

Communication No. 2680

On the access to qualification events for Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) in ISU sports for participation at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026

1. Background

The International Olympic Committee (“**IOC**”) issued recommendations on March 28, 2023 (located at: <https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-issues-recommendations-for-international-federations-and-international-sports-event-organisers>) regarding the participation of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport (“**AIN**”) in International Competitions, including the Olympic Games (“**IOC Recommendations**”). These IOC Recommendations were adopted by numerous International summer Olympic Federations in advance of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and are expected to be maintained for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 (“**OWG 2026**”).

2. Decision of the Council

The ISU Council grants an exception from [ISU Communication 2469](#) based on article 17/1 q) ISU Constitution to allow eligible Skaters and their Support Personnel holding a Russian/Belarusian passport to participate as AIN at the Qualifying Competition in Figure Skating for the OWG 2026 and the Qualifying Competitions for the OWG 2026 according to the Olympic Qualification Documents in Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating and, upon qualification, eligibility and potential participation at the OWG 2026 (to be determined by the IOC).

Participation by AIN and their Support Personnel is subject to full compliance with any IOC Recommendations and decisions and all applicable ISU Statutes, including, but not limited to, the Olympic Qualification Documents, Eligibility Criteria, and Qualification Pathways and Quota Places set forth below.

3. Olympic Qualification Documents

The Olympic Qualification Documents for Figure Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating for the 2026 OWG will be applied on AIN as stated here below.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- a. By February 1, 2025 or other date, at the latest February 28, 2025, the Figure Skating Federation of Russia (“**FSFR**”), the Russian Skating Union (“**RSU**”) and the Belarusian Skating Union (“**BLR**”) respectively, can each nominate to the ISU one female Athlete and one male Athlete (and one substitute for each in case of injury prior to qualification) per individual event in Figure Skating/Speed Skating/Short Track Speed Skating, one pair for Pair Skating and one couple for Ice Dance who can participate as AIN at the Figure Skating Qualification Competition and at the Qualification Competitions according to the Olympic Qualification Documents in Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating and, if qualified, at the OWG 2026 (“**Nominated Athletes**”). For the avoidance of doubt, for Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating, the RSU and BLR can each submit one female and one male Nominated Athlete per distance-based individual event.

- b. Nominated Athletes by the FSFR or RSU must have held the Russian passport prior to the date of adoption of the Council emergency decision of March 1, 2022. Nominated Athletes by the BLR must also have held the Belarusian passport prior to March 1, 2022.
- c. From February 1, 2025 or other date, at the latest February 28, 2025 onwards, the Nominated Athletes and their Support Personnel are subject to the Focused Olympic Anti-Doping Program of the ISU to a special screening according to ISU recommendations and the IOC Recommendations. The ISU reserves the right to limit the number of Support Personnel accompanying AIN.
- d. The Focused Olympic Anti-Doping Program of the ISU will include Nominated Athletes in the ISU Registered Testing Pool and make them subject to the respective obligations beginning from February 1, 2025 or other date, at the latest February 28, 2025 onwards. The Focused Olympic Anti-Doping Program of the ISU will be implemented in consultation with the IOC and in accordance with WADA requirements by the ITA, and will include, at the ITA's discretion and where applicable, targeted testing, thorough investigations and close monitoring of their athlete biological passport and their whereabouts prior to the competition. Sample-taking will be executed by Doping Control Officials from outside of Russia/Belarus and the samples will be analyzed by WADA-accredited laboratories outside of Russia/Belarus in accordance with the testing process and procedures defined by WADA and the ITA. Nominated Athletes and their Support Personnel must have not associated in any way with any person serving a period of ineligibility for an Anti-Doping rule violation and they must have accepted to fully comply with any request for information from the ITA, ISU, IOC, WADA, including any request to provide further whereabouts information, or the contact details of all Support Personnel they associate with.
- e. The special screening, organized in accordance with the IOC recommendations and reflecting the processes successfully used in other sports ahead of the Olympic Games Paris 2024, will be conducted by an outside provider (such as SportRadar) aims to guarantee that no person who actively supports the war in Ukraine or who is contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies will participate as AIN and/or their Support Personnel. Any form of verbal, non-verbal or written expression, explicit or implicit, at any time since February 24, 2022 (being the date of 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 support for the war in Ukraine.
- f. Nominated Athletes and their Support Personnel must complete the self-declaration form, including basic personal information, social media accounts and acknowledging and accepting the AIN Terms, as per the attachments to this Communication.
- g. The results shown by the doping-tests and special screening will be evaluated for each Nominated Athlete and their Support Personnel by the ISU in accordance with the IOC recommendations and processes successfully implemented in other sports. The ISU Council will establish an ISU AIN Review Commission consisting of three members of the ISU Council and an athlete representative of the Olympic movement for evaluation of the Nominated Athletes and preparation of a proposal to the Council of their admission as an AIN for OWG 2026, including Qualification Pathways for OWG 2026. The ISU AIN Review Commission can take advice if need be and it will act in direct cooperation with the IOC. If the ISU AIN Review Commission determines all eligibility criteria as given have been complied with, it will recommend to the Council to declare the eligibility of the respective Nominated Athlete(s) and their Support Personnel for participation at the Figure Skating Qualification Competition and at the Qualification Competitions according to the Olympic Qualification Documents in Speed

