



World Sailing Policy for participation of Individual Neutral Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials with a Russian or Belarusian Passport (the Neutrality Policy).

1. Preamble

- 1.1 Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the International Olympic Committee (the "IOC") on 28 March 2023, 11 December 2025 and 7 May 2026, this is the World Sailing Policy for participation of Individual Neutral Athletes ("AIN(s)"), Support Persons and Race Officials with a Russian or Belarusian Passport (the "Neutrality Policy") in World Sailing Events or events listed in World Sailing Policy E5.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this Neutrality Policy:
 - 1.2.1 A crew of two persons sailing a boat does not constitute a team.
 - 1.2.2 "Youth" means 23 years old or under.

2. Summary of IOC Guidance

- 2.1 Athletes with a Russian passport must compete only as Individual Neutral Athletes.
- 2.2 Teams of athletes with a Russian passport cannot be considered.
- 2.3 Athletes, Support personnel and Race Officials who actively support the war cannot be entered as Neutral.
- 2.4 Athletes who are contracted to the Russian military or national security agencies cannot compete. Support personnel and Race Officials who are contracted to the Russian military or national security agencies cannot be entered.
- 2.5 Any such Individual Neutral Athlete and Support Persons, like all the other participating athletes and support persons, must meet all anti-doping requirements applicable to them and particularly those set out in the anti-doping rules of the IFs.
- 2.6 The sanctions against those responsible for the war, the Russian state and government, must remain in place; therefore:
 - No international sports events organised or supported by an IF or NOC in Russia (this recommendation no longer applies to Belarus).
 - No flag, anthem, colours or any other identifications whatsoever of these countries displayed at any sports event or meeting, including the entire venue.
 - No Russian government or state official invited to or accredited for any international sports event or meeting.
- 2.7 Updated IOC Guidance on Youth Competitions:

- 2.7.1 On 11 December 2025, the IOC reaffirmed that athletes have a fundamental right to access sport across the world, and to compete free from political interference or pressure from governmental organisations, and recommended that youth athletes with a Russian passport should no longer be restricted in their access to international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports.
- 2.7.2 The IOC clarified that the IOC Recommendations of 28 March 2023 no longer apply in relation to youth competitions. The updated recommendations as per 11 December 2025 are:
- Youth athletes with a Russian passport should no longer be restricted in their access to international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports, without additional IF eligibility requirements (such as background checks).
 - The definition of youth competitions depends on the regulations of each IF.
- 2.7.3 Standard IF or event organiser protocols regarding flags, anthems, uniforms, and related elements should apply, provided the relevant MNA is in good standing. If a national federation is suspended, the IF should apply neutral protocol elements.
- 2.8 Updated IOC Guidance on Belarus:
- 2.8.1 On 7 May 2026, the IOC issued new recommendations in relation to Belarus and Belarusians.
- 2.8.2 The updated recommendations as per 7 May 2026 are:
- To no longer have any restrictions on the participation of Belarusian athletes, including teams, in competitions governed by International Federations (IFs) and international sports event organisers.
 - To lift the previous conditions of participation for International Federations and international sports event organisers of 28 February 2022 and 28 March 2023 as they relate to Belarus and Belarusian athletes, including the protective measures.
- 3. Participation**
- 3.1 In accordance with World Sailing Policy E1 and E5, “World Sailing Event” means any event for which World Sailing selects the venue and is therefore organised by or on behalf of World Sailing.
- 3.1.1 At World Sailing Events, it is mandated that AINs, neutral Support Persons and neutral Race Officials be permitted to participate.
- 3.1.2 At World Sailing Events (that are international youth competitions), it is mandated that youth sailors of Russian sporting nationality be permitted to participate.
- 3.1.3 At events listed in World Sailing Policy E5 (other than World Sailing Events), it is recommended that AINs, neutral Support Persons and neutral Race Officials be permitted to participate.
- 3.1.4 At events listed in World Sailing Policy E5 (other than World Sailing Events, and that are international youth competitions), it is recommended that youth sailors of Russian sporting nationality be permitted to participate.

- 3.2 Non-youth individual sailors of Russian sporting nationality, Support Persons, as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing ("Support Persons"), and Race Officials of Russian nationality shall only participate in World Sailing Events in a Neutral capacity, and in no case as representatives of the Russian Federation, their Member National Associations ("MNA(s)") or National Olympic Committees ("NOC(s)").
- 3.3 Subject to the entry conditions stipulated in the Notice of Race, any Russian or non-youth sailor who satisfies the requirements of this Neutrality Policy shall be designated an "Individual Neutral Athlete", "Athlète Individuel Neutre" in French, ("AIN") and be entitled to participation.
- 3.4 To be considered Neutral and entitled to support sailors in World Sailing Events, a Russian Support Person must satisfy the requirements of this Neutrality Policy.
- 3.5 To be considered Neutral and entitled to officiate in World Sailing Events, a Race Official of Russian nationality must satisfy the requirements of this Neutrality Policy.

