

## **RUSSIA TASKFORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 1 DECEMBER 2021**

I am pleased to provide the following update to Council on behalf of the Russia Taskforce:

1. As you know, last month the 53<sup>rd</sup> World Athletics Congress resolved that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics should continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council from time to time for the reinstatement of RusAF's membership have been met.
2. Currently, RusAF is working to meet the milestones and KPIs set out in the Reinstatement Plan that Council approved in March 2021. The Taskforce is in regular communication with RusAF Acting President Irina Privalova and her colleagues to assess that work, and we also receive weekly reports from the international experts. Each month RusAF has provided a formal written report on the progress made against the Reinstatement Plan, and the international experts have provided their feedback on those reports. The Taskforce has also convened periodic calls with the international experts to discuss those reports and to address any issues as they arise.
3. As I told Congress last month, based on these reports and this feedback, the view of the Taskforce is one of guarded optimism. RusAF is making steady progress towards meeting the conditions set for its reinstatement to membership of World Athletics: the key milestones to date have been met, as well as the various key performance indicators set out in the Reinstatement Plan. Furthermore, the international experts are of the view that these efforts reflect a new culture that is genuinely looking to reject the doping practices of the past and to commit to competing clean moving forward. On the other hand, there are still people in Russian athletics who have not embraced this new culture, there is still much work for RusAF to do to ensure that those people do not prevail, and (as noted below) RusAF needs to ensure it exercises careful oversight to ensure that all anti-doping requirements are properly complied with on the ground in Russia. But overall it is fair to say that the new RusAF leadership seems to have a genuine commitment to lead this culture change and ensure it becomes deep-rooted in Russian athletics.
4. RusAF has also kept up with another condition of reinstatement, namely timely reimbursement of all of the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics. In July RusAF was invoiced US\$488,209 for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the quarter ending 30 June 2021. RusAF paid that invoice in full. In October RusAF was invoiced US\$325,962.05 for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the quarter ending 30 September 2021, and payment of that invoice is expected shortly.
5. The Taskforce's understanding is that both the Russian Ministry of Sport and the Russian Olympic Committee are supportive of RusAF's efforts. The Russian Sports Minister, Oleg Matytsin, has asked for a meeting with the World Athletics President and myself to discuss the reinstatement process, and we are currently trying to find a mutually convenient date for that meeting.
6. As I mentioned to Congress last month, the status of RUSADA (the Russian national anti-doping organisation) remains an issue of concern. In December 2020, the CAS declared RUSADA non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code and imposed a series of consequences and reinstatement conditions that have to be met in order for RUSADA to be reinstated in December 2022. Those

reinstatement conditions include working with the AIU to investigate cases impacted by the tampering with the testing data at the Moscow laboratory; and procuring further testing data to enable the AIU to determine whether any other athletes may have committed anti-doping rule violations. At present the AIU is encountering difficulties in obtaining some important data (electropherograms and other records of the results of analysis of samples for EPO and/or related substances), and therefore at present it appears that those reinstatement conditions have not been met. Nor is it clear whether RUSADA is able to perform its role as the independent Russian NADO effectively. Partly in response to that concern, RusAF has agreed to the AIU conducting extra testing of RusAF's athletes, at RusAF's cost. However, the underlying issues with RUSADA remain. The Taskforce will therefore consider whether to recommend that Council impose further reinstatement conditions on RusAF that are designed to address these issues. I will report back on this at the next Council meeting.

