



**WORLD
AQUATICS**

**CRITERIA FOR THE PARTICIPATION
OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN
ATHLETES IN WORLD AQUATICS
COMPETITIONS**

in force as from 4 September 2023

1. Preliminary provisions and scope of application

- 1.1 The present criteria (the "Criteria") have been adopted by the World Aquatics Bureau in response to the war in Ukraine, with the objectives of ensuring the integrity and security of sporting competitions and the respect of the Olympic values.
- 1.2 The Criteria shall be applicable to all World Aquatics sports disciplines, but only for World Aquatics competitions.

2. Participation criteria

- 2.1 Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee on 28 March 2023, World Aquatics enacts the following conditions for the participation of athletes of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality within the meaning of Article I.3.1.1 of the World Aquatics Competition Regulations ("Athletes") and their coach, trainer, manager, physiotherapist, medical personnel, or any other person assisting them at competitions ("Support Personnel") in World Aquatics competitions.
- 2.2 The Athletes and their Support Personnel may participate in World Aquatics individual competitions, only if they meet the following requirements:
 - 2.2.1 Compliance with all World Aquatics Regulations
 - 2.2.2 No contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency
 - 2.2.3 No support for the war in Ukraine
Any form of verbal, non-verbal or written expression, explicit or implicit, at any time since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, in particular public statements, including those made in social media, participation in pro-war demonstrations or events, and the wearing of any symbol in support of the war in Ukraine, for example the "Z" symbol, are considered to be acts of support for the war in Ukraine.
 - 2.2.4 Compliance with the Anti-Doping requirements set out below in Annex 1
- 2.3 Notwithstanding the above, the Athletes and their Support Personnel shall not be authorised to take part in any World Aquatics Team competitions. For the sake of clarity, the World Aquatics Team competitions are any event with more than 1 person whose combined effort results in a single time or scored outcome.

3. Application for status of Neutral Individual Athletes

- 3.1 The Athletes and their Support Personnel shall apply to the Aquatics Integrity Unit (“AQIU”) at info@aquaticsintegrity.com to be granted the status of Neutral Individual Athletes.
- 3.2 The Athletes and their Support Personnel shall only be entitled to compete in World Aquatics individual competitions after the issuance of such status as a Neutral Individual Athlete by the AQIU.
- 3.3 Upon receipt of the application form, the AQIU shall carry out verifications to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements for such status of Neutral Individual Athlete, as set out above and with the assistance of an independent international agency if needed. The AQIU shall not be held responsible for any competition missed by the Athletes and their Support Personnel while their application is being reviewed.
- 3.4 If, after granting the status of Neutral Individual Athlete, the AQIU becomes aware of a breach of the criteria or conditions of participation, the AQIU may withdraw the status of Neutral Individual Athletes.

4. Qualifying times to be achieved outside Russia and Belarus

- 4.1 Any qualifying time for World Aquatics competitions must be achieved by the Athletes outside of Russia and Belarus at a World Aquatics approved competition.

5. Maximum number of entries per event

- 5.1 A maximum of one athlete whose sporting nationality is Russian and one athlete whose sporting nationality is Belarusian may be entered for each event of World Aquatics competitions. Their respective National Federations shall be responsible for the selection of such Neutral Individual Athlete, once such status is granted.

6. Flags

- 6.1 Flags of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (current or historical) shall not be raised or displayed at any competition venue, nor in any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the organiser of World Aquatics competition.
- 6.2 Where the use of a flag is necessary to identify Neutral Individual Athletes (e.g., at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays), the World Aquatics flag shall be used.

7. Anthems

- 7.1 The national anthems of Russia and Belarus (or any other anthem associated with the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus) shall not be played or sung at any time during World Aquatics competitions in any competition venue, nor in any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the organiser of a World Aquatics competitions.
- 7.2 The anthem to be used to represent any Neutral Individual Athletes at an official ceremony of a World Aquatics competition (opening or closing, protocol, medal ceremony, etc.) shall be the World Aquatics Anthem.

8. Uniforms

- 8.1 The uniforms (whether competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonial, casual, etc.), clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items belonging to Neutral Individual Athletes and their Support Personnel that are worn, used and/or displayed at competition venues, or any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the organiser, shall be plain white in colour and submitted to World Aquatics for approval.

9. Distinctive national signs

- 9.1 The appearance of all emblems, names, acronyms, colours, flags and anthems linked to Russia and Belarus is prohibited at all World Aquatics competitions.
- 9.2 Organisers shall withdraw references to Russia and/or Belarus on all documents and publications in both printed and electronic format, including, but not limited to, start lists, result lists, rankings and TV graphics. The acronym to be used instead of RUS and BLR shall be NIA.

