

IWF POLICY

Concerning the Participation in IWF Competitions of Athletes, Athletes' Support Personnel and Technical Officials with a Russian or Belarusian passport

(amended as of 28 August 2024)

The IWF Executive Board has carefully considered and reviewed the issue of participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes, athletes' support personnel and technical officials in IWF competitions.

The IWF Executive Board underlines that the extraordinary situation arising out of the war in Ukraine places all the International Sport Governing bodies and, among them, the IWF before a profound and difficult dilemma.

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 open and broad participation to sport irrespective of nationalities.

From the beginning in this profound crisis which deeply affects the conduct of international sport, the IWF has been mindful to observe the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee.

This Policy is based on the ***Recommendations for International Federations and International Event Organisers and international sport event organisers on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international competitions*** which are the recommendations lastly issued by the IOC on 28 March 2023. These recommendations open the possibility of participation subject to certain strict requirements.

This Policy accordingly defines the terms and conditions under which individual Russian and Belarusian nationals may be eligible to participate in IWF competitions as athletes, athletes' support personnel or technical officials (hereinafter "**Participants**").

1. Participation Subject to Specific Exclusion Criteria

From the issuance of this Policy and subject to its revocation or amendment in accordance with art. 10 below, Participants may be eligible to be entered and to participate in IWF competitions provided that they meet all the general material and formal eligibility criteria applicable to their participation to the concerned IWF competitions in their respective capacities and neither of the following exclusion criteria apply:

- Individuals who are or become contracted or are or become in any way connected to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies and/or entities, whether public or private, providing services in support of the war in Ukraine, and/or are in any way personally engaged in the conduct, support or promotion of the war in Ukraine are not eligible to participate in IWF competitions.
- Individuals who have declared or at any time declare support to the war in any way, form or occasion or through any means, including without limitation social media, are not eligible to participate in IWF competitions.

2. Participants' Declaration & Undertaking

As a strict condition to be entered for and participate in any IWF competition, each Participant shall execute a personal Eligibility Declaration & Undertaking (annexed hereto) confirming that neither of the exclusion criteria set forth in art. 1 above applies in his or her respect at the time of the execution of the Declaration nor at any time thereafter and for as long as this Policy remains in force.

The Participants, or the Athletes' parents or legal guardians in case of minor Athletes, have the obligation to be truthful and complete in their declarations. Concealment of elements constituting exclusion criteria may lead to sanctions as provided for in art. 9 below.

Each Participant shall execute an original Eligibility Declaration in connection with each application for entry to an IWF event. Such shall be provided together with a copy of the passports of the concerned Participants by their respective national federation as set forth in art. 4 below.

Concealment or omission of elements constitutive of the exclusion criteria may lead to sanctions against the Participant and the national federation.

3. Decision-making Body and Investigations

Upon receipt of the first Participant's Declaration & Undertaking, a check will be performed to ensure that its content is truthful and correct.

In principle, each Participant shall be vetted only once. Further checks may be performed, upon receipt of further declarations of the Participants or at any time, as may be required.

The IWF Executive Board may appoint a Panel to deal with all matters related to the application of this Policy (the "**AIN Eligibility Panel**"). The term of the appointment of the AIN Eligibility Panel shall be defined by the Executive Board. The AIN Eligibility Panel will consist of four persons, which may be members of the Executive Board, and a representative of the IWF Office.

The initial check and related investigations will be performed by the IWF Office. The IWF Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel, if appointed, shall decide, at its absolute discretion, whether a further investigation is necessary to be conducted by an independent investigation agency of their choice as well as whether an interview with the Participant is required. To the extent needed, the same apply to verifications which may be performed at a later stage.

The national federations and the Participants shall fully and actively cooperate in any verification process. Adverse inferences may be drawn from lack of active cooperation.

If, upon receipt of the declarations or at any time thereafter, including but not limited to the occasion of an entry process, it becomes apparent that an exclusion criterion applies despite the confirmation set forth in the Declaration, the IWF Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel will declare the concerned Participant ineligible for as long as this Policy remains in effect. The decision of the Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel becomes immediately enforceable. The Participant may file an objection in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission within ten days of notification of the decision (see art. 9 below). The filing of the objection does not stay the decision on eligibility.

