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*Paving the Way to Paris:
Sports Sanctions and
the Russia-Ukraine War*

Nina Valentini
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PAVING THE WAY TO PARIS: SPORTS SANCTIONS AND THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

*Nina Valentini**

Introduction

When Russia escalated its aggression and invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the international sports community responded with unprecedented sanctions against Russia and Belarus.¹ Next to relocating events and prohibiting the display of national symbols such as flags and anthems, these sanctions culminated in the complete suspension of Russian and Belarusian athletes from participation in international competitions. While the sanctions received broad international support, they were also opposed, both from political and human rights perspectives. After consultations during the Olympic Summit of December 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed on a procedure to facilitate the readmission of Russian and Belarusian athletes “under strict conditions of neutrality.”² On March 28, 2023, the IOC issued a recommendation³ accompanied by implementation suggestions to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in international competitions as individual neutral athletes, provided they do not actively support the war in Ukraine.⁴ Eventually, on December 8, 2023, the IOC decided that individual neutral athletes will be eligible to

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¹ Carmen Pérez, ‘Ahead of the game? Sporting sanctions against Russia following the invasion of Ukraine’ (EJIL Talk, 9 March 2022) <<https://www.ejiltalk.org/ahead-of-the-game-sporting-sanctions-against-russia-following-the-invasion-of-ukraine/>> accessed 2 January 2024

² International Olympic Committee, ‘Declaration of the 11th Olympic Summit’ (International Olympic Committee, 9 December 2022) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/declaration-of-the-11th-olympic-summit>> accessed 2 January 2024

³ International Olympic Committee, ‘Following a request by the 11th Olympic Summit, IOC issues recommendations for International Federations and international sports event organisers on the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport in international competitions’ (International Olympic Committee, 28 March 2022) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-issues-recommendations-for-international-federations-and-international-sports-event-organisers>> accessed 2 January 2024

⁴ International Olympic Committee, ‘Recommended Conditions of Participation for Individual Neutral Athletes and Support Personnel with a Russian or Belarusian Passport in International Sports Competitions Organised by the International Federations and International Sports Organisers’ (International Olympic Committee, 28 March 2023) <<https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/News/2023/03/Participation-for-Individual-Neutral-Athletes-Personnel-with-a-Russian-or-Belarusian-Passport.pdf>> accessed 2 January 2024

take part in the Olympic Games Paris 2024 in accordance with eligibility conditions laid down in the IOC recommendation.⁵

This background paper analyses the developments in the Olympic sports sanctions landscape following the March 2023 IOC recommendation to facilitate the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes as individual neutral athletes to international competitions. More specifically, it aims to see whether and how international federations (IFs) responded to the IOC recommendations and what implications can be drawn from this for the balance between sports neutrality, human rights, and geopolitics.⁶

The analysis offered in this paper is based on an original compilation of the relevant practice of IFs (Table 1) and political statements by governments and the United Nations (Table 2). As this compilation demonstrates, leading up to the IOC decision in December 2023, there has been a trend of IFs allowing Russian and Belarusian athletes to return to competitions as neutral athletes. This occurred despite persistent opposition by some national governments.⁷ Meanwhile, sanctions against teams of athletes, (government) officials, Russia and Belarus as event locations, and the display of national symbols have remained firmly in place since March 2023 and are continued after December 2023.

Re-admission of Russian and Belarusian athletes under neutral status

As Table 1 shows, 22 of the 38 IFs, the disciplines of which will be present at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, have taken concrete steps to implement the March 2023 IOC recommendation. This means that they either already have allowed or expressed their intention to allow the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes as individual neutral athletes in the future. This is a significant number considering that all the IFs under analysis but two (Union Cycliste Internationale and the International Tennis

