

EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

5th APRIL 2023 -

CONFERENCE CALL

2.00 pm

Members attending

- Sabatino ARACU - President
- Roberto MAROTTA - Secretary General
- Doris GENTILE - Vice Secretary General
- Karen DOYLE - First Vice President and Commissioner of World Skate Oceania
- Yongjun CAI - Vice President (World Skate Asia)
- Alberto HERRERA AYALA - Vice President (World Skate America)
- Carmel PANIAGUA - Chair of Rink Hockey Technical Commission
- Gary REAM - Chair of Skateboarding Technical Commission
- Nicholas GENCHI - Chair of Artistic Technical Commission
- Andrea FONZARI - Chair of Inline Hockey Technical Commission
- Siegfried ZISTLER - Chair of Downhill Technical Commission
- Ellen FRENCH - Chair of Roller Derby Technical Commission
- Helmeri PIRINEN - Chair of Scootering Technical Commission

World Skate Management and Staff

Before starting the meeting, President Aracu greets all the participants and welcomes the two new members: Ellen French, appointed Chair of the International Roller Derby Committee, and Amelia Brodka, elected as athletes' representative and therefore full member of the EB.



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Aracu stresses that the EB has been convened urgently to discuss the particular situation caused by the war in Ukraine, and the recent statements and recommendations issued by the IOC. Finding the best solution is not easy.

President Aracu reads his report on the matter:

President's report

In recent weeks we had constant meetings and talks with the IOC regarding the situation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and their possible return to competitions.

During the consultations, all the stakeholders - including World Skate - reaffirmed their support to the IOC's call for peace and solidarity towards the Ukrainian people.

The IOC Executive Board held on March 28 reaffirmed its solidarity with the Ukrainian athletes, and that the sanctions against the Russian and Belarusian governments (adopted in February 2022) must remain in force:

- i) ban to organize international sporting events in Russia and Belarus;
- ii) no Russian or Belarusian flag, anthem or other national symbol shall be displayed at international sporting events; And
- iii) no Russian or Belarusian government or state official should be accredited or invited to any international sporting event.

The United Nations intervened in the human rights issue, welcoming the IOC's approach to consider allowing individual Russian and Belarusian athletes to participate in international sporting competitions as neutral athletes. The United Nations has urged the IOC to take a decision to that effect and go further, ensuring the non-discrimination of athletes based on their nationality.

During the consultations with the stakeholders of the Olympic Movement over a period of four months, the vast majority of the stakeholders clearly expressed their willingness to open a path for competitions under their sole authority.

Stakeholders have asked the IOC for recommendations to harmonize their approach, should they adopt the decision to admit athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports to competitions.

Following this request, the IOC's EB sent the following recommendations to the international federations and organizers of international sporting events on 28 March:

- 1) Athletes with a Russian or a Belarusian passport must compete only as Individual Neutral Athletes.
- 2) Teams of athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport cannot be considered.
- 3) Athletes who actively support the war cannot compete. Support personnel who actively support the war cannot be entered.
- 4) Athletes who are contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies cannot compete. Support personnel who are contracted to the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies cannot be entered.
- 5) Any such Individual Neutral Athlete, like all the other participating athletes, must meet all anti-doping requirements applicable to them and particularly those set out in the anti-doping rules of the IFs.
- 6) The sanctions against those responsible for the war, the Russian and Belarusian states and governments, must remain in place.

The IOC EB confirmed that these recommendations do not concern the participation of athletes and their support personnel with a Russian or Belarusian passport at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 or the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. The IOC will take this decision at the appropriate time, at its full discretion, and without being bound by the results of previous Olympic qualification competitions.

We have carefully read the document issued by the IOC, entitled Recommendation on the Conditions of Participation of Neutral Individual Athletes and Support Personnel with Russian or Belarusian Passports in International Competitions Organized by International Federations and Organizers of International Sporting Events.

Participation: Individual Neutral Athletes and their support personnel may return to international sporting competition only in individual and neutral manner, and never representing the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus or any other organization of their countries, including the National Olympic Committee or the National Federation. Neutral Individual Athletes and support personnel with military involvement in the army or national security agencies are not eligible to participate in international competition. Russian or Belarusian government officials cannot be invited or accredited to international sporting competitions.

Team Sports: Teams of athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports cannot be entered.



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Active Support to the War in Ukraine: Only Individual Neutral Athletes and support personnel who have not acted against the peace mission may be invited to participate in international sporting competitions.

Those who have military involvement in the army and with national security agencies are considered as people who support the war.

As regards the other war support measures, public statements - including those made on social media - should be considered; pro-war rallies or events; the display of symbols in support of the war in Ukraine, including for example the “Z” symbol.