7. In the meantime, the Taskforce is working with RusAF and with the AIU to develop a detailed series of measures that would apply after RusAF has been reinstated. These measures are designed to give Council and the member federations of World Athletics comfort that progress towards a genuine change in culture will continue in Russia after reinstatement, and there will be no backsliding. The proposal is that the AIU will lead on policing these post-reinstatement measures. The detail of the measures is currently being finalised, and I expect to be able to present them to Council for its approval at its next meeting.
8. Finally, Council resolved in July that it would consider at this final meeting of the year the conditions for maintaining the Authorised Neutral Athlete (**ANA**) process in 2022, including in particular whether the ten ANA quota that Council imposed for certain competitions in 2021 should be maintained or varied in 2022. The Taskforce has therefore considered what recommendation it should make in this regard. On the one hand, it considers that RusAF and its athletes should be rewarded for the progress that has been made to date, in order to encourage further and greater efforts. On the other hand, it was concerned to receive a report from the Doping Review Board advising that in 2021 99 athletes had been granted ANA status on condition that RusAF arrange for them to undergo 1 or 2 out-of-competition tests before the first competition specified in their application form, but in five cases RusAF had failed to arrange those tests and therefore those five athletes competed without completing those tests. The report also noted that RusAF did not appear to be investigating five active coaches who have had a number of convicted dopers under their charge (as the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules require them to do). RusAF suggested in response that under Russian law it is required to delegate such investigations to RUSADA.
9. The immediate concerns raised by the Doping Review Board have been addressed: (a) a mechanism will be put in place to ensure that in 2022 an ANA athlete cannot enter any competition until RusAF has demonstrated that any outstanding testing requirements for that athlete have been satisfied; and (b) investigations of the five coaches are being undertaken by RUSADA, but RusAF is required to ensure that the matter is followed up properly and that the AIU is kept in the loop. The Taskforce is therefore willing to recommend an increase in the ANA quota for 2022, but it also recommends that any future breach of the ANA requirements should lead to an automatic 25% reduction in that quota.

10. The Taskforce recommends that Council resolve as follows:

1. The Authorised Neutral Athlete (ANA) process will be maintained in 2022.
2. In 2022, no more than **twenty (20)** athletes (in total, not per competition) will be granted eligibility to compete (as ANAs) in the following international competitions: (a) the World Race Walking Team Championship to be held in Muscat, OMA, in March 2022; (b) the World Athletics Indoor Championships to be held in Belgrade, SRB, in March 2022; (c) the World Athletics Championships to be held in Oregon, USA, in July 2022; (d) the European Championships to be held in Munich in August 2022; (e) the World Half Marathon Championships to be held in Yangzhou, CHN, in November 2022; and (f) the European Cross Country Championships to be held in Turin in December 2022.<sup>1</sup> RusAF may choose which athletes will make up these twenty ANAs out of those who have applied for and been granted ANA status, but it must choose athletes in the International Registered Testing Pool in priority to any other athletes. No changes may be made to the twenty designated ANAs, for any reason, once they have been nominated by RusAF.
3. There is no cap on the number of Russian athletes who may compete (if invited, and if they have been granted ANA status) in international competitions that are not listed in paragraph 2. Therefore, no cap applies (for example) to the World Athletics U20 Championships to be held in Cali, COL, in August 2022.
4. Russian under-15 athletes may continue to compete in under-15 international competitions as ANAs without the need to make individual applications to the Doping Review Board.<sup>2</sup>
5. For the avoidance of doubt, Russian masters-level athletes must apply for ANA status if they wish to compete in international competitions that are under World Athletics' jurisdiction, but not if they are only competing in events that are under the jurisdiction of the World Masters Association, not of World Athletics.
6. Council may revoke the ANA process at any time, in its absolute discretion, (a) if the Taskforce advises that satisfactory progress is not being made against the milestones and KPIs set out in the Reinstatement Plan; or (b) if any of the 20 athletes designated to compete as ANAs in the competitions listed in paragraph 2 above commits an anti-doping rule violation. In addition, the ANA quota of 20 set at paragraph 2 will be automatically reduced by 25% for each separate failure to comply with the ANA requirements (whether of additional testing or otherwise).
7. The Doping Review Board and the AIU (with the input of the Taskforce) are authorised to revise the ANA process where they consider it necessary or helpful to do so to ensure that process remains fit for purpose.

Rune Andersen, Taskforce Chair  
1 December 2021

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<sup>1</sup> The quota applies only to the senior version of these events, and not to any age-category equivalent of these events.

<sup>2</sup> This includes the Children of Asia Games to be held in Vladivostok from 27 July to 8 August 2022.