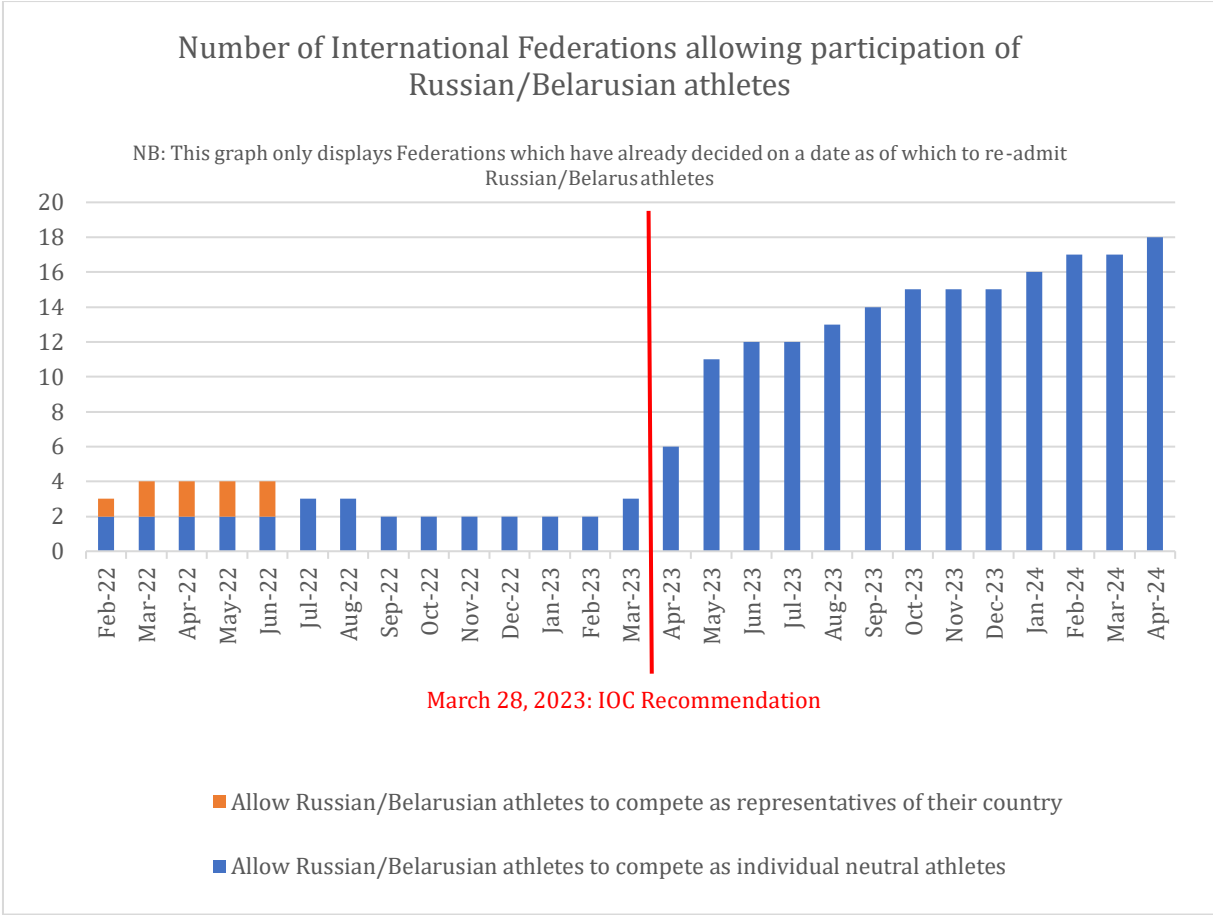
⁵ International Olympic Committee, 'Strict eligibility conditions in place as IOC EB approves Individual Neutral Athletes (AINs) for the Olympic Games Paris 2024' (International Olympic Committee, 8 December 2023) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/strict-eligibility-conditions-in-place-as-ioc-eb-approves-individual-neutral-athletes-ains-for-the-olympic-games-paris-2024>> accessed 27 January 2024

⁶ For a list of the analysed IFs, see International Olympic Committee, 'International Sports Federations' (International Olympic Committee) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/international-federations>> accessed 14 January 2024

⁷ Ambassade d'Estonie Paris, 'Joint statement by Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Foreign Ministers to the International Olympic Committee regarding the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the upcoming Olympic Games beginning on July 26 next year' (Ambassade d'Estonie Paris, 26 July 2023) <<https://paris.mfa.ee/joint-statement-by-estonian-latvian-and-lithuanian-foreign-ministers-to-the-international-olympic-committee-regarding-the-participation-of-russian-and-belarusian-athletes-in-the-upcoming-olympic-games/>> accessed 14 January 2024;
Ministry of Sport and Tourism Republic of Poland, 'Statement of 41 countries on Russia's war against Ukraine and international sport' (Gov.pl, 30 June 2023) <<https://www.gov.pl/web/ministry-of-sports-and-tourism/statement-of-41-countries-on-russias-war-against-ukraine-and-international-sport2>> accessed 14 January 2024

Federation) had completely suspended any participation of Russian and/or Belarusian athletes following the Russia-Ukraine war escalation in February 2022.⁸

While in February 2022, many of the sanctions preceded the official IOC recommendations in terms of time or exceeded them in scope (e.g. including the suspension of Russian/Belarusian national federations even though this was not considered necessary by the IOC), their withdrawal can be seen as a direct response to the IOC recommendations. Only the International Fencing Federation had lifted its ban on Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials about two weeks before the IOC recommendations were published.⁹



While there is a clear temporal connection between the IOC recommendations and the decision of IFs to readmit Russian and Belarusian athletes, there are considerable differences in the timeframe employed. In some disciplines, the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes was almost immediate and effective as early as April 2023, whereas other IFs have chosen to delay the readmission process until April 2024.

