



IFSC POLICY
CONCERNING PARTICIPATION OF
RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES TO IFSC COMPETITIONS

Approved on 24 January 2024

Preamble

On 7 June 2023, the Executive Board of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) approved to start a process for the reinstatement of athletes holding Russian or Belarusian passports as neutral athletes starting from 2024.

Under the terms of the approved process and this Policy, which adhere to the guidelines issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 28 March 2023, athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports will be required to obtain neutral licences as a precondition to register to IFSC events from 2024.

The IFSC Executive Board decision was based on Task Force recommendations presented on 7 June 2023. The Task Force was appointed by the Executive Board on 10 May 2023 and composed of President of the Oceania Council Naomi Cleary, President of the Athletes' Commission Shauna Coxsey, and IFSC Research & Development Director Silvia Verdolini.

The recommendations followed a monthlong consultation period during which meetings were held with the IFSC Athletes' Commission and a broad assortment of stakeholders, including representatives of the IOC, major event organisers, anti-doping organisations, the European Council, intelligence and investigative providers, and the Ukrainian National Federation. The IFSC Athletes' Commission and IFSC National Federations were informed of the decision during a conference call.

The decision to initiate the process of reinstating athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports was not taken lightly by the Executive Board, which continues to stand by our Ukrainian National Federation and climbers, and the Ukrainian people. At the same time, the Executive Board considered the mission of sport and the politicisation of the athletes, with a strong belief in the values of Olympism and inclusion. Therefore, a delicate balance between the different positions was found, and a system which could be implemented fairly in the future also for conflicts in different areas was created.

The suspension of the Russian and Belarusian Federations remains in place (with the exemption of administrative tasks). Other provisions are still enforced, including:

- No athlete will be able to represent Russia or Belarus;
- No flag, anthem, colours, or any other identifications whatsoever of these countries will be displayed at any sports event or meeting, including the entire venue;
- No Russian or Belarusian government or state official can be invited to or accredited for any international sports event or meeting;
- No international event will be organised or supported by the IFSC in Russia or Belarus; and
- Officials, including routesetters and judges, with Russian or Belarusian passports will remain suspended.

1. Participation subject to specific exclusion criteria

From the issuance of this Policy and subject to its revocation or amendment in accordance with Art. 11 below, Russian and Belarusian athletes (the "Athletes") and team officials (the "Team Officials") may be granted an International Athlete / Team Official Licence (required to register and participate in IFSC competitions) as individual athletes / team officials, provided that neither of the following exclusion criteria apply:

- 1.1. Athletes and Team Officials who (i) are or become contracted to, or are or become in any way connected to the Russian or Belarusian military, national security agencies, and/or entities, whether public or private, providing services in



support of the armed conflict, and/or (ii) are in any way personally engaged in the conduct, support, or promotion of the armed conflict will not be granted an International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence.

- 1.2. Athletes and Team Officials who have acted against the peace mission of the Olympic Movement by actively supporting the armed conflict in any way, form, or occasion or through any mean, including without limitation social media, will not be granted an International Athlete / Team Neutral Official Licence.

2. 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) 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.

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 deadlines, 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;
- 3.3. National Federation confirmation that the Declaration and Undertaking has been executed by the Athlete / Team Official identified on the Declaration;
- 3.4. National Federation confirmation that the content of the Declarations and Undertakings is truthful, complete and correct;
- 3.5. Confirmation of payment of the fee, respectively:
 - International Athlete Neutral Licence Fee of EUR 5,000.00;
 - International Team Official Neutral Licence Fee of EUR 2,500.00.

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 / Team Official Neutral Licence Fee is non-refundable.

4. Eligibility checks

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

The initial checks and related investigations will be entrusted to an independent investigation agency. The same applies to verifications, to the extent that they may become needed 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.



If, upon receipt of the Declaration 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 Executive Board will declare the concerned Athlete / Team Official ineligible for as long as this Policy remains in effect. The decision of the Executive Board shall be immediately enforceable. Neither the Athlete / Team Official nor the National Federation may file any objections or an appeal against the decision.

5. Anti-doping testing

Upon receipt of full and complete documentation to apply for an International Athlete / Team Official Neutral Licence as per Art. 3 above, 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).

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 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 antidoping 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 Russia or Belarus, 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 criterion set forth in Art. 1 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 13 September 2023 and modified on 24 January 2024.