

ISU COMMUNICATION NO. 2804

On the Adaptation of Protective Measures concerning Skaters and Support Personnel affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia and Belarus – Readmission of Neutral Athletes

This Communication records the Council's decision to adapt, on a controlled and monitored basis, the protective measures previously imposed by ISU Communication 2469 (Decisions of the ISU Council – War in Ukraine / Protective Measures, 24 April 2022) in respect of Skaters and Athlete Support Personnel affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia and Belarus.

Background and legal basis

- (A) By ISU Communication 2469, the ISU Council imposed protective measures under which, until further notice, no Skaters and no Officials affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia (Russian Skating Union, Figure Skating Federation of Russia) and Belarus (Skating Union of Belarus) were invited or permitted to participate in International Competitions, including ISU Championships and other ISU Events, and no International Competitions were to be held in Russia or Belarus. Those measures were expressly stated not to be a sanction, disciplinary measure or ineligibility decision, but to have been taken exclusively in the interests of the safety of participants and the integrity of the competitions.
- (B) Those measures were adopted under Article 17.1.q) of the then-applicable ISU Constitution 2024 and the former Rule 104, paragraph 17 (Other Protective Measures) of the General Regulations. Following the entry into full force of the 2025 ISU Constitution and the entry into force of the Competition and Event Regulations replacing the General Regulations at the closing of that Congress, the former enabling provisions have lapsed. This Communication is accordingly issued as a new decision of the Council under the ISU Constitution 2025 and the Competition and Event Regulations. To the extent the protective measures recorded in that Communication remain in effect, this Communication supersedes and partially lifts them with effect going forward, as set out below.
- (C) The Council has taken into account the recommendations of the IOC published in December 2025 and May 2026. The decision recorded in this Communication, and its scope, is the Council's own determination under the 2025 Constitution and the Competition and Event Regulations, informed by those recommendations.
- (D) In reaching its decision, the Council also took into account developments across the Olympic Movement and the differing approaches of other International Federations, including instances in which the lifting of restrictions has given rise to incidents at competitions, as well as the participation of neutral athletes in the 2025/26 Olympic qualification events and at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 without related incident.

Decisions of the Council

1. Readmission of skaters and support personnel as neutral athletes

- 1.1. With effect from the 2026/2027 season, the protective measure set out in Communication 2469 is partially lifted insofar as it applies to Skaters affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia and Belarus, so that such Skaters may participate in ISU Events and International Competitions as neutral athletes, without items of state recognition (namely national flags, national kit and national anthems), subject to the conditions in this Communication.

- 1.2. Athlete Support Personnel affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia and Belarus may accompany and assist such Skaters, subject to the same eligibility assessment set out in Paragraph 2 of this Communication.
- 1.3. Where quotas apply, the number of neutral athletes is determined by the same objective, results- and ranking-based qualification mechanics that apply to all Skaters, and not by reference to nationality.

2. Eligibility assessment and conditions

- 2.1. Eligibility to participate as a neutral athlete is assessed individually and on the basis of evidence, without regard to nationality. A Skater or member of Athlete Support Personnel is presumed eligible unless they fall within the disqualifying criteria in Paragraph 2.2.
- 2.2. A Skater or member of Athlete Support Personnel is not eligible to participate as a neutral athlete where they:
 - (a) are in active service with the armed forces or a national security agency of Russia or Belarus;
 - (b) have, at any time since February 2022, taken active part in military operations in the war against Ukraine; or
 - (c) have, at any time since February 2022, actively and publicly supported that war.
- 2.3. Eligibility is determined by the ISU Council, which may delegate the assessment to an independent eligibility panel established for that purpose. The person concerned shall be given the opportunity to be heard, and a decision to withhold eligibility may be appealed in accordance with the applicable ISU Regulations.
- 2.4. Each Skater and member of Athlete Support Personnel shall provide the acknowledgement form required by the ISU. The ISU processes only the personal data necessary for the eligibility assessment, in accordance with applicable data protection law.

3. Safety-based monitoring and calibration

- 3.1. Consistent with the safety and integrity-based premise on which the protective measures were originally adopted, the ISU will keep conditions at ISU Events under continuous review.
- 3.2. Where the ISU is satisfied that no safety or integrity issues arise, it will ease the restrictions further. Should such issues arise, the ISU reserves the right to reintroduce or increase restrictive measures.
- 3.3. The ISU will keep these measures under review, also considering the global sporting context.