⁸ Centre for Sport & Human Rights, 'The Russian Invasion of Ukraine: Responses from the Sport Ecosystem' (Centre for Sport & Human Rights, 30 March 2023) <<https://www.sporhumanrights.org/media/izjns30k/30-03-updated-version-2-of-sport-ecosystem-responses.pdf>> accessed 14 January 2024

⁹ Patrick Burke, 'FIE approves return of Russian and Belarusian fencers in time for start of Paris 2024 qualifying' (Inside the games, 10 March 2023) <<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1134597/fie-russia-decision-return>> accessed 14 January 2024

There are also differences in scope: World Rowing has only allowed the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes in four disciplines,¹⁰ FIFA as of October 2023 only allows the Russian U17 teams to play under the name of Russian Football Federation,¹¹ and United World Wrestling has chosen to implement different eligibility criteria depending on the athletes' age. World Aquatics has additionally limited the number of Russian and Belarusian nationals able to compete at any international event to one per country.¹²

Lastly, while not all federations have published their exact operationalization of the criteria of neutrality, the majority followed the recommended conditions proposed by the IOC, including that those athletes who are under contract with the Russian or Belarusian army or a national security agency, as well as those who have publicly supported the war, e.g. through statements on social media or wearing/displaying the 'Z' symbol, remain excluded from international competitions.¹³

Justifying the return of Russian and Belarusian athletes

According to the IOC press releases, human rights concerns formed a central reasoning behind the need to ease the sanctions in March 2023 and the decision in December 2023 to allow individual neutral athletes at the Olympic Games Paris 2024.¹⁴ The initial Statement of March 2023 refers to a letter from the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance which had criticized that banning Russian and Belarusian athletes would violate their rights to equality and non-discrimination, as well as the right for everyone to take part in cultural life.¹⁵ The other main reason cited is practical, namely that "participation of neutral athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports in the competitions [...] has already been implemented and works." The IOC also seized the press release as an opportunity to reiterate its solidarity and support for Ukrainian athletes. These explanations were reiterated and expanded on in the December 2023 recommendations, which emphasize the need not to punish athletes because of their nationality and refer back to several

¹⁰ World Rowing, 'World Rowing allows Neutral Athletes Holding Russian and Belarusian Passports For 2023 World Rowing Championships Under Strict Participation Conditions (World Rowing, 7 June 2023) <<https://worldrowing.com/2023/06/07/world-rowing-allows-neutral-athletes-holding-russian-and-belarusian-passports-for-2023-world-rowing-championships-under-strict-participation-conditions/>> accessed 14 January 2023

¹¹ FIFA Council, 'FIFA Council takes key decisions on FIFA World Cup editions in 2030 and 2034' (Inside FIFA, 4 October 2023) <<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/organisation/fifa-council/media-releases/fifa-council-takes-key-decisions-on-fifa-world-cup-tm-editions-in-2030-and-2034>> accessed 14 January 2024

¹² World Aquatics, 'Criteria for the Participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes in World Aquatics Competitions' (World Aquatics, 4 September 2023) <<https://aquaticsintegrity.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/World-Aquatics-Rules-on-the-participation-of-Russian-and-Belarusian-athletes-to-World-Aquatics-Competitions.pdf>> accessed 14 January 2024, Article 5

¹³ International Olympic Committee [n 4], 2-3

¹⁴ International Olympic Committee [n 3]; International Olympic Committee [n 5]

¹⁵ Letter from Alexandra Xanthaki and E. Tendayi Achiume to Thomas Bach (14 September 2022) <<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27552>> accessed 14 January 2024

international organizations' statements, such as the G20 Declaration, the UN Resolution on the Olympic Truce, a declaration by the Non-Aligned Movement and reassurances by the World-Anti Doping Agency and the International Testing Agency.¹⁶

