



IFSC NEUTRAL ATHLETES POLICY

Approved by EB on 8 October 2025

Preamble

The IFSC is committed to safeguarding the integrity of sport, protecting athletes, and ensuring that climbing competitions remain open, fair, and inclusive. This Neutral Athlete Policy establishes the framework under which athletes and team officials from suspended or restricted National Federations (NFs) may participate in IFSC competitions as Neutral Athletes or Neutral Team Officials.

1. Eligibility

Neutral Athlete / Neutral Team Official status may be granted under specific circumstances, including the suspension of a National Federation, discriminatory practices by a National Federation or National Olympic Committee, or other exceptional situations as determined by the Executive Board.

1.1. Suspended or restricted National Federations

Athletes and Team Officials holding a passport from a country whose NF has been suspended by decision of the IFSC Executive Board and confirmed by the General Assembly may be considered for Neutral Athlete / Neutral Team Official Licence.

Athletes and Team Officials holding a passport from a country whose NF has been restricted by decision of the IFSC Executive Board and confirmed by the General Assembly may be considered for Neutral Athlete / Neutral Team Official Licence.

1.2. Discriminatory Practices and Additional Eligibility Criteria

Athletes and Team Officials holding a passport from a country whose NF/NOC discriminates against athletes on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, or comparable grounds, such as the exclusion of women from participation in sport, may be considered for Neutral Athlete / Neutral Team Official Licence.

The Executive Board may, on a case-by-case basis, determine other situations in which granting Neutral Athlete / Neutral Team Official Licence is necessary to uphold the IFSC's principles of non-discrimination, inclusion, and protection of athletes.

2. Participation subject to exclusion criteria

From the issuance of this Policy, and subject to its revocation or amendment in accordance with Article 12 below, Athletes and Team Officials from suspended or restricted NFs may be granted an International Neutral Licence, provided that the age-based provisions described in 2.1 and exclusion criteria in 2.2 and 2.3 apply.

2.1. Age Distinction

- **Minors (under 18 years old at the Announced Deadline):** Minors are required to submit only the Declaration and Undertaking referred to in Article 3. They shall not be subject to the exclusion criteria in Articles 2.2 and 2.3, nor to anti-doping testing obligations under this Policy.
- **Adults (18 years old or older at the Announced Deadline):** Adults must fully comply with the exclusion criteria set forth in Articles 2.2 and 2.3.

Age	Requirements
Minors (under 18 years old at the <i>Announced Deadline</i>)	- Not subject to the exclusion criteria in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. - Must submit a Declaration and Undertaking (Article 2.4). - Not subject to additional anti-doping testing obligations under this Policy.
Adults (18 years old or older at the <i>Announced Deadline</i>)	- Must comply with all exclusion criteria in Articles 2.2 and 2.3. - Must submit a Declaration and Undertaking (Article 2.4). - Subject to full anti-doping testing obligations under this Policy.

2.2. Exclusion Criteria: Military or Security Affiliation

Athletes and Team Officials who are or who have been within the *Established Timeframe*:

- i. Serving on active duty in their country's military, national security agencies, or related entities (public or private) providing services in support of the armed conflict; or
- ii. Personally engaged in the conduct, support, or promotion of the armed conflict

shall not be eligible to receive a Neutral Licence.

2.3. Exclusion Criteria: Active Support of Armed Conflict

Athletes and Team Officials who have acted against the peace mission of the Olympic Movement during the *Established Timeframe* by actively supporting armed conflict in any form or medium, including public statements, appearances, or social media, shall not be eligible to receive a Neutral Licence.

2.4. Declaration and Undertaking

As a strict condition to be granted an International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence, each Athlete and Team Official shall execute a personal Declaration and Undertaking (Exhibit 1). This declaration confirms that neither of the exclusion criteria set forth in Art. 2.2 and in Art. 2.3 above applies (for Adults), and that no grounds for ineligibility exist at the time of signing, within the *Established Timeframe*, or at any time thereafter while this Policy remains in force.

Athletes and Team Officials have the obligation to be truthful and complete in their declaration. Concealment of elements constituting exclusion criteria may lead to sanctions as provided in Art. 10 below.

3. International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence request

In order to apply for an International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence the following documentation shall be provided to IFSC within the *Announced Deadline* and communicated timeline of implementation, fully executed and signed:

- 3.1. The Declaration and Undertaking, including personal information details;
- 3.1. The International Athlete / Team Official Licence and Personal Data Processing Information;
- 3.2. A copy of the applicant Athlete's / Team Official's passport (in case of change of nationality, IFSC policy applies);
- 3.3. National Federation confirmation that the Declaration and Undertaking has been executed by the Athlete / Team Official identified on the Declaration; and that the content of the Declarations and Undertakings is truthful, complete and correct;
- 3.4. Confirmation of payment of the fee, respectively:
 - i. [For Adults and Minors] First instalment of International Athlete Neutral Licence Fee of EUR 1,500.00;

- ii. International Team Official Neutral Licence Fee of EUR 1,500.00.
- iii. [For Adults only] Upon positive confirmation that neither of the exclusion criteria set forth in Art. 2.2 and Art. 2.3 applies, confirmation of payment of the second instalment of EUR 3,500.00 is required to continue the process with Anti-Doping testing.