4. Team competitions

- 4.1. Neutral athletes affiliated with the ISU Members in Russia and Belarus may participate in team competitions as part of an AIN team, subject to the general qualification criteria for the relevant competitions. This applies to team events including Synchronized Skating, Speed Skating Team Pursuit, Short Track relay events and the ISU World Team Trophy. An AIN team competes as a neutral team, without items of state recognition, and each member of the team remains subject to the eligibility and neutrality conditions set out in this Communication.

5. Effect and supersession

- 5.1. This Communication supersedes the operative parts of Communication 2469, and of any subsequent Communication, insofar as they are inconsistent with the decisions recorded here.
- 5.2. This Communication does not affect the ISU's continued condemnation of armed conflict, nor the ISU's ongoing support for Ukrainian skaters, including the financial support for the Ukrainian Skating Federation and for displaced skaters first provided under Communication 2469, which continues.
- 5.3. This Communication takes effect on the date stated above and applies from the 2026/2027 season.

Lausanne, June 30, 2026

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL NEUTRAL ATHLETES (“AIN”)

Preamble

This Acknowledgement is applicable to athletes and support personnel from Russia and Belarus who seek to participate as AIN during the 2026/27 season and is issued pursuant to:

- ISU Communication 2804 (“**Communication**”); and
- the ISU Competition & Event Regulations.

The eligibility criteria and the conditions for participation as an AIN are set out in the Communication.

1. Athlete Information

- Full Name: _____
- Date of Birth (DD//MM/YYYY): _____
- Passport Country (Russia/Belarus): _____
- ISU Sport Discipline(s): _____
- Email: _____
- Phone: _____

2. Acknowledgement

I acknowledge and accept that:

1. I have read and understood the Communication, including the eligibility criteria and the conditions for participation as an AIN set out in it;
2. as an AIN I compete as a neutral athlete, without any national flag, anthem, kit or other national symbol, and I may not use ISU Events or International Competitions for political messaging of any kind;
3. the ISU, including the Skating Integrity Unit (SIU), may carry out screening to assess and monitor eligibility and compliance with the Communication, and I will cooperate with that process;
4. I will comply with all applicable ISU Regulations, including the ISU Code of Ethics, the ISU Safeguarding Policy, the ISU Competition & Event Regulations and relevant Sports Rules, and all anti-doping obligations under the International Testing Agency (ITA) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code;
5. if I breach the eligibility criteria or other conditions of AIN participation set out in the Communication, the ISU Council may withdraw my status as an AIN and that of my support personnel, and my eligibility to participate at ISU Events may be affected; and
6. providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action under the ISU Code of Ethics.

3. Cooperation and Data Protection

I agree that the ISU may process the information provided in this Acknowledgement for the purposes of eligibility assessment and integrity monitoring. I agree to cooperate with the ISU, the Skating Integrity Unit (SIU), the International Testing Agency (ITA), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) as required.

4. Signatories who are minors

This Section applies where the athlete or member of support personnel signing this Acknowledgement is under the age of 18 at the date of signing (a “Minor”). Whether a person is a Minor is determined by reference to the law of their domicile.

Minor's assent

I, the Minor named in Section 1, confirm that: (i) I have read and understood the Communication and this Acknowledgement, and they have been explained to me in a manner appropriate to my age and understanding; and (ii) I assent to their terms.

Signature of Minor: _____ Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent / legal guardian consent

I confirm that:

(a) I am a parent of, or hold parental responsibility or legal guardianship for, the Minor named in Section 1, and I am authorised to give the consents below on the Minor's behalf;

(b) I have read and understood the Communication and this Acknowledgement;

(c) I consent to the Minor's acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms of this Acknowledgement, including the conditions of AIN participation and the consequences of any breach (including possible withdrawal of AIN status) set out in the Communication; and

(d) I consent to the processing by the ISU (and, as applicable, the Skating Integrity Unit (SIU), the International Testing Agency (ITA), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)) of the Minor's personal data, including, where relevant, sensitive personal data - for the purposes of the eligibility assessment and integrity monitoring described in the Communication and this Acknowledgement, in accordance with applicable data protection law.

Where the law of the Minor's domicile requires the consent of more than one parent or guardian, each such person signs below.

Signature of parent/legal guardian: _____ Name: _____

Capacity/relationship to Minor: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

5. Athlete Signature

I confirm that I have read and understood the Communication and this Acknowledgement and that I freely accept its terms. Where the signatory is a Minor, this Acknowledgement is given subject to Section 4 (Signatories who are minors).

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____