

WORLD TRIATHLON OPERATING POLICY 1

Participation with Neutral Status of athletes with Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality and their support team, and officials affiliated to the Russian or Belarusian Triathlon Federation in TRI Events

Following the IOC Executive Board statement of 28 March 2023 regarding recommendations made for the Participation of Individual Neutral Athletes with a Russian or Belarussian sporting nationality in International Sports Competitions organised by the International Federations and International Sport Event Organisers (“Recommendations”), World Triathlon (“TRI”) expresses its continuing full support for the IOC’s call for unity.

The TRI Executive Board, on 19 July 2023, approved the participation of Junior athletes having Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality in TRI Events (“Events” or “Event”).

The TRI Executive Board, on 2 December 2023, approved the participation of Para triathletes having Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality in Events.

The TRI Executive Board, on 16 July 2024, approved the participation of Elite athletes having Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality in Events.

The TRI Executive Board on 16 October 2024, approved the participation of Age Group athletes having Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality in Events.

The Neutral Status Process, defined in this Policy, is also available and open to any private organiser who would like to have Russian and Belarusian athletes competing in their events as neutral.

1. Legal Basis

According to Article 2.2 of the TRI Constitution (“Constitution”), TRI has, among other things, to support the aims, ideals and principles of the Olympic movement.

Furthermore, in accordance with Article 34.3 (c) of the Constitution, the Executive Board has under its responsibility and roles the power to adopt, amend and repeal Rules, Regulations and Codes.

Based on this specific role, the Executive Board has enacted this Operating Policy 1 (“Operating Policy” or “Policy”) and imposes the obligations set out in the said Policy.

2. Definitions and abbreviations

Constitution and TRI Competition Rules (“Competition Rules”) definitions and abbreviations apply.

- Age Group athlete: any person competing in an Age Group race.
- Belarusian delegate: any person who is elected or appointed by the Belarusian Triathlon Federation as delegate for Congress;
- Belarusian official: officials affiliated with the Belarusian Triathlon Federation;
- Distinctive national symbols: all emblems, names, acronyms, colours, flags and anthems, current or historical;
- Elite athlete: athletes competing in World Triathlon Elite competitions, in accordance with Appendix D of the Competition Rules;
- Junior athlete: athletes aged 16 to 19 years old. An athlete’s age is determined by their age on December 31st in the year of competition, in accordance with Article 2.5 of the Competition Rules;
- LOC: the Local Organising Committee of a TRI Event, the NF of the country where the Event is located is always part of the LOC;
- Para athlete: a Triathlon athlete with varying degrees of impairment;
- RBA: an athlete (Junior athlete, Elite athlete, Para athlete or Age Group athlete) with Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality within the meaning of the Eligibility Rules of Article 55 of the TRI Constitution;
- Russian delegate: any person who is elected or appointed by the Russian Triathlon Federation as delegate for Congress;
- Russian official: officials affiliated with the Russian Triathlon Federation;
- Support team: the categories of persons as provided in Article 10.9 of the Competition Rules.

3. Scope of Application

This Operating Policy applies to all TRI Members, Associate members, Affiliated members and LOCs.

For greater clarity and to ensure that the Recommendations and any other recommendations, policies or guidelines adopted or followed by the IOC are adhered to as faithfully as possible, the Executive Board may, at its discretion, from time to time and without notice, make findings of fact, and interpret the rules and guidelines that are part of or related to this Operating Policy.

All persons whose actions are intended to be affected by this Operating Policy are required to comply with this Operating Policy fully, broadly, and in Good Faith, without reservation or limitation. Failure to comply with this Operating Policy shall constitute misconduct or gross misconduct.

For greater clarity, in particular, any discriminatory behavior towards RBA, their support team or officials authorized to participate in an Event shall constitute misconduct.

In the event of a conflict or apparent conflict between this Operating Policy and any other Rules or Policies, the terms of this Operating Policy shall prevail, except for the Constitution.

This Operational Policy is officially effective the day following its publication on the website, www.triathlon.org and shall be deemed to have been provided to each NF.

4. Application for Neutral Status

To apply for the Neutral Status, each RBA, support team and official is required to complete and sign a form, which includes the Neutrality Declaration of Annex 1 on the World Triathlon platform, accessible by clicking [here](#), and submit it for subsequent approval by their respective NF.

Upon approval by the NF, TRI shall revise each application individually and carry out a screening process within one (1) month after the application has been received, provided that the request is correct and complete. In case more time is required, the time limit may be extended by the TRI Secretary General in its absolute discretion. Once the application is reviewed by TRI, a report will be sent to the Panel for approval or rejection of the application.

The Executive Board will assemble a Panel to evaluate the applications and decide whether to grant or not the Applicant with the Neutral Status. The Panel, constituted by the Executive Board, consists of an Executive Board member (Chairman), a representative of the Credentials Committee and a representative of the Legal & Constitution Committee. Should the Panel identify no discrepancies

with the Operating Policy 1 during its review, the application is approved, thereby granting the RBA, support team and officials Neutral Status. The Applicant will be notified by email of the decision taken by the Panel.