4. Neutrality

- 4.1 Any participation of AINs, Neutral Support Persons or Neutral Race Officials must fully comply with this Neutrality Policy, World Sailing Regulations, including the Anti-Doping rules, the Olympic Charter and any other regulations and rules applicable to World Sailing Events.
- 4.2 In addition, the strictest neutrality towards the Russian Federation at any time since 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation commenced the war in Ukraine, will be required for any participation by a sailor, Support Person or Race Official in any World Sailing Event. Neutrality requirements are:

4.2.1 No link with the Russian military or with any other national security agency

Sailors, Support Persons or Race Officials who are or have been contracted to the Russian military since 24 February 2022, including any affiliated entities, or with national security agencies, cannot participate in World Sailing Events.

4.2.2 No communications promoting Russia from 24 February 2022 onwards

Sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials must have refrained from any activity or communication, either verbal, non-verbal or written, associated with the national flag, anthem, emblem or any other symbol of the Russian Federation, their MNAs or NOCs, or from any support for the war in Ukraine in any media (including but not limited to interviews in any media, social media, tweets, retweets, and posted messages on X (formerly Twitter), posted images on Instagram, Meta (formerly Facebook) forwarded messages, comments on other posts, videos on YouTube posts and or comments, etc.) at any time since 24 February 2022.

Sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials must apply the same refrainment following the grant of Neutral status.

Sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials must not make any public statements or comments or take any action or behave in any way that may prejudice the interests of the competition, its integrity, or the participant's neutrality as required as a condition for participation.

4.2.3 No active support for the war in Ukraine since 24 February 2022

Only sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials who support the peace mission of the Olympic Movement and have not actively supported the war in Ukraine may participate as a Neutral.

Sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials contracted at any time since 24 February 2022 to the Russian military or national security agencies are considered as actively supporting the war against Ukraine.

Any other 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 actively supporting the war in Ukraine.

5. Anti-Doping Requirements

- 5.1 All youth sailors, AIN sailors, Neutral Support Persons and Neutral Race Officials must comply with all anti-doping requirements applicable to them, in particular those set out in the World Sailing Anti-Doping Rules.
- 5.2 World Sailing may, in accordance with the World Sailing Anti-Doping Rules, stipulate any specific doping control requirements for youth sailors, AINs, Neutral Support Persons and Neutral Race Officials, noting that they have not been participating in international sailing competitions for over three years.

6. Application Process For Individual Neutral Athletes ("AIN(s)"), Support Persons and Race Officials

- 6.1 Individual non-youth sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials of Russian sporting nationality shall apply to World Sailing to be granted Neutral status by submitting the relevant application form to legal@sailing.org at any time after this Neutrality Policy comes into force.
- 6.2 Non-youth sailors, Support Persons and Race Officials of Russian sporting nationality shall only be entitled to participate in World Sailing Events once they have received confirmation of their eligibility from World Sailing.
- 6.3 Upon receipt of the application form, World Sailing Legal shall carry out verifications to ensure compliance with the requirements for such status by applicants, as set out in Clause 4.
- 6.4 After the verification process World Sailing Legal will present the applications to the World Sailing Board for approval.
- 6.5 Subject to Clause 6.6, World Sailing shall advise the outcome of the application to the applicant within thirty (30) days of receiving the application form.
- 6.6 World Sailing Board may extend the 30-day deadline specified in Clause 6.5 for such further period or periods it considers appropriate, if additional verification or time is required to ensure compliance with the applicable neutrality requirements stipulated in Clause 4.
- 6.7 Where additional external measures for the verification of the applicable neutrality rules are required, World Sailing may request that the applicant pay any external fees for the verification. In such a case, the processing of the application shall be suspended until payment of the external verification fee is received.

7. Entry

- 7.1 All AIN sailors, Neutral Support Persons and Neutral Race Officials entries will be taken as representing themselves and will have no MNA.
- 7.2 World Sailing will issue each AIN sailor with a temporary AIN Sailor ID. Russian passport holders will be designated AIN X. AIN X will be treated as a separate country for the purposes of entries.
- 7.3 Subject to the enforcement provisions in Clause 14, once granted, Neutral status shall remain in effect for as long as required.
- 7.4 Where the number of eligible AIN X sailors exceeds the stipulated quota places permitted for the relevant event, the AIN with the highest rankings between Jan 2020 – Jan 2022 will be selected to be entered. If there are no rankings available, then results from Class World Championships may be used. As a final resort, if there are no rankings or results, then a simple draw will take place to select the sailor who will be selected to be entered.
- 7.5 World Sailing will verify the entry to the Organising Authority.

8. Flags

- 8.1 In events where no youth categories are specifically convened, flags of the Russian Federation (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 Organising Authority ("OA") of an event, including hotel and village accommodation and transportation.
- 8.2 Where the use of a flag is necessary to identify Individual Neutral Athletes (e.g., on equipment, at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays), either an all-white flag or no flag shall be used.
- 8.3 In events where no youth categories are specifically convened, the OA shall be responsible for ensuring that no flag of the Russian Federation or any other object referring to these countries, is displayed within the scope of, or in relation to, an event, including by spectators.

