

Office of the President

National Federations of World Aquatics

Lausanne, 13 April 2026

**Re: Bureau Decision on Russia and Belarus**

Dear World Aquatics Members,

We write to inform you that following a decision of the World Aquatics Bureau dated 13 April 2026, and in consultation with the Aquatics Integrity Unit (AQIU) and the World Aquatics Athletes' Committee, Russia and Belarus have been removed from Appendix B to the World Aquatics Guidelines for Athlete Participation in Aquatics Events during Periods of Conflict (the "Guidelines"). This means, in principle, that senior athletes from Russia and Belarus can participate in World Aquatics events wearing their National Team uniforms and compete under their respective flags, and to the extent they appear on a podium, with their respective national anthem.

This said, Russian and Belarussian athletes shall remain subject to at least 4 anti-doping tests from a World Anti-Doping Code Signatory in the 12 months prior to their return to World Aquatics events. At least one must have been conducted by the International Testing Agency (ITA) using a sample collection agency unrelated to the National Anti-Doping Organizations of Russian or Belarus.

In furtherance to the above, both Russia and Belarus now retain full membership rights in accordance with Article 6 of the World Aquatics Constitution, including the hosting of World Aquatics events.

World Aquatics wishes to highlight that since the inception of the Guidelines, over 700 Russian and Belarussian athletes and support personnel have undergone a review process through the AQIU. During this time, no integrity or safety issues arose from the application of the conditions under which these athletes were able to participate in World Aquatics events. Indeed, we are pleased to report that no integrity complaints were filed regarding the conduct of these athletes during World Aquatics events and no incidents of political, discriminatory, or inappropriate conduct towards these athletes (or other athletes) were reported.

The Guidelines themselves will, however, remain in place and are subject to application to all Members by the World Aquatics Executive in its sole discretion at any time. All World Aquatics Members and Athletes are kindly reminded to adhere to the World Aquatics Constitution and Rules to ensure the integrity and security of sporting competitions and the overall respect for the Podium, their competitors, World Aquatics and Olympic principles and values.

We remain, as always, at your disposal for any questions.

Respectfully yours,



Husain Al Musallam  
President

Copy to: International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)