



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF SPORTS FOR THE DEAF

## **ICSD decision on participation of Russian and Belarusian deaf athletes in ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events**

**18 December 2023, Lausanne, Switzerland**

Upon careful consideration of the decision rendered by the International Olympic Committee on 8 December 2023, the Executive Board of the International Committee of Sport for the Deaf has resolved deaf athletes from Russia and Belarus competing in ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events starting from 1 February 2024.

The allowance of Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes' participation necessitates strict adherence to a series of prescribed conditions:

1. Only Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes are permitted to compete; team participation is not allowed. The ICSD will consider any group of more than one individual athlete competing in an event as a team.
2. Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes holding respective passports will participate as Deaf Individual Neutral Athletes (DINA) in ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events.
3. Individual deaf athletes who demonstrate active support for the war will be disqualified from registration and participation. Athletes support personnel who endorse warfare will not be permitted for entry.
4. Individual deaf athletes holding contracts with the Russian or Belarusian military or national security agencies will be deemed ineligible for registration and participation. Likewise, athlete support personnel under contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or federal security agencies will not be permitted for entry.
5. Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes, akin to all other participating athletes, must fulfill anti-doping and audiogram prerequisites applicable to them in all ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events.
6. Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes will be required to submit a duly signed declaration no later than one month prior to ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events, affirming their commitment to abiding by the requirements set forth by the ICSD.
7. The costs associated with participation in an ICSD-sanctioned sporting event rest solely upon the responsibility of the Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes.
8. At all ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events, no display of flag, anthem, colors, or any other forms of identification representing Russia or Belarus will be permitted. Furthermore, Russian or Belarusian individual deaf athletes must obtain explicit permission from the ICSD Executive Board, at least one month before ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events, regarding the usage of their uniform. The ICSD reserves the right to disqualify a DINA from the ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events and impose a financial penalty for violation of this rule.
9. No invitations or accreditations will be extended to the Russian or Belarusian government or state officials for any ICSD-sanctioned competition or event.
10. In the event that the ICSD establishes a collaborative agreement with any International Sports Federation (IF) that imposes restrictions on the participation of Russian or Belarusian athletes in their respective sport, the ICSD will uphold the ban upon the specific sport if requested by the IF.

As of 5 March 2022, the ICSD Executive Board decided to disqualify Russian and Belarusian deaf athletes from all ICSD-sanctioned competitions and events, including the 2021 Summer Deaflympics held in Caxias do Sul, Brazil. During this exclusion period, the ICSD Executive Board expressed a firm commitment to promoting peace.

Throughout its actions, the ICSD has consistently adhered to the recommendations put forth by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This stance remains unwavering.

We wish to emphasize that the ICSD stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and their deaf athletes, actively seeking opportunities to facilitate an expeditious end to the ongoing conflict. Aligned with the IOC's guidance, the ICSD firmly believes that establishing a transparent and unambiguous framework for determining the eligibility of Russian and Belarusian deaf athletes will foster understanding among participants representing the conflicting parties, thus advancing the cause of peace.

It is our firm conviction that sport should serve as a platform for collective engagement rather than division.

Equality Through Sports!

Executive Board - International Committee of Sports for the Deaf