Many IFs which have chosen to readmit Russian and Belarusian athletes as neutral athletes follow this line of reasoning. Even though only four make direct references to principles of non-discrimination or human rights (World Skate, Union Cycliste Internationale, International Modern Pentathlon Federation and the International Judo Federation), 10 refer directly to the IOC recommendations and express their support thereof. A majority (13 IFs) uses the opportunity to reiterate their condemnation of the war and express their support for Ukraine, often by listing the concrete (financial) measures taken. While the insistence on separating sports and politics constituted an important argument when justifying the exclusion of athletes in February 2022, this emphasis on the autonomy of sports organizations is now only taken up by four international federations.¹⁷

More federations, on the other hand, use the argument of 'sports as a promoter of peace' (which the IOC has also previously supported in a variety of programmes).¹⁸ Four federations explicitly express their mission to promote peace and solidarity through their respective sport (Badminton World Federation, International Gymnastics Federation, Union Cycliste Internationale). The International Judo Federation argues that the decision to readmit Russian and Belarusian athletes under neutral status "will represent a bridge towards restoring peace." The International Canoe Federation highlights "the unifying role of sport."¹⁹ The International Table Tennis Federation and United World Wrestling see that sports can "open the door for peacebuilding in ways that exclusion and division cannot", and World Rowing emphasizes that sport has the potential to "build[...] bridges between people and nations."²⁰ Rather than distancing themselves from political events, the Federations thus acknowledge the role of sports in dealing with the war.

¹⁶ International Olympic Committee [n 5]; For relevant excerpts from the statements referenced in the IOC recommendation, see Table 2.

¹⁷ Daniele Heerdt and Guido Battaglia, 'Reactions of International Sports Organisations to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine: An Overview' (Asser International Sports Law Blog, 1 April 2022) <<https://www.asser.nl/SportsLaw/Blog/post/reactions-of-international-sport-organisations-to-the-russian-invasion-of-ukraine-an-overview-by-daniela-heerdt-and-guido-battaglia>> accessed 14 January 2024

¹⁸ International Olympic Committee, 'Peace Through Sport' (International Olympic Committee) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/peace-through-sport>> accessed 14 January 2024

¹⁹ International Canoe Federation, 'ICF Statement regarding measures for Russian and Belorussian athletes' (International Canoe Federation, 1 March 2022) <https://www.canoeicf.com/sites/default/files/proposal_russian_and_belorussian_sanctions_280423_v2.pdf> accessed 14 January 2024

²⁰ International Table Tennis Federation, ITTF Statement on the Participation of Players with a Russian or Belarusian Passport' (ITTF, 30 March 2023) <<https://www.ittf.com/2023/03/30/ittf-statement-participation-players-russian-belarusian-passport/>> accessed 14 January 2024; United World Wrestling Press, 'UWW decision on neutral athlete inclusion' (4 April 2023) <<https://uww.org/article/uww-decision-neutral-athlete-inclusion?page=1>> accessed 14 January 2024; World Rowing [n 10]

What is perhaps surprising is that the withdrawal of sanctions occurs against the backdrop of an international community that is deeply split regarding the situation. A large number of mainly European states have continuously reiterated that they do not see any reason to lift the sanctions, seeing that in Russia, sports and politics are so deeply intertwined.²¹ Also from a human rights perspective, contrary to the IOC's view, there are arguments which support the continued exclusion of Russian and Belarusian athletes, especially when considered vis-à-vis the human rights of Ukrainian athletes. For example, Wiater points out that the non-discrimination standard applied by the IOC deviates from a traditional non-discrimination assessment which would seek to balance the rights of Ukrainian athletes against those of Russian athletes.²² On the other hand, statements by the G20 or Non-Aligned Movement express hope for all athletes to be able to compete in harmony in the upcoming Olympic Games.²³

Remaining issues and questions: The muddy waters of sports neutrality, peace, and human rights

While the December 2023 decision to allow Individual Neutral Athletes to participate in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games has solved the most important controversy, it does not mean that athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport can easily participate in the Olympic Games. In fact, many Russian and Belarusian athletes will *de facto* be barred from participation because IFs prohibited them from participating in the Olympic qualifying process while sanctions were still in place. Even where participation in the Olympic qualifying process was allowed, practical restrictions such as those imposed by World Aquatics will significantly limit the number of Russian and Belarusian athletes at competitions and the Olympic Games. As of January 2024, six Russian and five Belarusian athletes are confirmed to participate in the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.²⁴ In comparison, 330 athletes with a Russian passport participated in the Tokyo Olympic Games of 2020.²⁵

After France's announcement that it would not display the Russian flag at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and the IOC's suspension of the Russian National Olympic Committee for recognizing national Olympic Committees in the Eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk

²¹ Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, 'Minister Byrne signs Fourth Collective Statement on Russia's war on Ukraine and international sport' (Irish Government, 4 May 2023) <<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/bfef8-minister-thomas-byrne-says-current-circumstances-dont-allow-for-the-participation-of-russian-and-belarusian-athletes-in-the-paris-games/>> accessed 14 January 2024

²² Patricia Wiater, 'On war, international sports and human rights standards' (EJIL Talk, 3 April 2023) <<https://www.ejiltalk.org/on-war-international-sports-and-human-rights-standards/>> accessed 14 January 2024

²³ G20, 'G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration' (New Delhi, 9-10 September 2023), para 81; Non-Aligned Movement (Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement), 'Special Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement on Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Paris 2024' (Baku, 5-6 July 2023) NAM 2023/CoB/Doc.5

²⁴ International Olympic Committee [n 5]

²⁵ Tariq Panja, 'Despite its ban, Russia is everywhere at the 2020 Tokyo Games.' (The New York Times, 26 July 2021) <<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/26/sports/olympics/despite-its-ban-russia-is-everywhere-at-the-2020-tokyo-games.html>> accessed 29 January 2024

and Luhansk, the IOC finally published its decision in December 2023.²⁶ Russian and Belarusian athletes will be able to participate at the 2024 Olympic Games as individual neutral athletes.²⁷ It is safe to assume that the gradual loosening of sanctions by the individual federations played an important part in leading the IOC to this decision. However, the debate surrounding human rights has not been resolved. It is for example to be examined critically whether in a country in which the state and sport have such extensive ties as in Russia, social media statements can be seen as an accurate reflection of an individual's attitude towards the war.

²⁶ Julien Pretot and Benoit Van Overstraeten, 'France's Macron: there can be no Russian flag at Paris 2024' (Reuters, 7 September 2023) <<https://www.reuters.com/sports/frances-macron-there-can-be-no-russian-flag-paris-2024-2023-09-07/>> accessed 14 January 2024; International Olympic Committee, 'IOC Executive Board suspends Russian Olympic Committee with immediate effect' (International Olympic Committee, 12 October 2023) <<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-executive-board-suspends-russian-olympic-committee-with-immediate-effect>> accessed 14 January 2024

²⁷ Karolos Grohmann, 'Russians, Belarusians to participate at Paris Olympics as neutrals - IOC' (Reuters, 8 December 2023) <<https://www.reuters.com/sports/russian-belarusian-athletes-participate-paris-olympics-neutrals-ioc-2023-12-08/>> accessed 14 January 2024

Table 1: Sanctions imposed and lifted by International Federations

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
International Olympic Committee	Recommendation to all IFs on 25/02/2022 , reiterated on 25/01/2023 , reiterated again on 28/03/2023	Recommendation reiterated on 25/01/2023 , reiterated again on 28/03/2023	Recommendation to all IFs on 28/02/2022 , reiterated on 21/10/2022 , team suspension reiterated on 28/03/2023	Statement that pathways should be explored on 25/01/2023 , official recommendation to all IFs on 28/03/2023	Recommendation to all IFs on 28/02/2022 , reiterated on 25/01/2023	-	Official suspension on 12/10/2023 “with immediate effect and until further notice”
Badminton World Federation	As of 28/02/2022	As of 28/02/2022	As of 01/03/2022 , maintained on 20/04/2023	Agreed on 31/05/2023 to develop a framework, decided on 29/08/2023 that athletes can participate from February 2024 onwards	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
Federation International de Football Association	As of 27/02/2022	As of 27/02/2022	Russia has to compete under ‘Russian Football Union’ as of 27/02/2022 .	Russian youth teams allowed to play in under-17 World Cup tournaments as of 04/10/2023	-	-	-

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
			suspension as of 28/02/2022	provided that they play as "Russian Football Federation"			
International Basketball Federation	As of 18/05/2022 (suspension of European candidature as of 02/03/2022)	-	As of 01/03/2022 , reiterated on 18/05/2022 and 20/05/2022 , ban on teams from pre-qualification for Olympics on 19/04/2023	-	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
International Biathlon Union	No events planned	As of 26/02/2022	As of 26/02/2022 , reiterated on 02/03/2022	From 26/02/2022 until suspension on 02/03/2022	-	-	Already happened in 2017 , again initiated on 17/03/2022 and completed on 29/03/2022
International Bobsleigh and	-	-	As of 02/03/2022	-	As of 02/03/2022	-	As of 02/03/2022