An appeal against the Panel's decision can only be made to the Tribunal within the time limit of twenty-one (21) days.

Once the Neutral Status has been acquired, the standard Event registration procedure shall apply.

RBA, their support team (Club) and officials whom the TRI deems to be linked to any of the Russian or Belarusian Armed Forces or National Security Agencies, cannot participate in any Events.

No Russian or Belarusian government or state official or semi-official functionary may be invited to or accredited for any Event, including as a guest of TRI or by any LOC, nor in the support personnel roles described above.

In the event that TRI is aware of or is presented evidence on a change in circumstances that may affect its previous approval on the status of the applicant, the Panel may in its absolute discretion reconsider the application *ab initio*, including revoking the Neutral Status of the applicant based on the new findings. The decision of revocation shall be communicated to the applicant and the NF in writing.

5. Conditions of neutrality for participation Rules of RBA, their support team, and officials in Events

5.1. General Rules

5.1.1 Participation in an individual and neutral capacity

RBA, their support team, and officials affiliated to the Russian or Belarusian Triathlon Federation may return to Events only in an individual and neutral capacity, and not in any way as a representative of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus, or any other organisation in their country, including but not limited to their National Olympic Committee ("NOC") or NF.

5.1.2 Active support for the conflict in Ukraine

Only RBA, their support team and officials who, in the opinion of TRI, have not acted against the peace mission of the Olympic Movement by actively supporting the conflict in Ukraine, may participate in Events.

Regarding other active kinds of support, and in particular public statements, including those made on social media. Any other facts or circumstances which TRI deems to reasonably demonstrate active support for the conflict in Ukraine shall also constitute active support.

5.1.3 Event registration

RBA, their support team and officials should be registered to the Event by their NF following the regular procedures.

By doing so, the NF agrees to the procedures included in this Policy. If TRI, after confirming the registration of a RBA, their support team and officials become aware of a violation of the rules set up in this Policy, then an authorised representative of TRI may revoke the registration, including a TD.

5.1.4 Distinctive national symbols of Russia and Belarus

The appearance of distinctive national symbols linked to Russia or Belarus is prohibited during all Events.

Emblem

No emblem or the NF acronym should be used, including, without limitation, the “Z” symbol, the Saint George colours, and any other military branding and slogans.

References in documents and publications

LOC 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, advertising and TV graphics.

Flag

The flags of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (current or historical) and the flags of their respective NOCs and NFs cannot be flown or displayed at any Event. When a flag needs to be

used to reference RBA, including but not limited to ceremonies, in protocol sets and in-venue, TV/media graphics and social media, no flag will be used to refer to RBA. LOC shall ensure that spectators are prohibited from bringing flags of, and other items, that may be associated with the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (current and historical) into the venue, including, without limitation, the “Z” symbol, the Saint George colours, and any other military branding and slogans.

Anthem

The Russian and Belarusian national anthems (or any anthem, song or melody linked to the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus) may not be played or sung at any moment during an Event. No national anthem will be played to refer to RBA.

5.1.5 Uniforms and clothing

Uniforms (competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonies, casual, etc.), clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items belonging to a RBA, their support team and officials that are worn, used and/or otherwise displayed during the Event must not display:

- any recognition of or reference to the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs, or any national identification to 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 organisation or entity;
- any expression (message, graphical element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation to Russia or Belarus.

Uniforms should be in a completely solid color different from the colors of the Russian and Belarusian flag, respectively.

The above rules complement TRI rules applicable to uniforms, clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items. Any such items must be submitted to TRI uniform panel for its prior approval, in line with TRI uniform and in accordance with Competition Rules.

5.1.6 Neutrality

RBA, their support team and officials must fully respect the TRI Regulations, the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code and the Operating Policy on the basis of these Recommended Conditions of Participation by the IOC.

To adhere to the requirement of neutrality, RBA, their support team and officials must refrain from any activity or communication associated with the national flag, anthem, emblem or any other symbol ((including, without limitation, the “Z” symbol, the Saint George colours, and any other military branding and slogans) of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, their NF or NOCs, at any official venue or in the media (including interviews, social media — retweets, reposting, etc.) prior to, during and following the Event. This includes any national events related to their participation in the competition.

They must not make any statements or comments, take any action, or conduct themselves in any manner that may be prejudicial to the interests of the competition, its integrity or the participant’s neutrality required as a condition of participation.

In the event of any infringement of the conditions, TRI will take the necessary action and issue the necessary sanctions according to TRI Rules, Regulations and Codes.

5.2. For RBA

5.2.2 Team events

Teams of athletes with one or more members having a Russian or Belarusian Triathlon sporting nationality cannot qualify for any Team Event – see Article 16.1 of the Competition Rules.

National teams of Russia and Belarus shall not be authorised or permitted to take part in any Event.

5.2.3 Anti-doping

Any such RBA, like all the other participating athletes, must meet all anti-doping requirements applicable to them, particularly those set out in the Anti-Doping Rules. Russian and Belarussian National Federations are responsible for the individual checks of any athlete prior to their participation in Events, with the exception of the Age Group athletes.