The IWF Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel may review their decision on eligibility of a Participant at any time up until the end of the respective IWF Event. If the IWF Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel considers that further consequences may be warranted beyond the ineligibility of the Participant, it may refer the matter to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission within ten days. In that case, the Participant's objection (if any) and referral are to be consolidated in the same proceedings in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.

The national federation concerned shall bear the costs incurred by the IWF for such checks, investigations and verifications of Participants in connection with their participation in IWF Events. Such costs will be invoiced by IWF directly to the national federation concerned.

4. Entry of Participants by their respective national federations

Participants eligible pursuant to this Policy shall be entered to IWF competitions by their respective national federation as provided for by the IWF Competition Rules, subject however to the following specific additional requirements which must be strictly observed.

The entry process shall be performed as a neutral administrative process. It has the sole purpose of allowing the entry and participation of the Participants who are eligible pursuant to the Policy as individuals. Collectively, the Participants do not form a delegation representing their respective national federation.

The national federation shall file a list of Participants to be entered on a separate neutral headed document without reference to the country and/or any distinctive emblem, symbol, logo or flag.

The national federation shall annex to the list of Participants with their corresponding duly executed Participants' Declarations & Undertakings and a copy of their passports.

The national federation shall, with each application for entry, issue a statement that it files the entries in accordance with this Policy and that it specifically confirms that the declarations have been actually executed by the Participants identified therein. The national federation shall further confirm that the content of the Participants' Declarations & Undertakings is truthful, complete and correct and that each of the entered Participants was eligible pursuant to art. 1 above at the time he/she executed the Participant's Declaration & Undertaking and continues to be eligible at the time of entry.

The national federation shall provide any additional information or clarification which may be reasonably requested in connection with any entry.

Entries which do not fully observe the above specific conditions shall be deemed as non-existent and shall be deemed as not being filed in due time unless they are duly completed or corrected within the entry deadline or within a short additional deadline granted at the discretion of the party managing the entries.

In the event the IWF Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel considers that the national federation fails to properly cooperate to the entry process and notably fails to provide complete and truthful information, it may refer the matter to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission to adjudicate consequences against the concerned national federation.

For the avoidance of doubt, the national federations are and remain fully responsible in respect of the Participants they enter, notably and without limitation as regards consequences under the IWF Constitution or the IWF Anti-Doping Rules of anti-doping violations, whether committed out of or in competition, including at competitions to which the Participants participate pursuant to this Policy.

5. Athletes' Support Personnel

Athletes' Support Personnel to provide individual support to Athletes entered at a competition, in particular in technical and medical respects, may be entered for IWF competitions as Participants. Only Athletes' Support Personnel reasonably needed may be entered and the number of entries maybe accordingly limited. Each Athletes' Support Personnel entered for participation is, by analogy, subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in art. 1 of this Policy. Each Athletes' Support Personnel shall in particular also execute a declaration in accordance with art. 2 of this Policy and is subject to checks pursuant to art. 3 of this Policy.

Athletes' Support Personnel is to be entered in parallel to the Athletes they assist pursuant to the provisions of art. 4 of this Policy and observing the same conditions and requirements. Entries for Athletes' Support Personnel must specify their support function(s) in connection with one or several athletes.

6. Technical Officials

Technical Officials nominated by their national federation are, by analogy, subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in art. 1 of this Policy. They must submit a signed Declaration in accordance with art. 2 of this Policy and are subject to checks pursuant to art. 3 of this Policy.

7. Requirements to Be Observed at or in Connection with Competitions

Athletes and Athletes' Support Personnel shall wear neutral uniform, clothing and attire. They must be in one tone in solid grey colour (without designs nor patterns). They shall not bear any inscription (including any abbreviation) referring to Russia or Belarus, and /or any national emblems, symbols or logos, nor any markings or designs, which can be perceived as making reference to the Participants' respective country or national federation, nor any inscription, sign or marking which may be understood as a reference to the war and support thereto.

