian nationality.</p>	Any person wishing to obtain the status of "neutral individual athlete" will have to apply to the UCI within the framework of a procedure which will lead, if the conditions are met, to the issue of this status by the UCI.
Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM)	Here	20 April 2023	its full support for a structured return to UIPM Sports competitions for individual athletes with Russia and Belarus passports, based on the recommendations for International Federations published by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on March 28, 2023.	UIPM will set up an independent panel to review athlete eligibility based on criteria to be established by the EB in collaboration with the IOC, as well as timings for the opening of the pathway in respect of the UIPM Sports competition calendar, and any other relevant aspects.
World Aquatics	Here	05 April 2023	Task force set up to report in July	
World Archery	Here	21 April 2023	The board expressed its support and agreed to explore a timeline for the return of these athletes under strict conditions of eligibility, permitting only the reintegration of individuals able to prove neutrality through an independent review process.	A working group, which will include independent representation, will be established to develop and implement the timeline for this procedure
World Athletics	Here	24 March 2023	The World Athletics Council has also reaffirmed the decision it originally made in March 2022, to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes, support personnel, Member Federation officials and officials who are citizens of those two countries from all World Athletics Series events for the foreseeable future.	<p>These sanctions take effect immediately and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. no hosting of any International or European athletics events, which includes World Athletics Series, Continental Tour meetings and other International Competitions; b. no right to attend, speak and/or vote at meetings of Congress; c. no accreditation to attend any World Athletics Series events; d. no involvement of Member Federation personnel in any official World Athletics development or professional programmes; and e. Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel, Member Federation Officials and Officials who are Citizens of Russia and Belarus are excluded from World Athletics Series Events for the foreseeable future.
World Rowing	Here	19 April 2023	"The World Rowing Executive Committee has established a Working Group tasked with making recommendations for all relevant World Rowing competitions, including the World Championships, Junior and Youth World Championships, and the World Cup events that will take place in 2023 and 2024," it told Russian state-run news agency TASS.	

World Sailing	Here	14 April 2023	<p>The Board supports the Fundamental Principles of Olympism in the Olympic Charter and recognises that the principles guide the IOC's recommendation to allow the return of Russian and Belarusian competitors as independent neutral athletes.</p> <p>Given the broad diversity of sailing and given the strong views held by World Sailing's Member National Authorities, the Board's position is that the wider decision on the return to international sailing events will be made in consultation with the World Sailing Council at the Mid-Year Meeting, to be held on 18 May 2023. Following the Council meeting, the Board intend to make a decision, subject to World Sailing's policies and regulations.</p>	
World Skate	Here	6 April 2023	<p>World Skate supports the pathway of a return of Independent Neutral Athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports in order to allow athletes of different nationalities to compete together in our sports.</p>	<p>Understanding the need to find a consistent approach across all World Skate disciplines, World Skate is now working to develop the necessary independent review processes to allow and plan a return of these athletes, in consultation with the IOC and ASOIF.</p> <p>This review process and potential timelines of return will be further discussed at the next World Skate Executive Board meetings and announced as soon as possible.</p>
World Taekwondo	Here	3 April 2023	<p>Athletes can compete as neutral athletes</p>	<p>Following deliberation, the Council decided to allow the participation of individual neutral athletes and support personnel with Russian and Belarusian passport holders at the World Taekwondo-promoted Championships, starting from the Baku 2023 World Taekwondo Championships at the end of May."A decision on the participation of individual neutral athletes and support personnel with Russian and Belarusian passports in other events not promoted by World Taekwondo will be made after the Baku 2023 World Taekwondo Championships.</p> <p>World Taekwondo said a Review Committee and verification process would ensure the "strict neutrality" of any Russians or Belarusians competing.</p> <p>A three-step process will first involve verification by the member national association and continental union, followed by individual-led confirmation by the athlete or support personnel.</p> <p>The final step will be assessment and approval by the Review Committee.</p> <p>"The participation of any individual neutral athletes in World Taekwondo promoted competitions will be held under the clear principles and guidelines established by the IOC Executive Board," the governing body added.</p> <p>The 2023 World Taekwondo Championships in Baku are due to take place between May 29 and June 6 in Azerbaijan's capital.</p>



World Triathlon	Here	13 April 2023	The World Triathlon Executive Board has approved its support, in principle, for the IOC's recommendation of a return to competition of athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports in international competitions and the lifting of the suspension applied to the countries' participations in World Triathlon events at the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.	World Triathlon will in consultation with the IOC and ASOIF work towards developing the necessary independent review processes to allow and plan for the return of these individuals to our competitions and events.
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APPENDIX III – ONGOING ARMED CONFLICTS

According to Geneva Academy [<https://geneva-academy.ch/galleries/today-s-armed-conflicts>], today more than 110 armed conflicts exist around the world. While hoping that any such conflict would cease, it is impossible to ignore that each one of them has the potential to escalate. A dozen member federations are in countries with ongoing armed conflicts.