



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS ŠVIETIMO, MOKSLO IR SPORTO MINISTERIJA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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To: Presidents of International
Sport Federations and Organisations

16 March 2023
No. SR-1018

Re. Sanctions against Russia and Belarus in sport

Please find attached to this letter the joint message of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania and Lithuanian national sport organisations.

We strongly object to the participation of Russia's and Belarusia's athletes and officials under a neutral flag in international competitions. Those, who benefit from the funding of their governments and participate in competitions organised by their national sports associations cannot in any way be considered neutral.

As long as Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine, we see no possibility for Russians and Belarusians to return to international competitions, and Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials, also – their national and club teams are not welcome in Lithuania.

We also attach Recommendation on cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

We invite you to also choose sides. Remaining "neutral" during this concrete war obviously plays into the hand of aggressor.

Yours sincerely,

Jurgita Šiugždiniene
Minister

Encl. Declaration on the position of Lithuanian sport associations on the imposition of sport sanctions on Russia and Belarus
Recommendation on cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus

c.c. Mr Vadym Guttsait, Minister for Youth and Sports of Ukraine

DECLARATION

Position of Lithuanian sport associations on the imposition of sport sanctions on Russia and Belarus

15 March 2023

We, the undersigned Lithuanian sport associations and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, declare that since the beginning of Russia's aggression against Ukraine on 24 February 2022, we have taken the same position that **Russian and Belarusian athletes must not have the right to participate in any international sports competitions, including qualification for the Olympic Games.**

As a result of the war waged by Russia and supported by Belarus, Ukrainian athletes, unlike Russian and Belarusian ones, have no possibility to train in safe conditions. Ukrainian sports facilities are being destroyed and more than 220 members of the Ukrainian national team have already been killed in the war.

We are outraged by the statement of the International Olympic Committee of 25 January 2023, which contains provisions opening up a pathway for Russian and Belarusian athletes to return to the international sports arenas and to participate in the upcoming Olympic Games, and find it unacceptable.

The intention to return Russian and Belarusian athletes to international competitions under the guise of neutrality is an attempt to justify the aggression that these countries are carrying out in Ukraine and their widely disseminated propaganda, and to use sport as a distraction from their crimes.

We certainly cannot consider such a situation to be in line with the Olympic spirit.

As representatives of the Lithuanian sports community we believe that Russian and Belarusian athletes must not compete under any flag, because athletes, who mostly use the funding from their governments and participate in competitions organised by their national sports associations, can in no way be considered neutral, **and we are therefore opposed to Russian and Belarusian athletes competing under a neutral flag in international competitions and also to their competing in Lithuania.**

In view of the above arguments, we take the position that as long as Russia continues its aggression in Ukraine, we do not see any possibility for Russian and Belarusian athletes to return to international competitions, and that Russian and Belarusian athletes, their national teams and club teams are not welcome in Lithuania.

Signed by:

1. Jurgita Šiugždiniienė, Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania
2. Asta Narmontė, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Paralympic Committee
3. Laura Šaučikovaitė-Astrauskienė, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Shooting Sport Union
4. Gintautas Vileita, President of the Traditional Wrestling Federation of Lithuania
5. Mindaugas Banelis, Secretary General of the Lithuanian National Skiing Association
6. Eduardas Rudas, President of the Lithuanian Sambo Federation
7. Eimantas Skrabulis, President of the Lithuanian Athletics Federation