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
Skeleton Federation							
International Canoe Federation	As of a week before 01/03/2022	As of 01/03/2022	As of 01/03/2022 , reiterated on 05/04/2023	As of 28/04/2023	As of 01/03/2022 , maintained on 28/04/2023	-	-
International Equestrian Federation	-	-	As of 02/03/2022	-	As of 02/03/2022	-	-
International Fencing Federation	-	-	Yes, last renewed for four more months on 26/11/2022	As of 10/03/2023	Yes	As of 10/03/2023	-
International Golf Federation	-	As of 05/05/2023	As of 06/03/2022	As of 05/05/2023	As of 06/03/2022	-	-
International Gymnastics Federation	As of 26/02/2022	As of 26/02/2022	As of 04/03/2022 , reiterated on 03/03/2023 , reiterated again 12-13/05/2023	As of January 2024 (decision made on 19/07/2023)	As of 04/03/2022 , reiterated on 03/03/2023 , reiterated again 12-13/05/2023	-	-

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
International Hockey Federation	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-
International Ice Hockey Federation	As of 28/02/2022	-	As of 28/02/2022 , decision not to incorporate teams into 23/24 season made on 22/03/2023	-	-	-	-
International Judo Federation	Yes, on 25/02/2022 , confirmed on 02/03/2022	-	Yes, from 21/09/2022 until January 2023	As of 10/06/2022 until suspension in September; again from 29/04/2023 onward (IJF events) and 02/05/2023 (World Championships)	-	-	-
International Luge Federation	As of 02/03/2022	-	As of 02/03/2022 , overturned on 07/04/2022 , reinstated on 17/06/2023	-	As of 02/03/2022 , confirmed 17/06/2023	-	As of 02/03/2022

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
International Modern Pentathlon Union	-	-	As of 28/02/2022 , teams remain suspended as of 06/07/2023	As of July 31, 2023 (decision made on 06/07/2023)	Yes, as of 28/02/2022	-	-
International Shooting Sport Federation	As of 01/03/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	As of 26/04/2023	-	-	-
International Skating Union	As of 24/04/2022	-	As of 24/04/2022	-	As of 24/04/2022	-	As of 24/04/2022
International Ski Federation	-	-	As of 01/03/2022 , extended 24/05/2023	-	Yes, last extended on 24/05/2023	-	-
International Table Tennis Federation	None scheduled	As of 01/03/2022 , reaffirmed on 30/03/2023	As of 01/03/2022	As of 30/03/2023	As of 01/03/2022 , reaffirmed on 30/03/2023	-	-
International Tennis Federation	As of 25/02/2022 reaffirmed on 01/03/2022	As of 01/03/2022	Teams suspended as of 01/03/2022 ; Reaffirmed on 09/05/2022	As of 01/03/2022 reaffirmed on 09/05/2022	As of March 2022, Reaffirmed on 09/05/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
International Volleyball Federation	As of 26/02/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
International Weightlifting Federation	-	-	-	Allowed to Paris qualifying programme as of 12/05/2023	-	-	-
Union Cycliste Internationale	No events scheduled in Russia for 2022 25/02/2022 and 01/03/2022 , reaffirmed 03/02/2023	As of 01/03/2022 , reaffirmed 03/02/2023	As of 01/03/2022 , reaffirmed 03/02/2023	Provided they are registered with a non-Russian/Belarusian team as of 01/03/2022 , provided they have not supported the war as of 03/02/2023 , at UCI events from 03/05/2023 onward	As of 01/03/2022	-	Decision not to suspend national federation on 01/03/2022
United World Wrestling	As of 02/03/2022, reaffirmed on 04/04/2023	-	As of 02/03/2022	As of 04/04/2023	As of 02/03/2022, reaffirmed on 04/04/2023	-	-

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
World Archery Federation	As of 26/02/2022 , bidding prohibition as of 02/03/2022	As of 26/02/2022	As of 02/03/2022 , team suspension reiterated on 21/04/2023	Agrees to explore timeline as of 21/04/2023 , procedure on neutrality in place from 27/07/2023 on, currently waiting Russian and Belarusian approval	Decision not to suspend officials on 02/03/2022		Decision not to suspend national federation on 02/03/2022
World Aquatics	As of 08/03/2022 , Russia stripped of hosting World Swimming championships in 2025 on 09/02/2023 , reiterated on 04/09/2023	As of 04/09/2023	As of 08/03/2022 , teams remain suspended as of 04/09/2023	As of 04/09/2023	As of 08/03/2022 , maintained on 04/09/2023	-	-
World Athletics	-	-	As of 01/03/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
World Curling Federation	Removes European Championships	-	As of 23/09/2022 , extended until end of 22/23	-	-	-	-

