

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE PROHIBITION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN IN FEI EVENTS (2 March 2022)

Background:

On 28 February the Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee issued a recommendation to International Federations to prohibit the participation of Russian and Belarusian Athletes and Officials in international events due to the violation by the Russian and Belarusian governments of the Olympic Truce. The specific Olympic Truce for the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing, is laid down in a UN resolution that was adopted unanimously by all 193 members of the UN General Assembly. The Olympic Truce began seven days before the start of the Olympic Games Winter Games and is supposed to ends seven days after the closing of the Paralympic Games on 13 March 2022.

On 2 March 2022, the FEI Board passed the following Emergency Board Resolution:

"The FEI Board condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russian military forces and the support provided by the government of Belarus.

Further to the recommendation of the IOC Executive Board on 28 February 2022 and the request of the FEI Executive Board and as a protective measure to secure the integrity and safety of FEI Competitions, the FEI Board agrees to the following Emergency Board Resolution in accordance with Article 20.3 of the FEI Statutes:

To prohibit all Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials from participating in FEI Events until further notice. To enable an effective implementation of this Emergency Board Resolution, the prohibition will take effect as of midnight (CET) on Sunday, 6 March 2022. This Emergency Board Resolution also excludes the possibility of Russian and Belarusian Athletes (Equine and Human) and Officials from participating in FEI Events under the FEI flag and/or in a neutral capacity.

In the meantime, the Russian and Belarusian flags cannot be displayed or the Russian and Belarusian anthems cannot be played at (or in connection with) any FEI Events."

The FEI recognises that this decision has many knock-on consequences for Athletes, Officials, Horse Owners, Organisers and National Federations and is likely to generate queries. We have prepared this "Frequently Asked Questions" document to provide some answers to those queries.

Contents

(A) ATHLETES.....	2
(B) OFFICIALS	3
(C) HORSE OWNERS.....	4
(D) ORGANISER	4
(E) NFs.....	4

(A) ATHLETES

RUS/BLR Athletes

1. When does the Board's decision take effect?

The decision takes effect on midnight on Sunday, 6 March 2022 meaning that, as of Monday 7 March 2022 all Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials cannot participate in FEI Events until further notice.

2. What about events taking place prior to 7 March 2022, can Russian and Belarusian Athletes and Horses participate?

Yes, the Board decided to only implement the prohibition as of midnight on Sunday, 6 March 2022 so that Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials that are already on-site or on their way to FEI Events taking place over the weekend of 4 – 6 March 2022 would not be unduly inconvenienced and could participate as planned and so as not to risk that FEI Events would need to be cancelled due to an inability to replace Russian/Belarusian Officials at short notice.

However, the Russian and Belarusian flags cannot be displayed and the national anthems of Russia and Belarus cannot be played at FEI Events taking place prior to 7 March 2022.

3. How long will the prohibition last for?

The prohibition will stay in place until further notice. The FEI hopes that a peaceful solution can be found as soon as possible.

4. I am Russian/Belarusian Athlete, can I participate under the FEI flag or a neutral flag?

No. The FEI Board Decision specifically excludes this possibility.

Non-RUS/Non-BLR Athletes

5. I am a non-Russian/non-Belarusian Athlete but my Administering NF is the RUS/BLR NF, can I continue to participate?

Yes. Although your Administering NF is the RUS/BLR NF, your nationality is not RUS/BLR so you are not prohibited from competing.

6. I am a non-Russian/non-Belarusian Athlete but my horse is owned by Russian/Belarusian owner, can I continue to compete with my horse?

No. All horses owned by Russian/Belarusian owners are blocked from participating with any Athletes (regardless of the Athlete's nationality).

7. I am a non-RUS/non-BLR Athlete but and I am due to compete at an FEI Event in Russia/Belarus, will the event go ahead?

No. All FEI Events in the 2022 FEI Calendar in Russia and Belarus have been cancelled by the FEI pursuant to a [decision of 28 February 2022](#).