Skating and Short Track Speed Skating, and, if qualified, at the OWG 2026 (each, an “**Eligible Nominated Athlete**”). It is the decision of the ISU Council to grant the status of AIN to Eligible Nominated Athletes and is subject to an appeal to CAS according to article 26 of the ISU Constitution.

- h. If, after granting the status of AIN to an Eligible Nominated Athlete, the ISU becomes aware of a breach of the Eligibility Criteria or other conditions of AIN participation, the ISU Council may withdraw the status of AIN and/or their Support Personnel. A decision of the Council to withdraw AIN status is subject to an appeal to CAS according to article 26 of the ISU Constitution.
- i. Uniforms (whether competition, warm-up, formal, ceremonial or casual) together with any personal items, equipment and accessories belonging to AIN and their Support Personnel must be plain, same single color for all AIN (in accordance with IOC recommendations) and submitted to the ISU Office for advance approval. This is to ensure there are no flags, national colors, country identifies or military symbolism present.
- j. Flags of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus (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 organizer of a Qualification Competition for OWG 2026. Where the use of a flag is necessary to identify AIN (e.g., at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays), the ISU flag shall be used.
- k. The national anthems of the Russian Federation and Belarus (or any other anthem associated with the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus) shall not be played or sung at any time during a Qualification Competition for OWG 2026 in any competition venue, nor in any area where ancillary events are held, or any other area controlled by the organizer of such Event/Competition. The anthem to be used to represent any AIN and their Support Personnel at an official ceremony of a Qualification Competition for OWG 2026 (opening or closing, protocol, medal ceremony, etc.) shall be the ISU Anthem.
- l. The appearance of all emblems, country names, acronyms, colors, flags and anthems linked to the Russian Federation and Belarus is prohibited at all Qualification Competitions for OWG 2026. Organizers shall withdraw references to the Russian Federation and/or Belarus on all documents and publications in both printed and electronic format, including, but not limited to, start lists, result lists, rankings and TV graphics. The acronym to be used instead of RUS and BLR shall be AIN.
- m. AIN and their Support Personnel will not be allowed to go through the mixed zone or to participate in any press conference during the Qualification Competitions and the OWG 2026. They will also not be allowed to give any interviews to media during such Competitions.
- n. Any violation of these criteria, including providing false information, by any person or entity subject to the ISU Statutes, shall be subject to sanctions by the relevant Competition authorities according to the relevant ISU Competition Rules and/or by the ISU Disciplinary Commission pursuant to article 25/9 ISU Constitution.
- o. There is no substitution pursuant to the criteria set out in Paragraph 4(a) for AIN who did not fulfill the above Eligibility Criteria or for AIN who, after fulfillment, were excluded from participation for their violation of one or more of the Eligibility Criteria or other ISU Statutes or Rules.

- p. All expenses for the participation of AIN and Support Personnel (such as, by way of example, equipment, travel, accommodation and other similar expenses) shall be borne by the AIN.

5. Figure Skating

- a. Qualification Pathway and Quota Places at the OWG 2026 for AIN.
 - aa. The AIN or, in case of injury, their Substitutes, are allowed to participate at the Figure Skating Olympic Qualifying Competition in the Season 2025/26 to compete for Quota Places and possible qualification for the OWG 2026, such substitution to be in accordance with the general regulations for substitutions. These Skaters are entered as AIN and can qualify for the respective events by placement only at the ISU Figure Skating Olympic Qualifying Competition.
 - ab. The maximum Quota Places at the OWG 2026 for AIN per respective passport holder country are:

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Men Single Skating | 1 |
| Women Single Skating | 1 |
| Pair Skating | 1 (2 Skaters) |
| Ice Dance | (2 Skaters) |
| Total | 6 |

- b. In case of earned Quota Places at the ISU Figure Skating Olympic Qualifying Competition, the Confirmation of Quota Places will be done by the ISU directly to the individual AIN, not to the FSFR/BLR/Belarusian National Olympic Committee (“**BLR NOC**”). Once they are notified as provisionally qualified by the ISU, the AIN themselves must confirm their intention to participate at the OWG 2026 directly to the ISU. Such participation is subject to the IOC executive board decision on AIN participation at the OWG 2026 and the fulfilment of any applicable conditions.
- c. There is no reallocation for AIN (the Olympic Qualification Document applies).
- d. There is no consideration of AIN for participation in the OWG 2026 Figure Skating Team Event.

