

# **FEI Updated 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 updated criteria (the "Updated Criteria") have been adopted by the FEI Board further to its decision to revise the previous criteria published on 21 December 2023 that encompassed the protective measures prohibiting Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials from participating in FEI Events known as the ("Criteria").
- 1.2 The Updated Criteria shall replace the Criteria and shall be applicable to all FEI Events, FEI Competitions and for all FEI Disciplines.
- 1.3 The Updated Criteria shall be applicable until further notice. The present version of the Updated Criteria, approved by the FEI Board on 4 November 2025), enters into force immediately (except where specified otherwise).
- 1.4 The Declaration Forms (as outlined in Appendix I of this Updated Criteria) may be submitted to the FEI as of the Updated Criteria entering into force for participation in FEI Events, provided the relevant Declaration Form is approved by the FEI HQ. The Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus National Federation respectively undertake to guarantee the validity of each Declaration Form submitted and acknowledge that, any FEI HQ review and approval may take up to 10 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 initial 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 as Neutral Individual Athletes ("NIA") and their Support Personnel may participate in or attend FEI individual Competitions and, as of 1 January 2026, FEI Team 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.

## **Officials**

2.3 Pursuant to the initial 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.

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

2.4.1 Compliance with all FEI Rules and Regulations;

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

2.4.3 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](mailto:neutrals@fei.org) to be granted the status of NIA, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel.

- 3.2 The Athletes and their Support Personnel shall only be entitled to compete in FEI Events after the issuance of such status as an NIA, 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 Updated Criteria) 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 Updated Criteria apply to them at the time of the declaration. The Athlete shall also ensure that any of their Support Personnel comply with the Updated Criteria and any non-compliance with the Updated 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 Updated Criteria 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 Updated Criteria 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, on a case by case basis, to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements for such status of NIA, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel, 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 NIA, 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 NIA 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](mailto: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 Updated Criteria) 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 Updated Criteria 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 Updated Criteria 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 Updated Criteria 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, on a case by case basis, 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 NIA, 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 NIA, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel (e.g., at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays).

## 7. Medals

- 7.1 NIA can be awarded medals for their performances but cannot be included in any medal table drawn up per country NIA. There will be no category or reference in any medal table for NIA.

## 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 NIA and/or NIA Team 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 NIA, 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 NIA, respectively Neutral Individual Support Personnel to change the colours of their uniform, respectively Horse Tack and Equipment if the colours 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. In the event that individuals and/or teams from RUS and BLR compete at the same Event, the following acronyms shall be used: NI1 for BLR and NI2 for RUS.

## **11. Events**

- 11.1 No FEI Events and Competitions shall be held in Russia or Belarus, subject to article 11.2 below.
- 11.2 Belarus shall be entitled to organise FEI Events and Competitions as of 1 January 2026.

## **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 Updated Criteria, including but not limited to any independent international agency's costs, if any, related to the verifications to ensure compliance with the applicable requirements for the Neutral status.

## **14. Enforcement of the Updated Criteria and sanctions**

- 14.1 Any violation of these Updated 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 NIA, Neutral Individual Support Personnel and/or Neutral Official as appropriate.
- 14.2 Any person whose status of NIA, Neutral Individual Support Personnel and/or Neutral Official is withdrawn pursuant to Clause 14.1 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 Updated Criteria.
- 14.4 Any discriminatory behaviour towards the NIA and their Neutral Individual Support Personnel authorised to participate in an FEI Competition under the present Updated 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 Updated Criteria, including but not limited to the FEI's Decision not to grant the NIA, 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 Updated 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 Updated 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.



## Appendix I – Declaration Forms (Athletes, Athletes Support Personnel, Officials)

### DECLARATION FORM FOR ATHLETES

I, the undersigned ..... (Athlete's name), hereby declare that I am in full compliance with the **FEI Updated Criteria for the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes in FEI Competitions**, and truthfully declare the following.

1. I read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions that apply to me according to the respective FEI Rules and Regulations and undertake to abide by them.
2. I declare that none of the exclusion criteria set forth in the FEI Updated Criteria applies to me and I undertake to comply with the FEI requirements as condition to my participation to FEI Competitions for the duration that the Updated Criteria applies.
3. I declare that I am not contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies and did not actively support the war in public, on social media or on other occasions and I will fully cooperate with the FEI in case further information is needed to verify my eligibility.

I hereby provide details of my social and digital media accounts for any eligibility check, if applicable;

.....  
.....

