

To: WS Council

From: General Counsel

Subject: Repeal Neutrality Policy A5,
New Policy A10

Date: 26 August 2026



1. PURPOSE / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This memorandum seeks to inform Council on future proposed repeal of the current Neutrality Policy (Policy A5) and its replacement with a standalone temporary policy (proposed Policy A10) dealing with the reintegration of Russian and Belarusian athletes, support persons and race officials to competition.
- 1.2 Russian athletes will be required to undergo additional antidoping measure as they return to competition.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following IOC recommendations issued on 7 May 2026 and 7 July 2026, World Sailing reviewed its existing Neutrality Policy (Policy A5), which had previously imposed restrictions relating to participation of athletes and other participants with Russian or Belarusian passports.
- 2.2 Following consultation with the Governance Committee, the Board and internal stakeholders, the consensus reached was that a clean repeal of Policy A5 and replacement with a standalone temporary policy is preferable to amending Policy A5, given the change in external recommendations and the desirability of a clear, self-contained and time-limited instrument.

3. LEGAL / REGULATORY POSITION

- 3.1 The proposed temporary policy is intended to give effect to, and remain anchored in, the IOC recommendations (7 May 2026 and 7 July 2026). The policy is designed to apply within World Sailing's governance framework for relevant events and participants, and is expressly subject to applicable national law.
- 3.2 As a matter of governance/enforcement: (a) World Sailing can apply requirements for events under its direct control; (b) members (including MNAs and recognised Class Associations) are bound to comply with World Sailing rules, regulations and decisions (including relevant policies), and class status/world championship rights are conditional on compliance with World Sailing requirements; and (c) World Sailing's ability to bind non-members is limited.
- 3.3 Separately, anti-doping obligations continue to apply under the World Sailing Anti-Doping Rules and the WADA Code. The proposed policy includes additional return-to-competition anti-doping requirements for Russian participants (with testing arrangements delegated/implemented via the

International Testing Agency), while Belarusian participants are subject to the standard anti-doping rules applicable to all participants.

- 3.4 Given that this proposal seeks to repeal Policy A5, there is no longer “recommend” or “mandate” wording in relation to participation. WS can rely on the general anti-discrimination provisions in the Constitution, which apply to all nationalities, to ensure member compliance.
- 3.5 Further thought and discussion is still required in relation to clause 4.1 and the transition for AIN athletes and support persons back to their original MNA, as well as the need for a reference to the existing Policy and the definition of an AIN which will no longer exist after its repeal.
- 3.6 Please see the **attached** proposed Policy A10.

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General Counsel



WORLD SAILING TEMPORARY POLICY ON THE REINTEGRATION OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES, SUPPORT PERSONS AND RACE OFFICIALS TO COMPETITION

1. REPEAL OF THE PREVIOUS POLICY

- 1.1. The World Sailing Policy for participation of Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials with a Russian or Belarusian passport (Policy A5 - the “Neutrality Policy”) is repealed with effect from **[date]**, following the IOC recommendations issued on 7 May 2026 and 7 July 2026.
- 1.2. This Temporary Policy on the Reintegration of Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials to Competition (this “Policy”) replaces the Neutrality Policy in its entirety from that date.

2. DURATION AND EXPIRY

- 2.1. This Policy takes effect on **[date]** and, unless the World Sailing Council resolves to extend it, ceases to have effect on 1 September 2028, on which date it shall lapse automatically without any further action being required.
- 2.2. Where the World Sailing Council resolves to extend this Policy, the extended expiry date shall be as specified in that resolution.

3. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. World Sailing may, in accordance with the World Sailing Anti-Doping Rules, stipulate any specific doping control requirements for Russian Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials returning to international competition, noting that they may not have been participating in international sailing competitions for over three years.
- 3.2. In accordance with the IOC recommendation on 7 July 2026, all Russian athletes returning to international competition must meet the relevant anti-doping requirements, especially those set out in the anti-doping rules of the IOC, World Sailing and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In particular:
 - (a) the athlete must be part of a national (RUSADA/ROC) anti-doping programme, including risk assessment, test distribution plan and results management, that is delegated to the International Testing Agency (ITA);
 - (b) the athlete must have been tested multiple times prior to their return, based on a sport-specific risk assessment;
 - (c) World Sailing, as the International Federation, is responsible for establishing the timeframe during which such testing must have occurred and will agree an overall testing programme with the ITA, including the number of tests required; and

Policy [A10]

- (d) should RUSADA still be considered non-compliant by WADA in 2028 prior to the LA28 Olympic Games, it is expected that the IOC will instruct the ITA to ensure that all qualified Russian athletes have been subject to independent testing following the same approach.
- 3.3. For the avoidance of doubt, returning Belarusian Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials are subject only to the standard World Sailing and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) anti-doping rules applicable to all participants. The additional return-to-competition requirements set out in this clause 3 apply to Russian Athletes, Support Persons and Race Officials only, by reason of the continuing non-compliance of RUSADA with the World Anti-Doping Code.
- 4. ATHLETES WITH EXISTING NEUTRAL STATUS**
 - 4.1. Any Athlete, Support Person or Race Official who was granted Neutral status under the Neutrality Policy prior to its repeal may elect to retain that Neutral status until this Policy ceases to have effect under clause 2.

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