8. Algimantas Antanas Gudiškis, President of the Lithuanian Gymnastics Federation
9. Sandra Martinkienė, President of the Lithuanian Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation
10. Virginijus Visockas, President of the Lithuanian Dance Sport Federation
11. Raimundas Daubaras, President of the Lithuanian Sailing Union
12. Dainius Zubrus, President of the Hockey Lietuva
13. Andrejus Zemitan, President of the Lithuanian Muaythai Federation
14. Vydas Gedvilas, President of the Lithuanian Basketball Federation
15. Vytautas Jasutis, President of the Lithuanian Skating Federation
16. Vilius Aleliūnas, Executive Director of the Lithuanian Orienteering Federation
17. Karolis Ramoška, President of the Association of Lithuanian Technical Sport Federations
18. Antanas Kupša, the Lithuanian Correspondence Chess Federation
19. Arnoldas Januškevičius, President of the Lithuanian Blind Sports Federation
20. Leonardas Čaikauskas, President of the Lithuanian Hockey Federation
21. Zenonas Misiūnas, President of the Special Olympics Lithuania
22. Erlandas Petrauskas, President of the Lithuanian Powerlifting Federation
23. Tomas Gurkšnys, President the Lithuanian Jetski Sport Federation
24. Aurelijus Kinas, President of the Lithuanian Underwater Sport Federation
25. Sandra Jablonskytė, President of the Lithuanian Judo Federation
26. Milda Koreivaitė, President of the Lithuanian Climbing Sport Federation
27. Inga Navickienė, President of the Lithuanian Table Tennis Association
28. Aistis Baronas, President of the Lithuanian Modern Pentathlon Federation
29. Vermidas Neverauskas, President of the Lithuanian Baseball Association
30. Mykolas Krasnickas, the Lithuanian Discgolf Federation
31. Algirdas Kepežinskas, President of the Lithuanian Badminton Federation
32. Rolandas Kubilius, President of the Lithuanian Kettlebell Lifting Federation
33. Romas Petrukanecas, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Canoe Federation
34. Vidmantas Satkus, President of the Lithuanian Chess Composers' Society
35. Vytautas Čepas, President of the Lithuanian Weightlifting Federation
36. Donatas Simanaitis, President of the Lithuanian Bushido Federation
37. Andžej Stefanovič, President of the Tug of War Lithuania
38. Darius Šaluga, President of the Lithuanian Boxing Federation
39. Ričardas Zareckis, President of the Lithuanian Flying Disc Federation
40. Gintarė Šakytė, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Equestrian Federation
41. Tomas Būdas, President of the Lithuanian Sports Fishing Federation
42. Aleksandras Leonavičius, President of the Lithuanian Taekwon-Do Federation
43. Mindaugas Griškonis, President of the Lithuanian Rowing Federation
44. Arūnas Kamandulis, President of the Lithuanian Mountaineering Association
45. Edgaras Stankevičius, President of the Lithuanian Football Federation
46. Indrė Čelkienė, President of the Lithuanian Students' Sports Association
47. Saulius Batavičius, President of the Lithuanian Triathlon Federation
48. Kęstutis Skučas, President of the Lithuanian Sport Federation for the Disabled
49. Edvinas Kriūnas, President of the Lithuanian Deaf Sport Committee
50. Vygantas Zalieckas, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Curling Association
51. Andrius Danilaitis, President of the Lithuanian Kickboxing Federation
52. Darius Čerka, President of the Lithuanian Volleyball Federation
53. Paulius Baltramiejūnas, President of the Lithuanian Billiard Federation
54. Irmantas Kukulskis, President of the Lithuanian Rugby Federation
55. Virginija Paliukaitė, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Tennis Union
56. Virginija Ogulevičienė, President of the Lithuanian Speed Skating Association
57. Giedrė Leskauskienė, President of the Lithuanian Motorcycle Sport Federation
58. Vytautas Polujanskas, President of the Lithuanian Fencing Federation

59. Saulius Binevičius, President of the Lithuanian Swimming Federation
60. Giedrius Dambrauskas, President of the Lithuanian Wrestling Federation
61. Amatolijus Asajavičius, President of the Lithuanian Water Polo Federation
62. Darius Levickis, President of the Lithuanian Cycling Federation
63. Arvydas Baltrūnas, Director of the Lithuanian Chess Federation
64. Edgaras Riabko, President of the Lithuanian Motorboat Federation
65. Laura Urvakytė, Secretary General of the Lithuanian Archery Federation
65. Remigijus Arlauskas, President of the Lithuanian National Skiing Association
66. Arūnas Daugirdas, President of the Lithuanian Biathlon Federation