Technical Officials during competitions shall wear the official IWF uniform worn by all technical officials and they are not allowed to display national symbols, colours or flags during the entire duration of the Event.

The Participants shall abstain from any statement or behaviour (of any nature whether by word, song, signs or move) which may be interpreted as a support to the war or otherwise be in contradiction with the spirit of the content and spirit of this art. 7.

These requirements apply at the competition venue(s) but also in the wider environment of the competition, including any official area apart from the venue(s) or training area or other area used in connection with the competitions, without limitation, the hotels and travel to and from the competition venue(s) and to from the competition city, or on any occasion (for example official invitations, press conferences etc.) held in connection with the competition.

Without prejudice to consequences and sanctions pursuant to art. 9 below, the IWF (through the competition officials entrusted with the implementation of the requirements set forth in this article) may take immediate measures to preserve the competition and require the concerned Participants to immediately remove or cover any element and/or to immediately discontinue any behaviour, which in their discretion may not be in compliance with the above. In case of refusal, the concerned Participant may be immediately removed from the competition venue and/or be excluded from the competition.

If the IWF Executive Board considers that further consequences may be warranted beyond exclusion from the specific competition, it may refer the matter to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (see art. 9 below).

8. Consequences of Subsequent Applicability of Exclusion Criterion

In the event, an exclusion criterion is found to apply in connection with a Participant initially determined as eligible, then, irrespective of whether or not the concerned criterion did exist from the beginning and was concealed, or whether it materialised thereafter, the Participant shall automatically and immediately become and thereafter remain ineligible for participation in any further IWF competition for as long as this Policy remains in effect.

Participants in respect to which the first exclusion criterion set forth in art. 1 of this Policy becomes subsequently applicable have the obligation to inform the IWF and to voluntarily waive their eligibility. Failure to do so may lead to sanctions in accordance with art. 9 below.

The ineligibility based on the existence of an exclusion criteria is an objective consequence and may be implemented directly and immediately by the Executive Board. The decision of the Executive Board becomes immediately enforceable. The concerned Participant may however file an objection in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission within ten days. The objection does not stay the decision of the Executive Board.

If the IWF Executive Board considers that consequences or sanctions may be warranted beyond the ineligibility, it may refer the matter to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission within ten days. In that case, objection (if any) and referral are to be consolidated in front of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.

9. Issues to Be Adjudicated by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission

The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall be in charge of adjudicating the following issues:

- Upon objection of a Participant to a decision of the Executive Board or the AIN Eligibility Panel to declare him/her ineligible, to determine whether or not an exclusion criterion applies and accordingly whether the ineligibility has to be confirmed or lifted.
- Upon referral of the Executive Board, to decide whether in view of the circumstances (further) consequences or sanctions have to be applied against the concerned Participant and/or federation, notably but without limitation in case of deliberate provision of false information or wilful failure to comply with the requirements set forth in art. 7 of this Policy.

The consequences or sanctions which the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission may issue include:

- Ineligibility for as long as this Policy remains in effect (to the extent not already finally decided in the absence of an objection).
- Ineligibility for a period to be served in any event and irrespective of whether or not the Policy remains in effect.
- Disqualification of all or part of the results obtained in competitions to which the Athlete took part on the basis of the Policy.
- Fine up to USD 5'000.-- against the Participant and up to USD 100'000.-- against the respective national federation.

The adjudication competence of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission pursuant to this Policy is without prejudice to the jurisdiction of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission or another IWF body to issue further consequences or sanctions if the circumstances at stake do fall within the scope of application of other existing provisions of the IWF Constitution or other IWF Policies.

The proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission.

Decisions of the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission are exclusively subject to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

10. Entry into Force, Amendments, Repeal

This Policy and /or any amendment thereto enters into force immediately. It may be amended from time to time or repealed by the IWF Executive Board.

This Policy as well as any amendment thereof shall be promptly published on the IWF website.

Amended Policy issued by the IWF Executive Board on 28 August 2024