(B) OFFICIALS

RUS/BLR Officials

1. When does the Board's decision take effect?

The decision takes effect on midnight on Sunday, 6 March 2022 meaning that as of Monday 7 March 2022 all Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials cannot participate in FEI Events until further notice

2. What about events taking place prior to 7 March 2022, can Russian and Belarusian Officials participate?

Yes, the Board decided to only implement the prohibition as of midnight on Sunday, 6 March 2022 so that Russian and Belarusian Athletes, Horses and Officials that are already on-site or on their way to FEI Events taking place over the weekend of 4 – 6 March 2022 would not be unduly inconvenienced and could participate as planned and so as not to risk that FEI Events would need to be cancelled due to an inability to replace Russian/Belarusian Officials at short notice.

3. How long will the prohibition last for?

The prohibition will stay in place until further notice. The FEI hopes that a peaceful solution can be found as soon as possible.

4. I am Russian/Belarusian Official, can I participate under the FEI flag or a neutral flag?

No. The FEI Board Decision specifically excludes this possibility.

Non-RUS/Non-BLR Officials

5. I am an FEI Official and I was due to attend a FEI Officials' course in Russia/Belarus, can I still attend?

Further to the [FEI Executive Board Decision of 28 February 2022](#), all FEI courses scheduled to take place in Russia/Belarus have been cancelled.

6. I am a non-Russian/non-Belarusian Official but my Administering NF is the RUS/BLR NF, can I continue to officiate?

Yes. Although your Administering NF is the RUS/BLR NF, your Official NF is not RUS/BLR so you are not prohibited from officiating.

7. I am an FEI Official and I am due to officiate at an upcoming FEI Event in Russia/Belarus, will the event go ahead?

No. All FEI Events in the 2022 FEI Calendar in Russia and Belarus have been cancelled by the FEI pursuant to a decision of 28 February 2022.

(C) HORSE OWNERS

- 1. I am a Russian/Belarusian horse owner (meaning the nationality of Ownership as per FEI Database is RUS/BLR) can my horses compete in FEI Events with non-Russian/non-Belarusian Athletes?**

No. All Horses owned by Russian/Belarusian owners are blocked from participating regardless of the nationality of the Athlete.

- 2. I am a Russian/Belarusian horse owner, if I sell my horse to another owner, can that Horse compete in FEI Events?**

Yes. BLR/RUS horses sold to a non-Russian/non-Belarusian owner will take on the nationality of the new owner and will no longer be blocked. The change in ownership must be reflected in the [FEI Database](#) by the NF of the new owner in order for the block on the horse to be removed.

(D) ORGANISER

- 1. I am an Organiser and I had invited Russian/Belarusian Officials to officiate at my upcoming event, what should I do?**

If your event is taking place on/after 7 March 2022, you will need to find a replacement official and update the Schedule accordingly. You should send the updated Schedule to the relevant FEI Sports Department and contact the FEI Sports Department if you are having difficulty finding a replacement official.

- 2. I am an Organiser and I had invited Russian/Belarusian Athletes to officiate at my upcoming event, what should I do?**

If your event is taking place on/after 7 March 2022, you must cancel the invitation.

(E) NFs

Non-RUS/Non-BLR NFs

- 1. My NF is the Administering NF for a RUS/BLR Athlete, can I continue to make entries for the RUS/BLR Athlete**

No. The prohibition applies to all Athletes whose "home" NF is the RUS/BLR NF. Even though their Administering NF is your NF, they are prohibited from entering FEI Events.

- 2. My NF has Athletes whose Administering NF is the RUS/BLR NF, can the RUS/BLR NF continue to make entries for them?**

Yes, as long as their nationality is not RUS/BLR, the RUS/BLR NF can continue to act as their Administering NF and they can continue to compete in FEI Events.

- 3. My NF is the Administering NF of Russian/Belarusian owned Horses, can I continue to make entries for these Horses?**

No. All Russian/Belarusian Horses are prohibited from participating even if a non-Russian/non-Belarusian NF is administering the Horse.

4. Are the RUS/BLR NFs suspended? Can my NF continue to have contact with the RUS/BLR NFs?

The RUS/BLR NFs are not suspended. They retain their full membership rights except that their Athletes/Horses/Officials are not eligible to compete in FEI Events. This restriction was put in place as a protective measure to ensure the safety and integrity of FEI Competitions.

© FEI – March 2022