Concealment of elements constitutive of the exclusion criteria by the National Federation may lead to sanctions against the Athlete / Team Official and the National Federation.

The International Athlete (first and second instalment) / Team Official Neutral Licence Fee is non-refundable.

4. Oversight and Verification [for Adults only]

Upon receipt of full and complete documentation to apply for an International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence under Article 3 above, checks will be performed and may be repeated from time to time to ensure that the content of the Declarations and Undertakings is and remains truthful and correct.

The initial checks and related investigations shall be entrusted to an independent investigation agency. The same applies to verifications, to the extent that they may become necessary at a later stage. The National Federations and the Athletes / Team Officials shall fully and actively cooperate in the verification process. Adverse inferences may be drawn from lack of active cooperation.

To oversee the documentation process and verification results, a Neutral Athlete Advisory Group (the “Advisory Group”) shall be established. The Advisory Group shall:

- review applications and supporting documentation;
- consider reports from the independent investigation agency;
- make recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the granting, suspension, or withdrawal of an International Neutral Licence.

The Advisory Group shall be composed of:

- one IFSC Vice President (as Chair),
- one Athlete Representative,
- the Chair of the Ethics Commission (or delegate).

An assigned IFSC staff member is appointed as coordinator.

The Executive Board shall make the final and binding decision, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Group. Decisions of the Executive Board shall be immediately enforceable. Neither the Athlete / Team Official nor the National Federation may file objections or an appeal against such decisions.

5. Additional Anti-Doping Testing [for Adults only]

Upon positive confirmation of the verification checks described in Art. 4 and upon confirmation of payment of the second instalment, Athletes will be contacted by the International Testing Agency (ITA) for anti-doping tests. Additionally, upon risk assessment, Athletes may be entered in the IFSC Registered Testing Pool (RTP). Anti-doping testing commences 6 months prior to readmission to competitions.

6. Publication of the list of International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licences

The list of confirmed International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licences who have successfully passed all the checks will be published on the IFSC website.

The IFSC Office will insert the list of athletes on the IFSC Result System as Neutral Athletes with country code AIN (Athlètes Individuels Neutres). National Team World Ranking Points cannot be obtained.

7. Registration to competitions of Athletes / Team Officials with Neutral Licence by their respective National Federations

Athletes / Team Officials eligible pursuant to this Policy shall be granted an IFSC Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence to register and participate in IFSC competitions by their respective National Federation or hosting National Federation as provided for by the IFSC 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 Athletes / Team Officials with Neutral Licence pursuant to the Policy as individual Athletes and Team Officials. Collectively, they do not form a delegation representing their respective National Federation.

For the avoidance of doubt, the National Federations are and remain fully responsible in respect of their respective Athletes / Team Officials, notably and without limitation regarding consequences under the IFSC Anti-Doping Rules of anti-doping violations and the REDs Policy, whether committed out or in competition, including at competitions in which the Athletes / Team Officials participate pursuant to this Policy.

8. Team Officials

Team Officials with Neutral Licence to provide individual support to Athletes entered at a competition, in particular in technical and medical respects, may be entered for IFSC competitions. Only Team Officials reasonably needed may be entered and the number of entries shall be limited accordingly.

Entries for Team Officials must specify their support function(s) in connection with one or more Athletes.

Team Officials policy is the same as for Athletes. However, in case of sanctions against the Athletes, their Team Officials Licence is sanctioned as well.

9. Requirements to be observed at or in connection with competitions

Athletes and Team Officials shall wear neutral uniforms, clothing and attire. They shall be in one tone in a solid grey colour (without designs or patterns). They shall not bear any inscription (including any abbreviation) referring to the suspended or restricted nationality, any national emblems, symbols, logos, markings, or designs which can be perceived as making reference to the Athletes' respective country or National Federation, nor any inscription, sign, or marking which may be understood as a reference to the armed conflict and support thereto.

Athletes and Team Officials shall abstain from any statement or behaviour of any nature, whether by word, song, signs, or movement, which may be interpreted as a support to the armed conflict.

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 area used in connection with the competitions, such as, without limitation, the hotels and travel to/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.

IFSC (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 Athlete / Team Official 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 Athlete / Team Official may immediately be removed from the competition venue and/or be excluded from the competition.

If the IFSC Executive Board considers that further consequences may be warranted beyond exclusion from the specific competition, it may refer the matter to the IFSC Disciplinary Commission.

10. Sanctions

Athletes / Team Officials in respect to which the first exclusion criteria of this Policy becomes subsequently applicable have the obligation to inform IFSC and to voluntarily waive their International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence. Failure to do so may lead to sanctions.

If the IFSC Executive Board considers that consequences or sanctions may be warranted for any reason due to a breach of this Policy, it may refer the matter to the Disciplinary Commission within ten days. In that case, objections (if any) and referral are to be consolidated in front of the Disciplinary Commission.

The Disciplinary Commission may issue consequences or sanctions including:

- Ban from competition starting from a temporary period up to a lifetime ban, 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 participated on the basis of the Policy.

The proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the IFSC Disciplinary Rules.

11. Entry into force, amendments, repeal

This Policy enters into force immediately.

It may be amended from time to time or repealed by the IFSC Executive Board.

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

This Policy was issued by the IFSC Executive Board on 08/10/2025.