In order to interpret these criteria in a harmonized way, International Federations must consider - for the purpose of taking decisions - the creation of an independent panel under the umbrella of the associations of International Federations (ASOIF, ARISF)

Anti-Doping: It is recommended that all International Federations include Neutral Individual Athletes in registered testing pools.

Event Registration: Individual Neutral Athletes and support staff must - where possible - register for the event on an individual basis directly with the International Federation and International Sporting Event Organizers.

The name registered for participation must have no association with the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or their NFs or NOCs.

No emblem/logo may be used, and no flags of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus may be displayed.

The anthem of the Russian Federation or the Republic of Belarus must not be played during the event either in the venue or in other areas controlled by the IF or organizers of international sporting events.

The uniforms must be plain or white.

Individual Neutral Athletes may be awarded medals for their performance but shall not be included in medal tables which require country names (having considered their participation on an individual basis).

Athletes and support staff must be totally neutral and respect the regulations of the IF, the Olympic Charter, the WADA code; they must not engage in any activity or communication with their own flag, anthem, emblem.



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They must not make any statements or comments, or behave in a manner harmful to the interests of the competition.

The IF must ensure that in the event of a breach of these conditions, it will take the necessary actions and impose the necessary sanctions.

From a practical point of view, as far as athlete verifications are concerned, we would be in the position of only reading athletes' social media accounts, but this is unlikely to rule out athletes' involvement in military or pro-war activities.

We could not have in-depth documentation on athletes, and at times we would risk violating their privacy.

An agency that performs background checks on athletes (Sport Radar) is asking a fee of \$5,000 per athlete.

Nor could we ask athletes to make statements by means of which they distance themselves from the war, because in Russia any activity "against" the government would be considered a crime punishable by imprisonment.

We could not have the indication of the National Federation with respect to the athletes who must participate in the events; if there are more athletes than the permitted country quota, we at World Skate should make that decision.

In the case of athletes who are not economically independent, given that the national federation cannot intervene, who would pay for the travel, board and lodging expenses of the athletes?

We are absolutely in favor of safeguarding of human rights, but in these circumstances we must be guided in our decisions not only by our emotions.

We have collected information regarding the decisions of the other International Federations.

The federations in favor of the reintegration of Russian and Belarusian athletes into competitions are Fencing, Judo, Table Tennis, and Boxing.

The International Federations that have already expressed their NO to the return to competitions of Russian and Belarusian athletes include Athletics, Gymnastics. Swimming has not announced any changes from the past (so it sticks to its NO), and basketball will decide by April.



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We could probably start a process of reintegration of Russian and Belarusian athletes that goes hand in hand with the decisions of the IOC, and within a 4-month timeline.

Let's not forget that to date the IOC has not made any decision on the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes to the Paris 2024 Olympics.

After reading his report, Aracu highlights the difficulty of the situation: World Skate is a complex federation with many sports and we cannot favor one, i.e. skateboarding, even if it is Olympic, to the detriment of the others, because such decision would not be understood by all our athletes.

Although overcoming the many difficulties listed above, World Skate cannot deviate from the decisions of the IOC, which will meet in June and then in September to make a decision.

Aracu highlights the many logistical difficulties of many nations which, besides sports, do not allow Russian and Belarusian citizens to enter their countries.

Carmelo Paniagua takes the floor and agrees that the current situation is not easy, and that the IOC has complicated things with all these constraints.

His opinion is to reiterate the no, but he understands that we cannot deviate too much from what the IOC says, especially in a federation like World Skate which is new and needs to grow.

Paniagua underlines that this is his personal opinion and that he will conform to the majority.

As regards the return of athletes, even if neutral, the situation seems to be even more difficult than it was at the beginning due to the enormous administrative problems: it is not known who should register and control athletes.

Paniagua concludes his speech stating that he will comply with Aracu's proposal to be in stand-by, pending the decision of the IOC.

Aracu thanks and proposes the resolution which is voted unanimously.

Aracu communicates that this resolution will be immediately communicated to the IOC and national Federations.

First Vice President Karen Doyle takes the floor to add that we should think about the good of the athletes and we don't know which solution is the right one from an ethical point of view; therefore we have to wait and understand the situation in the future.



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Secretary General Roberto Marotta submits the ratification of the appointment of Amelia Brodka, which is approved unanimously.

Aracu thanks Leticia Bufoni and Fernando Rigueiro for their work and closes the meeting by greeting and thanking everyone for their participation.

The meeting ends at 15.00



Roberto Marotta

Secretary General



Sabatino Aracu

President



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