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
	from Russia on 25/02/2022		season on 19/12/2022 , extended until December 2023 on 14/08/2023				
World Rowing	-	Yes, reiterated on 07/06/2023	As of 01/03/2022	In a limited number of disciplines as of 07/06/2023	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
World Rugby	-	-	As of 28/02/2022	-	-	-	As of 28/02/2022
World Sailing	As of 28/02/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	Decided on planned return for April 2024 on 23/05/2023	As of 01/03/2022	-	-
World Taekwondo	As of 28/02/2022	As of 28/02/2022	As of 03/03/2022	Decision on 03/04/2023 , in effect from May 2023 onward	As of 03/03/2022	-	-
World Triathlon	None in 2022 due to doping suspension, as stated on 01/03/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022	Supports return on 13/04/2023 , currently working on review process	As of 01/03/2022	-	-

International Federation	Events in Russia/Belarus suspended/relocated?	National symbols banned?	Athletes/Teams suspended?	Allows individual neutral athletes?	Officials suspended?	Readmission of officials?	Exclusion of national federation?
World Skate	As of 03/03/2022	As of 01/04/2022	As of 03/03/2022	As of 03/03/2022 , but reversed on 01/04/2022 ; then again from 01/01/2024 onward	As of 03/03/2022	-	-
The International Federation of Sport Climbing	As of 02/03/2022	Yes	As of 02/03/2022	From 2024 onward	As of 02/03/2022	-	Yes, as of 18/03/2022 , maintained on 12/06/2023
International Surfing Association	As of 28/02/2022	-	As of 01/03/2022 until further notice	-	As of 01/03/2022 until further notice	-	-
World Dance Sport Federation	As of 01/03/2022	As of 01/03/2022	As of 01/03/2022	As of August 2023 (decision made on 08/06/2023)	As of 01/03/2022	As of August 2023 (decision made on 08/06/2023)	-

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Table 2: Political Statements

Government/Entity	Date	Statement (excerpts)
G20	9-10/09/2023	“We also look forward to the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024 as a symbol of peace, dialogue amongst nations and inclusivity, with participation of all ”
France	07/09/2023	“French President Emmanuel Macron said [...] ‘of course, there can be no Russian flag during the Paris Games, I think there is a consensus on that matter. Because Russia, as a country, is not welcome at a time where it has committed war crimes and deported children.”
Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania	26/07/2023	<p>Joint statement by Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Foreign Ministers to the International Olympic Committee regarding the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the upcoming Olympic Games beginning on July 26 next year in Paris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “We, the Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania commend the recent confirmation by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that Russia and Belarus will not receive formal invitations to the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics. However, we are deeply concerned about the IOC’s recommendation to open a path for athletes from Russia and Belarus to enter international competitions under the veil of neutrality” - “We cannot ignore the fact that those [Russian and Belarusian] athletes are supported by their governments, as well as businesses backing up current regimes in Russia and Belarus. Moreover, we have seen over recent years that Russia has been exploiting the presence of ‘neutral’ athletes at international competitions in its state propaganda, which includes glorifying the aggressor’s military and promoting military recruitment. A ban on Russian athletes currently serving in the military does not adequately prevent that.” - “We are displeased with the recent remarks by the IOC, which undermine our nations’ concerns and call our stance “deplorable”, accusing us of double standards.”
Non-Aligned Movement	07/07/2023	“the participation of athletes from all 206 National Olympic Committees in Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games would be a strong symbol of unity of humanity. ”

Government/Entity	Date	Statement (excerpts)
Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	29/06/2023	<p>Statement delivered during the 7th International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VII), Baku, Azerbaijan, from 26 to 29 June 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Russian state must not be allowed to use sport to legitimise its barbaric and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, nor should the Belarusian state be able to use sport to legitimise its complicity in Russia’s war of aggression.”
Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, USA and the UK	04/05/2023	<p>Fourth collective Ministerial statement on Russia’s war on Ukraine and international sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “We maintain that the Russian state, which has broken the Olympic Truce twice, must not be allowed to use sport to legitimise its barbaric and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, nor should the Belarusian state be able to use sport to legitimise its complicity in Russia’s war of aggression“ - “On the IOC recommendations, we are clear that while some aspects of the strong concerns we raised in our collective statement of 21 February 2023 have been addressed by the IOC, there are substantial issues remaining, not least around military connections of athletes, state funding, the definition of what constitutes teams, and on enforcement mechanisms.” - “We underline again that our position is not one of discrimination against individuals on the basis of their passport, and we respect the rights of all athletes to be treated without any discrimination in accordance with the Olympic Charter. We are focused on fair sporting competition as well as on ensuring that Russian and Belarusian athletes are in no way appearing as representatives of their states, as the IOC is also seeking to ensure through its recommendations.” - While fully respecting the autonomy of sporting organisations, we will closely watch the implementation of the recommendations by the IOC and international