9. Anthems

- 9.1 In events where no youth categories are specifically convened, the national anthem of Russia (or any other anthem associated with the Russian Federation) shall not be played or sung at any time during or in connection with World Sailing Events in any competition venue, nor in any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the OA of an event, including accommodation and transportation.

10. Uniforms and Clothing

- 10.1 The uniform worn by AIN sailors and their Support Persons shall be white.
- 10.2 The uniforms (whether competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonial, casual, etc.), clothing, equipment, accessories and personal items belonging to AIN sailors and their Support Persons that are worn, used or displayed at competition venues, or any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the OA, shall not contain:
 - any recognition of, or reference to, the Russian Federation, or their MNAs or NOCs, or any national identification of Russia (such as flag, coat of arms, colours or any other national symbol or emblem, whether official or unofficial) in any language or format;

- any emblem or identification, commercial or otherwise, of any Russian organisation or entity; or
 - any expression (message, graphic element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation.
- 10.3 Designs for any clothing to be used by an AIN sailor or their Support Persons must be submitted to World Sailing for approval. Any application must be submitted at least one (1) month prior to the event in question. Any use of clothing other than that approved by World Sailing may result in the disqualification of the sailor, disciplinary action, or both.

11. Equipment

- 11.1 The boat and all the sports equipment used in sailing and all personal equipment of non-youth sailors must not contain:
- any recognition of, or reference to, the Russian Federation, or their MNAs or NOCs, or any national identification of Russia (such as flag, coat of arms, colours or any other national symbol or emblem, whether official or unofficial) in any language or format; or
 - any emblem or identification, commercial or otherwise, of any Russian organisation or entity; or
 - any expression (message, graphic element, symbol, etc.) with a direct or indirect political connotation.
- 11.2 The only designations which will be permitted on the boat and all the sports and personal equipment of non-youth sailors will be the World Sailing Event branding, AIN designations and World Sailing branding. An illustration of the AIN designation is shown in Appendix 1 of this Neutrality Policy. "AIN" shall be used as MNA code wherever it is needed (sails, bibs, results, etc.).
- 11.3 The colour of the equipment shall be as per the colours offered by the manufacturer and shall not be one or more of the colours shown in the flags of the Russian Federation. An all white hull or board and white sails and kites are acceptable for events where equipment is not supplied.

12. Medals

- 12.1 AIN sailors may receive medals for their performances and participate in the relevant award ceremonies. Due to their participation as Neutral individuals, these medals shall not count towards any medal table drawn up according to nations.

13. Media and Publications

When referring to AINs, organising Authorities of World Sailing Events must withdraw references to Russia in all documents and publications in both printed and electronic format, including, but not limited to, start lists, result lists, rankings, news articles, photos, social media posts, website posts and TV graphics. The acronym to be used instead shall be AIN.

14. Enforcement

- 14.1 World Sailing will monitor the implementation of the neutrality requirements as

stipulated in this Neutrality Policy and reserves its right, at its sole discretion, to revoke its decision to allow the participation of Russian sailors, Support Persons, or Race Officials as Neutral, if the circumstances so warrant.

- 14.2 Violation of the neutrality requirements as stipulated in this Neutrality Policy, including but not limited to providing false information, by any person or entity bound by World Sailing Rules and Regulations, may result in the World Sailing Board withdrawing the Neutral status of any AIN sailor, Support Person or Race Official and may involve the imposition of additional sanctions, including but not limited to fines or disqualification of results.
- 14.3 Any person whose application was not approved pursuant to Clause 6.4 or whose Neutral status is withdrawn pursuant to Clause 14.1 may re-apply to World Sailing by submitting a new application to be determined by the World Sailing Board in its sole discretion.
- 14.4 World Sailing shall take all reasonable measures to enforce the neutrality requirements as stipulated in this Neutrality Policy.
- 14.5 The World Sailing Board may direct that any violations that are not dealt with pursuant to Clause 14.2 are dealt with pursuant to the disciplinary procedures in the RRS or the World Sailing Regulations. This may result in the imposition of sanctions, including but not limited to, a warning, reprimand, fine or disqualification of results. For these purposes World Sailing will act as the AIN's, Neutral Support Person's, or Neutral Race Official's MNA.
- 14.6 Any conduct unbecoming the values of sailing towards any sailors, Support Persons (including those designated as Neutral) or Race Officials (including those designated as Neutral) shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to World Sailing Rules and Regulations or the Racing Rules of Sailing.

15. Appeals

- 15.1 There is a right of appeal to the Disciplinary Tribunal against any decision made under this Neutrality Policy that directly concerns the eligibility of a person to participate in a Major Event (as listed in Policy E5).
- 15.2 In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, there is a right of appeal from a decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal that directly concerns the eligibility of a person to participate in a Major Event (as listed in Policy E5) by way of arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

- **Approved by World Sailing Council 23 July 2025**
- **Updates approved by World Sailing Council**
 - **8 November 2025 (update to para 1. and the addition of paras 3.1.1 and 3.1.2)**
 - **9 June 2026 (update in line with CO-2026-009)**