TRI, through the International Testing Agency (“ITA”), shall include all RBA, with the exception of the Age Group athletes, in their registered testing pool. TRI shall determine the specific procedures and rules to be fulfilled for their participation in doping controls, in collaboration with its delegated body for conducting doping controls in triathlon, ITA.

TRI will communicate details of its overall doping control programme to all participants, respecting confidentiality and personal data requirements, in order to ensure a level playing field and fair treatment for all athletes.

5.2.4. RBA name

The RBA participation name is the only name to be included in the uniform, and no other code or name is permitted in any language or format.

RBA athletes must participate in competitions without any acronym.

5.2.5 Medals

RBA can be awarded medals for their performances without raising the flag and playing the national anthem.

5.3. For the support team

Only individuals with a high-performance, medical or technical role should be considered for support team accreditation.

5.4. For officials

Members of the Russian or Belarusian NF officiating competitions as Technical Officials, should not display or otherwise express an association with their nationality.

Officials should be considered under the umbrella of TRI and represented by TRI flag or acronym where necessary.

These provisions do not apply to Delegates to whom only the Constitution provisions apply (article 7).

6. Sponsors

Brand names defined as Russian or Belarusian brand names are not permitted at Events. As such, the NF, the LOC, the RBA, their support team and officials do not have the right to grant visibility to such brand names. In case of doubt, JEPABR, their support team and the officials must submit planned brand names to TRI for prior approval at least one (1) month prior to the scheduled start date of a relevant Event.

Exceptions to this prohibition may be granted by TRI if the applicants (NF, LOC the RBA, their support team or officials) demonstrate beyond reasonable doubt that the brands or products in

question have no direct or indirect relationship with the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus. This condition shall be deemed to be met if the relevant Sponsor publicly supports the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus at least one (1) month prior to the scheduled start date of a relevant Event.

7. Failure to respect the Operating Policy

7.1. Failure during an Event

If a NF, an Affiliated member or an LOC does not comply with the conditions for participation in an Event as stipulated in this Operating Policy, the Technical Delegate (“TD”) may exclude them from (further) participation. Any TRI NF shall immediately notify TRI and TD upon learning of a violation of these rules. The TD shall report to the Panel.

7.2. Failure outside of an Event

In case of any failure in respecting the Operating Policy, such failure shall be notified to the Panel.

7.3. Any violation of the Operational Policy may be investigated by the Executive Board and forwarded by it to the World Triathlon Tribunal (“Tribunal”) for prosecution.

Any violation of this Operating Policy may be prosecuted by the Executive Board and remitted to the Tribunal for trial.

8. Costs

The NFs (as appropriate) shall reimburse TRI for any costs incurred in imposing, enforcing, monitoring, assessing compliance with and/or implementing this Policy. In particular, all financial obligations related to the RBA, their support team and officials affiliated to the NFs in Events, including any TRI costs related to the implementation of such measures, will be borne by the NFs (as appropriate). No such costs will be borne by TRI.

9. Neutrality Declaration

RBA, their support team and officials must have the Neutral Status before participating in any Events. In order to apply for the above-mentioned Neutral Status, they shall sign the Neutrality Declaration of Annex 1 through the World Triathlon platform accessible by clicking [here](#).

This Operating Policy was adopted by the Executive Board on 2 December 2023 and revised on 13 November 2024.

ANNEX I

Neutrality Declaration for RBA athletes, support team and officials.

I reaffirm my commitment to upholding the fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations. With a deep understanding of our responsibilities under various sources of international law and guided by the principles of Olympism, peace, justice, respect, and equality, I declare the following:

1. I reject all forms of violence and injustice, and I pledge to promote a culture of peace and understanding within the World Triathlon community.
2. I respect the inviolability of human life, rights, and freedoms, and I shall protect and uphold the dignity of all individuals involved in Triathlon.
3. I shall strive to create a safe and inclusive environment for all members, ensuring that every individual feels valued and respected.
4. I commit myself to nurturing the development of Triathlon, promoting values of discipline, perseverance, and respect for one another.
5. I firmly believe in the power of Triathlon to foster peace, understanding, and cooperation among nations and cultures.
6. I dedicate myself to the comprehensive participation and growth of World Triathlon, embracing diversity and encouraging athletes, instructors, and enthusiasts of all backgrounds to be a part of our global dance community.
7. I recognise my responsibility to contribute to the creation of a peaceful society, where human dignity is cherished and protected at all times.

I, _____ (NAME AND SURNAME), RBA, their support team, official (*select the correct category*) hereby confirm that I have received, read and understood the Operating Policy 1 and that I will comply with it.

By signing this Neutrality Declaration, I acknowledge the significance of my individual commitment to the principles stated herein. I agree and pledge to work in Good Faith together with my fellow athletes, Officials, National Federations and all people involved in Triathlon, united in our efforts, to ensure that Triathlon remains a positive force for the betterment of humanity.

Write "read, accepted and understood": _____

Athlete/Support Team/Official Signature: _____

Parent or Legal Representative of the athlete in case of minor: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

NF President/Secretary General Signature _____

Printed Name _____

National Federation _____

Date _____