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National sport federations
The Lithuanian Union of Sport Federations
Non-governmental organisations leading
The Paralympic sport movement and the
sport movements for the blind, deaf,
intellectual or mobility impaired in Lithuania
The Lithuanian Students' Sports Association
Cc:
The National Sports Agency
The Lithuanian National Olympic Committee of Lithuania
The Association of the Heads of Lithuanian
Municipal Sport Divisions

13 February 2023
No. SR-600

**Re. RECOMMENDATION ON COOPERATION WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the 'Ministry') has already informed in its letter No. SR-1011 dated 25 March 2022 that in view of the military aggression of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the 'RF') and the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter referred to as the 'BR') against Ukraine and the serious violation of international law by such actions, the Ministry recommends to Lithuanian sports organisations to refuse to allow citizens of Russia and Belarus, athletes, administrators and coaches who have **legal** (e.g. have contracts with Russian or Belarusian sports clubs or sports federations), **commercial** (e.g. have promotion contracts with Russian or Belarusian brands or cities that sponsor them) **or public** (e.g. work for Russian or Belarusian state or municipal bodies or companies) and **political relations** (e.g. are members of a Russian or Belarusian political party or members of a power structure (e.g. belong to sports clubs of the Russian or Belarusian armed forces, internal affairs systems, such as 'Dinamo', 'CASK')) with Russian or Belarusian legal entities to participate in international high-performance sport competitions or any other sporting events held in the Republic of Lithuania.

The Ministry's position is unequivocal and has not changed; we hereby therefore urge sports organisations to contribute in all possible ways and actions and to express their position against the Russian war and terrorism being waged in Ukraine and the complicity of Belarusian regime in it.

The Ministry's sports policy strongly advocates and recommends:

1. Not to participate in sports competitions in which athletes and teams from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus representing their countries or participating under white flag are invited and participate. National sports federations that comply with this provision will be funded by the Ministry using the funding model used during the COVID-19 pandemic (the results of previous competitions will be counted).

2. Not to invite or allow participation of citizens of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus representing their countries in sports competitions and events organised in Lithuania.
3. When organising sports competitions in Lithuania, we encourage participants to voluntarily sign a declaration alongside the application form (licence), calling for an end to the war in Ukraine, opposing terrorism and aggression in Ukraine, and expressing opposition to the politics of Russia and Belarus.
4. To call on its international sports federation urging not to allow Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete in World and European Championships and Olympic qualifying events, and to prevent international referees from these countries from officiating at international sporting competitions. Subject to legal/procedural options and after assessing the potential impact, to demand: expulsion or suspension of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus from international organisations, international institutions and other multilateral formats, as well as the expulsion/non-election of the representatives of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus from the governing bodies of international organisations, and the termination of the programmes of international organisations with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.
5. Not to send invitations and letters of mediation on visa issues to citizens of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, to contact EU partners requesting that visas not be issued in their countries or that only single-entry visas be issued, and to inform, in the event of direct requests from the embassies of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus in Vilnius, that such correspondence should be channelled only through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (except in cases provided for in international agreements on consular relations).
6. Not to participate in sports events or competitions of any format organised by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, including those organised in cooperation with the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and not to maintain any contacts, and, when participating in multilateral formats, to actively condemn the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the support of the Belarusian regime for this aggression, with the assistance of or through the participation of the representatives of the like-minded countries, and to call for an immediate cessation of military aggression.

The Ministry will initiate the legalisation of these recommendations and their legal implications.

We encourage national sports federations and sports organisations to follow these recommendations, we look forward to your support, and we ask you to make these recommendations known to your members and partners and to encourage compliance.

Jurgita Šiugždinienė
Minister