6. Speed Skating

- a. Qualification Pathway and Quota Places at the OWG 2026 for AIN per respective passport holder country:
 - aa. AIN or, in case of injury, their Substitutes, are allowed to participate in their respective individual event (Men’s 500m, Men’s 1000m, Men’s 1500m, Men’s 5000m, Men’s 10000m, Men’s Mass Start; Women’s 500m, Women’s 1000m, Women’s 1500m, Women’s 3000m, Women’s 5000m, Women’s Mass Start) for the Speed Skating Qualification Events of the season 2025/26, such substitution to be in accordance with the general regulations for substitutions.
 - ab. These Skaters are entered as AIN and can fulfil one quota by qualifying for the respective individual event
- b. The Confirmation of Quota Places will be done by the ISU directly to the individual AIN, not to the RSU/BLR/BLR NOC. Once they are notified as provisionally qualified by the ISU, the AIN themselves must confirm their intention to participate at the OWG 2026 directly to the ISU.

Such participation is subject to the IOC executive board decision on AIN participation at the OWG 2026 and the fulfilment of any applicable conditions.

- c. There is no reallocation for AIN (the Olympic Qualification Document applies).
- d. There is no consideration of AIN for participation in the OWG 2026 Speed Skating Team Pursuit.

7. Short Track Speed Skating

- a. Qualification Pathway and Quota Places at the OWG 2026 for AIN per respective passport holder country:
 - aa. AIN or, in case of injury, their Substitutes, are allowed to participate in their respective individual events (Men's 500m, Men's 1000m, Men's 1500m; Women's 500m, Women's 1000m, Women's 1500m) for the Short Track Speed Skating Qualification Events of the season 2025/26, such substitution to be in accordance with the general regulations for substitutions.
 - ab. These Skaters are entered as AIN and can fulfil one quota by qualifying for the respective individual event.
 - b. The Confirmation of Quota Places will be done by the ISU directly to the individual AIN, not to the RSU/BLR/BLR NOC. Once they are notified by the ISU as provisionally qualified by the ISU, the AIN themselves must confirm their intention to participate at the OWG 2026 directly to the ISU. Such participation is subject to the IOC executive board decision on AIN participation at the OWG 2026 and the fulfilment of any applicable conditions.
 - c. There is no reallocation for AIN (the Olympic Qualification Document applies).
 - d. There is no consideration of AIN for participation in the OWG 2026 Short Track Speed Skating Relay Events.

December 20, 2024

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General

Application Form for Status of ISU Event Individual Neutral Athlete

1. First Name and Middle Name
2. Last Name
3. Date of Birth (Year/Month/Day)
4. Address
5. City / Town
6. Postal Code
7. Territory / Republics / Region / District
8. Country of passport
Russia
Belarus
9. Email
10. Phone Number (e.g. +7 78 654 22 99)
11. Sport discipline(s)

Figure Skating:

- Men's
- Women's
- Pair skating
- Ice dance

Speed Skating

- Men's 500m Women's 500m
- Men's 1000m Women's 1000m
- Men's 1500m Women's 1500m
- Men's 5000m Women's 3000m
- Men's 10000m Women's 5000m
- Men's Mass Start Women's Mass Start

Short Track Speed Skating

- Men's 500m Women's 500m
- Men's 1000m Women's 1000m
- Men's 1500m Women's 1500m

12. First requested ISU Competition:
13. Link to Instagram Account:
14. Link to Facebook Account:
15. Link to Twitter/X Account
16. Link to Tik Tok Account
17. Link to Telegram Account
18. Link to VKontakte account
19. Link to all other social media accounts:
20. Link to any form of expression, explicit or implicit, you made at any time, in particular public statements, including those made in social media, in relation to the conflict in Ukraine. These must be provided even if they have been deleted since then.

21. Link to any contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency, as set out in the IOC Recommendations, available at: <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/News/2023/03/Participation-for-Individual-Neutral-Athletes-Personnel-with-a-Russian-or-Belarusian-Passport.pdf>.