4. I understand that upon approval of the FEI, I will be competing as an NIA. Therefore, I won't be wearing any signs, colours on clothing or sportswear associated with Russian or Belarusian identity, flags or other symbols, or any objects or symbols identifying me or my Horse(s) as Russian or Belarusian.
5. I understand the purpose of this application process, and my rights and responsibilities as an NIA. I am aware of the sanctions that can be applied in case of non-compliance, including non-compliance by my Support Personnel. I also undertake to inform the FEI if there is a change in my eligibility conditions.
6. I hereby declare that I sign this declaration freely and voluntarily, without coercion, pressure or duress from anyone, and in full awareness of its content and meaning.
7. To the extent there is any discrepancy between the Russian language version of the Declaration and the English language version, the English language version shall prevail.

Date: .....

Name: .....

FEI ID: .....

Function: .....

Signature: .....

Acknowledged and confirmed by the Secretary General or President of the NF:

Signature: ..... NF Stamp: .....



## DECLARATION FORM FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND HORSE OWNER

I, the undersigned ..... (Support Personnel/Horse Owner's name), hereby declare that I am in full compliance with the **FEI Updated Criteria for the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials in FEI Competitions**, and truthfully declare the following.

1. I read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions that apply to me according to the respective FEI Rules and Regulations and undertake to abide by them.
2. I declare that none of the exclusion criteria set forth in the FEI Updated Criteria applies to me and I undertake to comply with the FEI requirements as condition to my participation to FEI Competitions for the duration that the Updated Criteria applies.
3. I declare that I am not contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies and did not actively support the war in public, on social media or on other occasions and I will fully cooperate with the FEI in case further information is needed to verify my eligibility.

I hereby provide details of my social and digital media accounts for any eligibility check, if applicable;

.....  
.....

4. I understand that upon approval of the FEI, I will be designated as a Neutral Individual Support Personnel. Therefore, I won't be wearing any signs, colours on clothing or sportswear associated with Russian or Belarusian identity, flags or other symbols, or any objects or symbols identifying me or my Horse(s) as Russian or Belarusian.
5. I understand the purpose of this application process, and my rights and responsibilities as a Neutral Official. I am aware of the sanctions that can be applied in case of non-compliance. I also undertake to inform the FEI if there is a change in my eligibility conditions.
6. I hereby declare that I sign this declaration freely and voluntarily, without coercion, pressure or duress from anyone, and in full awareness of its content and meaning.
7. To the extent there is any discrepancy between the Russian language version of the Declaration and the English language version, the English language version shall prevail.

Date: .....

Name: .....

FEI ID: .....

Function: .....

Signature: .....

Acknowledged and confirmed by the Secretary General or President of the NF:

Signature: ..... NF Stamp: .....

## DECLARATION FORM FOR OFFICIALS

I, the undersigned ..... (Official's name), hereby declare that I am in full compliance with the **FEI Updated Criteria for the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials in FEI Competitions**, and truthfully declare the following.

1. I read, understood, and accepted the terms and conditions that apply to me according to the respective FEI Rules and Regulations and undertake to abide by them.
2. I declare that none of the exclusion criteria set forth in the FEI Updated Criteria applies to me and I undertake to comply with the FEI requirements as condition to my participation to FEI Competitions for the duration that the Updated Criteria applies.
3. I declare that I am not contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies and did not actively support the war in public, on social media or on other occasions and I will fully cooperate with the FEI in case further information is needed to verify my eligibility.

I hereby provide details of my social and digital media accounts for any eligibility check, if applicable;

.....  
.....

4. I understand that upon approval of the FEI, I will be officiating as a Neutral Official. Therefore, I won't be wearing any signs, colours on clothing or sportswear associated with Russian or Belarusian identity, flags or other symbols, or any objects or symbols identifying me as Russian or Belarusian.
5. I understand the purpose of this application process, and my rights and responsibilities as a Neutral Official. I am aware of the sanctions that can be applied in case of non-compliance. I also undertake to inform the FEI if there is a change in my eligibility conditions.
6. I hereby declare that I sign this declaration freely and voluntarily, without coercion, pressure or duress from anyone, and in full awareness of its content and meaning.
7. To the extent there is any discrepancy between the Russian language version of the Declaration and the English language version, the English language version shall prevail.

Date: .....

Name: .....

FEI ID: .....

Function: .....

Signature: .....

Acknowledged and confirmed by the Secretary General or President of the NF:

Signature: ..... NF Stamp: .....