

FEI Criteria for the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials in FEI Events

1. Preliminary provisions and scope of application

- 1.1 The present criteria (the “Criteria”) have been adopted by the FEI Board further to its decision to lift the protective measures prohibiting Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials from participating in FEI Events.
- 1.2 The Criteria shall be applicable to all FEI Events, FEI Competitions and for all FEI Disciplines.
- 1.3 The Criteria shall be applicable until further notice. The present version of the Criteria, approved by the FEI Board on (to add date), enters into force immediately.
- 1.4 The Declaration Forms (as outlined in Appendix I of this Policy) may be submitted to the FEI as of 15 January 2024 for participation in FEI Events as of 1 February 2024, provided the relevant Declaration Form is approved by the FEI HQ. Any FEI HQ review and approval may take up to 30 days upon receipt of a signed Declaration Form. In case more time is necessary for the review, the time limit may be extended by the FEI HQ in its sole discretion.

2. Participation criteria

Athletes, Support Personnel and Horse Owners

- 2.1 Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee on 28 March 2023, the FEI enacts the following conditions for the participation of Athletes of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality within the meaning of the FEI Rules and Regulations and their FEI registered coach, trainer, Horse Owner, groom, Veterinarian, and/or any other person assisting them at competitions (“Support Personnel”) in FEI Events.
- 2.2 The Athletes and their Support Personnel may participate in or attend FEI individual Competitions at FEI Events, only if they meet the following requirements:
 - 2.2.1 Compliance with all FEI Rules and Regulations, including but not limited to the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes and FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations;
 - 2.2.2 No contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency;

2.2.3 No active 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 active support for the war in Ukraine.

2.3 Notwithstanding the above, the Athletes and their Support Personnel shall not be authorised to take part in any FEI Team Competitions.

Officials

2.4 Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee on 28 March 2023, the FEI enacts the following conditions for the participation of Officials of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality within the meaning of the FEI Rules and Regulations in FEI Events.

2.5 The Officials may officiate in FEI Events, only if they meet the following requirements:

2.5.1 Compliance with all FEI Rules and Regulations;

2.5.2 No contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency;

2.5.3 No active 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 active support for the war in Ukraine.

3. Application for status of Neutral Individual Athletes, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel

3.1 The Athletes and their FEI registered Support Personnel shall apply to the FEI HQ at neutrals@fei.org to be granted the status of Neutral Individual Athletes, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel.

3.2 The Athletes and their Support Personnel shall only be entitled to compete in FEI Events and individual Competitions after the issuance of such status as a Neutral Individual Athlete, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel, by the FEI HQ. They are not entitled to participate as representatives of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, their National Federations or NOCs.

- 3.3 A Declaration Form (as outlined in Appendix I of this Policy) must be completed and signed by each Athlete/Athlete Support Personnel and submitted by the relevant National Federation with the list of Athletes and Athletes Support Personnel.
- 3.4 With the declaration the Athlete and/or Athlete Support Personnel shall confirm that none of the exclusion criteria set forth in the present Policy apply to them at the time of the declaration. The Athlete shall also ensure that any of their Support Personnel comply with the Criteria and any non-compliance with the Criteria may entail sanctions. By signing the Declaration Form they also accept the conditions of their participation at FEI Competitions and undertake to comply with the present Policy while it remains in force.
- 3.5 Athletes and/or Athletes Support Personnel are obliged to declare the truth when filling in the Declaration Form; otherwise, they will be declared ineligible, and they will be subject to possible further sanctions according to the present Policy and the respective FEI Rules and Regulations.
- 3.6 Upon receipt of the signed Declaration Form, as per Appendix 1, the FEI may 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 FEI shall not be held responsible for any FEI Competition missed by the Athletes and their Support Personnel while their application is being reviewed.
- 3.7 If, after granting the status of Neutral Individual Athlete, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel, the FEI becomes aware of a breach of the criteria or conditions of participation, the FEI may withdraw the status of Neutral Individual Athletes or Neutral Individual Support Personnel, as appropriate.

4. Application for Officials

- 4.1 The Officials shall apply to the FEI HQ at neutrals@fei.org to be granted the status of Neutral Officials.
- 4.2 The Officials shall only be entitled to officiate in FEI Events after the issuance of a Neutral Official status by the FEI HQ. They are not entitled to officiate as representatives of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, their National Federations or NOCs.
- 4.3 A Declaration Form (as outlined in Appendix I of this Policy) must be completed and signed by each Official and submitted by the relevant National Federation with the list of Officials.
- 4.4 With the declaration the Official shall confirm that none of the exclusion criteria set forth in the present Policy apply to them at the time of the declaration. By signing the Declaration Form they also accept the conditions of their participation at FEI Competitions and undertake to comply with the present Policy while it remains in force.