22. I formally express my desire to apply for a status of Individual Neutral Athlete within the meaning and for the purposes set out in these Eligibility Criteria ("**Criteria**").

I herewith certify that:

- (i) I have read the Criteria and acknowledge and accept its content.
- (ii) I accept that the ISU will examine my request for participation as an Individual Neutral Athlete within the meaning and for the purposes set out in the Criteria only if the present form and all the necessary information and documents requested by the ISU are provided.
- (iii) I agree that the data I share with the ISU in this form may be provided by the ISU to one or more third parties for the purpose of verifying my compliance with the Criteria.
- (iv) I will provide the ISU with all further information or documentation they deem necessary for assessment of my application.
- (v) In the event of non-compliance with the Criteria, the ISU will refuse the application for status of Individual Neutral Athlete or revoke the status if it has already been granted.
- (vi) Should the status of Individual Neutral Athlete be granted, the ISU will include my name on the list of persons to whom the status of Individual Neutral Athlete has been granted, which will be published on the ISU website.
- (vii) The ISU may withdraw the authorization for Individual Neutral Athlete status at any time in case of any breach of the Criteria, and if any of the information I have provided is inaccurate. I also acknowledge that I shall be subject to further disciplinary proceedings in case of any violation of the Criteria.
- (viii) I accept to fully comply with the Focused Anti-Doping Program. The Focused Anti-Doping Program will be implemented by the ITA, in coordination with other World Anti-Doping Code Signatories and will include, at the ITA's discretion and where applicable, targeted testing, thorough investigations and close monitoring of my athlete biological passport and my whereabouts prior to the competition.
- (ix) I accept to fully comply with any request for information from the ITA and/or the ISU, including any request to provide further whereabouts information, or the contact details of all athlete support personnel I associate with.
- (x) I agree any dispute which arises in connection with this application shall be exclusively settled by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Sports-related arbitration and mediation then in force.

(xi) The above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information shall be sanctioned pursuant to the ISU Code of Ethics.

Yes
No
Submit

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1. First Name and Middle Name
2. Last Name
3. Date of Birth (Year/Month/Day)
4. Address
5. City / Town
6. Postal Code
7. Territory / Republics / Region / District
8. Country of passport
Russia
Belarus
9. Email
10. Phone Number (e.g. +7 78 654 22 99)
11. Sport discipline(s)

Figure Skating:

- Men's
- Women's
- Pair skating
- Ice dance

Speed Skating

- Men's 500m Women's 500m
- Men's 1000m Women's 1000m
- Men's 1500m Women's 1500m
- Men's 5000m Women's 3000m
- Men's 10000m Women's 5000m
- Men's Mass Start Women's Mass Start

Short Track Speed Skating

- Men's 500m Women's 500m
- Men's 1000m Women's 1000m
- Men's 1500m Women's 1500m

12. First requested ISU Competition:
13. Link to Instagram Account:
14. Link to Facebook Account:
15. Link to Twitter/X Account
16. Link to Tik Tok Account
17. Link to Telegram Account
18. Link to VKontakte account
19. Link to all other social media accounts:
20. Link to any form of expression, explicit or implicit, you made at any time, in particular public statements, including those made in social media, in relation to the conflict in Ukraine. These must be provided even if they have been deleted since then.
21. Link to any contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency, as set out in the IOC Recommendations, available at: <https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/News/2023/03/Participation-for-Individual-Neutral-Athletes-Personnel-with-a-Russian-or-Belarusian-Passport.pdf>.

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- (iii) I agree that the data I share with the ISU in this form may be provided by the ISU to one or more third parties for the purpose of verifying my compliance with the Criteria.
- (iv) I will provide the ISU with all further information or documentation they deem necessary for assessment of my application.
- (v) In the event of non-compliance with the Criteria, the ISU will refuse the application for status of Individual Neutral Athlete Support Personnel or revoke the status if it has already been granted.
- (vi) Should the status of Individual Neutral Athlete Support Personnel be granted, the ISU will include my name on the list of persons to whom the status of Individual Neutral Athlete Support Personnel has been granted, which will be published on the ISU website.
- (vii) The ISU may withdraw the authorization for Individual Neutral Athlete status at any time in case of any breach of the Criteria, and if any of the information I have provided is inaccurate. I also acknowledge that I shall be subject to further disciplinary proceedings in case of any violation of the Criteria.
- (viii) I agree any dispute which arises in connection with this application shall be exclusively settled by arbitration before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Sports-related arbitration and mediation then in force.
- (ix) The above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information shall be sanctioned pursuant to the ISU Code of Ethics.

Yes

No

Submit