10. Media interactions

- 10.1 Neutral Individual Athletes and their Support Personnel will not be allowed to go through the mixed zone or to participate in any press conference during World Aquatics competitions. They will also not be allowed to give any interviews to media during such competitions.

11. Support Personnel and Technical Officials

- 11.1 World Aquatics reserves the right to limit the number of Support Personnel accompanying the Athletes.
- 11.2 Russian and Belarusian Technical Officials shall not be appointed on World Aquatics competitions.

12. Events

- 12.1 No World Aquatics competitions shall be held in Russia or Belarus.

13. Russian and Belarusian government or state official

- 13.1 No Russian and Belarusian government or state official shall be invited to or accredited for World Aquatics competitions.

14. Enforcement of the Criteria and sanctions

- 14.1 Any violation of these criteria, including providing false information, by any person or entity bound by World Aquatics Regulations, shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to World Aquatics Regulations.
- 14.2 Any infringement committed within the scope of, or in relation to, a World Aquatics competition, in particular with regard to the prohibition of the wearing of emblems or logos referring to Russia or Belarus or any communication, whether verbal, non-verbal or written, in support of the war in Ukraine, shall be excluded directly and immediately.
- 14.3 Any infringement committed outside a competition will be subject to disciplinary proceedings by the AQIU pursuant to the World Aquatics Integrity Code.
- 14.4 World Aquatics shall take all necessary measures to ensure the enforcement of these Criteria.
- 14.5 Any discriminatory behaviour towards the Athletes and their Support Personnel authorized to participate in a World Aquatics competition under the present Criteria shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the World Aquatics Integrity Code.
- 14.6 Any appeal against a decision under the present criteria shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of CAS within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the decision being appealed. Recourse to ordinary state courts is prohibited.

ANNEX 1 - ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

This Annex outlines the anti-doping requirements which must be met by Athletes before they may be eligible to participate in a World Aquatics Competition. For the sake of clarity, these requirements are not applicable to their Support Personnel.

1. High-Risk World Aquatics Competitions

- 1.1 For the purposes of this Annex, the High-Risk World Aquatics Competitions are:
- World Aquatics Championships
 - World Aquatics Swimming Championships (25m)
 - World Aquatics Swimming World Cups
 - World Aquatics Open Water World Cups
- 1.2 Any Athlete willing to participate in one of these High-Risk World Aquatics Competitions will have to meet all of the following requirements before they may be eligible to participate:
- They must not be under any suspension or provisional suspension imposed by any World Anti-Doping Code Signatory for an Anti-Doping Rule violation;
 - They must be submitting whereabouts to a World Anti-Doping Code Signatory by the time their application is submitted;
 - They must have been subject to at least 4 anti-doping tests from a World Anti-Doping Code Signatory in the 12 months prior to the day their application is submitted. Of these tests, at least one must have been conducted by the ITA on behalf of World Aquatics, using a sample collection agency unrelated to the National Anti-Doping Organizations of Russia and/or Belarus;
 - They must have accepted to fully comply with the Focused Anti-Doping Program. The Focused Anti-Doping Program will be implemented by the ITA, in coordination with other World Anti-Doping Code Signatories and will include, at the ITA's discretion and where applicable, targeted testing, thorough investigations and close monitoring of their athlete biological passport and their whereabouts prior to the competition;
 - They must have not associated in any way with any person serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation;
 - They must have accepted to fully comply with any request for information from the ITA, World Aquatics, the World Aquatics Task Force, or the AQIU, including any request to provide further whereabouts information, or the contact details of all athlete Support Personnel they associate with.

2. Other World Aquatics competitions

2.1 Any athletes whose sporting nationality is Russian or Belarusian willing to participate in other World Aquatics Competitions will have to meet all of the following requirements before they may be eligible to participate:

- They must not be under any suspension or provisional suspension imposed by any World Anti-Doping Code Signatory for an Anti-Doping Rule violation;
- They must have accepted to fully comply with the Focused Anti-Doping Program. The Focused Anti-Doping Program will be implemented by the ITA, in coordination with other World Anti-Doping Code Signatories and will include, at the ITA's discretion and where applicable, targeted testing, thorough investigations and close monitoring of their athlete biological passport and their whereabouts prior to the competition;
- They must not have associated in any way with any individual serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation;
- They must have accepted to fully comply with any request for information from the ITA, World Aquatics, the World Aquatics Task Force, or the AQIU, including any request to provide whereabouts information or the contact details of all athlete Support Personnel they associate with.