- 4.5 Officials are obliged to declare the truth when filling in the Declaration Form; otherwise, they will be declared ineligible, and they will be subject to possible further sanctions according to the present Policy and the respective FEI Rules and Regulations.
- 4.6 Upon receipt of the signed Declaration Form, as per Appendix 1, the FEI may carry out verifications to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements for such status of Neutral Official, as set out above and with the assistance of an independent international agency if needed. The FEI shall not be held responsible for any FEI Competition missed by the Official while their application is being reviewed.
- 4.7 If, after granting the status of Neutral Official, the FEI becomes aware of a breach of the criteria or conditions of participation, the FEI may withdraw the status of Neutral Official.

5. Entries

- 5.1 The respective National Federations shall be responsible for the selection and entries of the Neutral Individual Athletes, once such status is granted.

6. Flags, Emblems or Identifiers

- 6.1 Flags, emblems and/or identifiers of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (current or historical) shall not be raised or displayed at any FEI Event venue, nor in any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the Organiser of FEI Events.
- 6.2 No flag will be used to identify Neutral Individual Athletes, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel (e.g., at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays).

7. Medals

- 7.1 Individual Neutral Athletes can be awarded medals for their performances but cannot be included in any medal table drawn up per country, given that they are participating in their individual capacity. There will be no category or reference in any medal table for Individual Neutral Athletes.

8. Anthems

- 8.1 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 FEI Competitions in any competition venue, nor in any area where

ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the Organiser of FEI Competitions.

- 8.2 No anthem shall be used to represent any Neutral Individual Athletes at an official ceremony of an FEI competition (opening or closing, protocol, medal ceremony, etc.).

9. Uniforms and Horse Tack and Equipment

- 9.1 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 in accordance with the FEI Rules and Regulations and must not contain:
- Any recognition of or reference to the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs, or any national identification of Russia or Belarus (such as a flag, coat of arms or any other national symbol or emblem, be it official or unofficial) in any language or format;
 - Any commercial or non-commercial emblems or identifications of any Russian or Belarusian organisations or entities;
 - Any expression (message, graphical element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation.
- 9.2 All Horse Tack and Equipment (whether competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonial, casual, etc.), 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, must not contain:
- Any recognition of or reference to the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs, or any national identification of Russia or Belarus (such as a flag, coat of arms or any other national symbol or emblem, be it official or unofficial) in any language or format;
 - Any commercial or non-commercial emblems or identifications of any Russian or Belarusian organisations or entities;
 - Any expression (message, graphical element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation.
- 9.3 The FEI shall be entitled to request any Neutral Individual Athlete, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel to change the colors of their uniform, respectively Horse Tack and Equipment if the colors are too similar to the national identification of Russia or Belarus.

10. Distinctive national signs

- 10.1 The appearance of all emblems, names, acronyms, colours, flags, anthems or other country identifiers linked to Russia and Belarus is prohibited at all FEI Events.
- 10.2 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.

11. Events

- 11.1 No FEI Events and Competitions shall be held in Russia or Belarus.

12. Russian and Belarusian government or state official

- 12.1 No Russian and Belarusian government or state official shall be invited to or accredited for FEI Events.

13. Costs

- 13.1 The RUS NF and BLR NF, as appropriate, shall reimburse the FEI for any FEI costs incurred in imposing, enforcing, monitoring, assessing compliance with and/or implementing the Criteria, including but not limited to any independent international agency's costs related to the verifications to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements for the Neutral status.

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 the FEI Rules and Regulations, shall result in the FEI withdrawing the status of Neutral Individual Athletes, Neutral Individual Support Personnel and/or Neutral Official as appropriate.
- 14.2 Any person whose status of Neutral Individual Athletes, Neutral Individual Support Personnel and/or Neutral Official is withdrawn pursuant to Clause 13.1 above may re-apply to the FEI by submitting a new Declaration Form as of a date to be determined by the FEI in its sole discretion.
- 14.3 The FEI shall take all necessary measures to ensure the enforcement of these Criteria.

- 14.4 Any discriminatory behaviour towards the Athletes and their Support Personnel authorised to participate in an FEI Competition under the present Criteria may be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the FEI Rules and Regulations.
- 14.5 There is no Appeal against any Decision taken pursuant to the Criteria, including but not limited to the FEI's Decision not to grant the Neutral Individual Athletes, Neutral Individual Support Personnel and/or Neutral Official's status, as appropriate, to any person, or the withdrawal of such status, and therefore any Decision is final.
- 14.6 In addition, the FEI may open a separate disciplinary case against any person who breaches the Criteria and may impose additional sanctions, including but not limited to fines, disqualification of results. Any such disciplinary case shall be initiated either as an Administrative Disciplinary Proceedings for Minor offences or as a Claim before the FEI Tribunal in accordance of the Internal Regulations of the FEI Tribunal (see article 163 of the FEI General Regulations and following).
- 14.7 The Board will monitor the implementation of the Criteria and reserves its right, at its sole discretion, to revoke its Decision to allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials in FEI Events if the circumstances so warrant.