Government/Entity	Date	Statement (excerpts)
		sports federations over the coming weeks. If these issues are not addressed, we would expect the IOC to reconsider its approach. "
Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights	03/05/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right for everyone to take part in cultural life under Art. 15 ICESCR and Art. 27(1) UDHR, General Comment No. 21 (2009) by Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights relating to sports, Olympic Charter Fundamental Principle 4 "practice of sports is a human right" - Legitimate to exclude athletes that engage in war propaganda (Art. 20 ICESCR) - Issue of least restrictive measures - "The distinction between States and individuals is of paramount importance"
G7	May 2023	the G7 are " fully respecting the autonomy of sporting organizations " and want to ensure that "Russian and Belarusian athletes are in no way appearing as representatives of their states".
Ukraine	April 2023	"In April, Ukraine barred its national sports teams from competing in Olympic, non-Olympic and Paralympic events that have competitors from Russia and Belarus - regardless of the flag athletes from those two countries compete under."
Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus Czech Republic Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania,	21/02/ 2023	Statement on Russia's war on Ukraine and international sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "we agreed that the IOC's proposal on exploring a pathway back to competition for individual Russian and Belarusian athletes raises many questions and concerns." - "given there has been no change in the situation regarding the Russian aggression in Ukraine, and as an imperative for fairness and solidarity towards the Ukrainian athletes whose facilities have been destroyed and who have had to leave their country (or stay to fight for the defence of Ukraine in which very many have lost their lives), there is no practical reason to move away from the exclusion regime for Russian and Belarusian athletes set by the IOC in their statement of 28 February 2022." - "in Russia and Belarus sport and politics are closely intertwined. We have strong concerns on how feasible it is for Russian and Belarusian Olympic athletes to compete as 'neutrals'" - "As long as these fundamental issues and the substantial lack of clarity and concrete detail on a workable 'neutrality' model are not addressed, we do not

Government/Entity	Date	Statement (excerpts)
Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA		agree that Russian and Belarusian athletes should be allowed back into competition”
USA	02/02/2023	“The Biden administration said on Thursday that Russian and Belarusian athletes should compete in the 2024 Olympics in Paris only as neutral participants , but it did not weigh in on the bigger question: whether the athletes should be allowed in at all.”
UN General Assembly	01/12/2022	<p>Resolution A/77/L.28: Sport as an enabler of sustainable development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The Resolution recognised that major international sports events “should be organised in the spirit of peace” and that “the unifying and conciliative nature of such events should be respected”. - It also supported the political neutrality of the Olympic Movement and “the independence and autonomy of sport as well as the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic Movement”. - Opening the debate in the UN General Assembly, the President of the 77th Session of the UNGA said: “I encourage all Member States to preserve the unifying spirit of sports and the Olympic Movement. It is far more promising to the world if nations compete on the fields of sports than on the battle fields. The former makes us more noble and stronger, the latter leaves death and devastation behind.” -
UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural Rights and UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, xenophobia and related forms of discrimination	14/09/2022	<p>Addressed a letter to the IOC “to express their concerns regarding the recommendation of the IOC Executive Board, on 28 February 2022, to exclude all Russian and Belarusian athletes from sports events”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “some of the decisions taken by the Executive Board – such as the relocation or cancellation of events planned in the Russian Federation and Belarus or the recommendation not to display the Russian or Belarusian national flags and not to play the Russian or Belarusian anthems in international sports events – could be regarded as legitimate, as they directly target the States that are, directly or indirectly, involved in the invasion of Ukraine. However, the recommendation to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international competitions based solely on their nationality posed serious concerns in

Government/Entity	Date	Statement (excerpts)
		<p>relation to the principle of non-discrimination and the right to take part in cultural life”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legitimate to exclude athletes that engage in war propaganda (Art. 20 ICESCR) - Issue of least restrictive measures - “The distinction between States and individuals is of paramount importance” - “We express serious concern, however, about the recommendation to ban Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials such as judges from international competitions, based solely on their nationality, as a matter of principle. This raises serious issues of non-discrimination. A number of international sports federations immediately followed the recommendation of the Executive Committee. While we acknowledge that the Executive Committee recommended that Russian and Belarusian athletes could be accepted under certain circumstances as neutral athletes or neutral teams, we remain concerned that this only applied in situations where the full restriction of their participation was not possible.

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