



International Ski  
Mountaineering  
Federation

# ***CRITERIA FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES IN ISMF COMPETITIONS***

In force as from **29 December 2025**

Recognised by:  
 International  
Olympic  
Committee

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Winter Olympic Federations

Member of:  
 ARISF

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## PREAMBLE

On 14 October 2023, the Plenary Assembly of the International Ski Mountaineering Federation (ISMF) approved to start a process for the reinstatement of athletes holding Russian or Belarusian passports as neutral athletes starting from 2024.

Under the terms of the approved process and these criteria, which adhere to guidelines issued by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on 28 March 2023, athletes with Russian or Belarusian passports will be required to obtain neutral licences as a precondition to register themselves to ISMF events from 2024.

The ISMF Council decision was based on Task Force recommendations presented on 27 February 2024. The Task Force was appointed by the Bureau on 23 October 2023. The recommendations followed a working period during which meetings were held with the Athletes Representatives, Coaches Representatives, Compliance Office, members of the Rules Commission and a broad assortment of stakeholders.

The decision to initiate the process of reinstating athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports was not taken lightly by the Plenary Assembly, with remains firm condemning the Russian aggression to Ukraine and continues to stand by our Ukrainian National Federation and ski mountaineering athletes, and the Ukrainian people. At the same time, the Plenary Assembly considered the mission of sport and the politicisation of the athletes, with a strong belief in the values of Olympism and inclusion. Therefore, a delicate balance between the different positions was found, and a system which could be implemented fairly in the future also for conflicts in different areas was created.

Other provisions are still enforced, including:

- No senior athlete will be able to represent Russia or Belarus;
- No flag, anthem, colours, or any other identifications whatsoever of these countries will be displayed at any senior competition or meeting, including the entire venue;
- No Russian or Belarusian government or state official can be invited to or accredited for any international sports event or meeting;
- No international event will be organised or supported by the ISMF in Russia; and staff, including referees, with Russian or Belarusian passports will remain suspended.

On 19 December 2025, the ISMF received a formal communication from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) conveying an updated recommendation adopted by the IOC Executive Board at its meeting of 9–10 December 2025, and subsequently supported by the Olympic Summit on 11 December 2025, concerning the participation of youth athletes with Russian and Belarusian passports in international competitions<sup>1</sup>. In line with this recommendation, and pursuant to the mandate approved by the ISMF Plenary Assembly in 2023, the ISMF has amended its AIN Criteria to clarify that youth athletes are no longer subject to AIN licensing requirements and may participate in all ISMF international youth competitions, including team disciplines.

The updated IOC recommendation also clarifies that the previous restriction on organising or supporting international sports events no longer applies to Belarus. This clarification is reflected in the present Criteria.

## 1. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The present criteria have been adopted by the ISMF with the objectives of ensuring the integrity and security of sporting competitions and the respect of the Olympic values. The criteria shall be applicable to all ISMF sports disciplines, but only for ISMF senior competitions, i.e. in particular the ISMF World Cups, ISMF Masters World Championships, Continental and World Championships and the ISMF Series.

<sup>1</sup> [Olympic Summit reaffirms athletes' fundamental rights to access sport without political interference](#)

The present criteria only apply to senior competitions, excluding the U18 and U20 categories and related events. Therefore, Russian and Belarusian U18 and U20 athletes should be allowed to compete in all international U18 and U20 competitions in individual and team sports without additional eligibility requirements, such as background checks. In addition, standard ISMF or LOC protocols regarding flags, anthems, uniforms, and related elements should apply at U18 and U20 competitions to the U18 and U20 athletes provided that their respective national sports organizations are in good standing.

U18 and U20 Russian and Belarusian athletes who wish to compete in ISMF senior-category competitions must apply for a Senior AIN license according to the AIN Criteria.

## **2. PARTICIPATION SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC EXCLUSION CRITERIA**

From the issuance of this criteria and subject to its revocation or amendment in accordance with Article 15 below, Russian and Belarusian athletes and National Officials may be granted an Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence (needed to register and to participate in ISMF events) provided that neither of the following exclusion criteria apply:

- 2.1 Non-compliance with any ISMF regulations
- 2.2 Current contract with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency
- 2.3 Support for the war in Ukraine. Any form of verbal, non-verbal or written expression, explicit or implicit, at any time since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, in particular public statements, including those made in own social media, participation in pro-war demonstrations or events, and the wearing of any symbol in support of the war in Ukraine, for example the "Z" symbol, are considered to be acts of support to the war in Ukraine.
- 2.4 Non-compliance with WADA Anti-Doping requirements.

## **3. DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING**

As a strict condition to be granted an AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence, each applicant shall execute a personal Declaration and Undertaking (Annex 1) confirming that neither of the exclusion criteria set forth in Art. 2 above applies in his or her respect at the time of the execution of the declaration nor at any time thereafter and for as long as these criteria remain in force.

The athletes have the obligation to be truthful and complete in their declaration.

Concealment of elements constituting of the exclusion criteria by the National Member may lead to sanctions against the athlete and the National Member as provided in Art. 14 below.

## **4. LICENCE APPLICATION**

In order to apply for an Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence the following documentation shall be provided to the ISMF following within announced deadlines and fully executed and signed:

- A Declaration and Undertaking, including personal information details;
- A Personal Data Processing Information;
- The applicant copy of the passport;
- National Member confirmation that the Declaration and Undertaking has been executed by the athlete / National Official identified on the declaration;

- National Member confirmation that the content of the Declaration and Undertaking is truthful, complete and correct;
- The proposal for clothing, uniforms and equipment that the Athlete/Neutral Official is going to wear during and in relation to the ISMF events.
- Confirmation of payment of the Fee, respectively:
  - Elite AIN Licence: 5.000 Euro;
  - Neutral Official Licence: 2.500 Euro.

If necessary, the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office may conduct interviews with applicants for an AIN Licence.

The Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence Fee is non-refundable.

The Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence Fee covers the costs of eligibility review, investigation, anti-doping (if applicable), processing and administration.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CHECKS

Upon receipt of full and completed documentation to apply for an Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence as per Art. 4 above, checks will be performed, respectively may be repeated from time to time - even after the renewal of the Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence -, to ensure that the content of the Declarations and Undertakings is and remains truthful and correct.

The initial checks and related investigations will be entrusted to an independent investigation agency. The same applies to verifications to the extent they may become needed at a later stage. The ISMF shall not be held responsible for any competition missed by the athletes and their National Officials while their application is being reviewed.

The National Member and the athlete shall fully and actively cooperate in the verification process. Adverse inferences may be drawn from lack of active cooperation.

If, upon receipt of the declarations or at any time, thereafter, including but not limited to the occasion of an entry process, it becomes apparent that an exclusion criteria applies despite the confirmation set forth in the declarations, the Ethics and Compliance Office will declare the concerned athlete ineligible for as long as this criteria remains in effect. The decision of the Ethics and Compliance Office becomes immediately enforceable

## 6. ANTI-DOPING TESTING

Upon receipt of full and completed documentation to apply for a new Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence as per Art. 4 above, Elite Athletes will be contacted by the International Testing Agency (ITA) for Anti-Doping tests. Additionally, and upon risk assessment, Elite athletes may be entered in the ISMF Registered Testing Pool (RTP).

## 7. PUBLICATION

The list of confirmed Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Official Licence holders who have successfully passed all the checks will be published on the ISMF website.

## 8. COUNTRY CODE

The athletes with Elite AIN Licence will be shown on all lists (registration, starting and ranking) as neutral athlete with country code AIN (Athlètes Individuels Neutres).

## **9. REGISTRATION TO COMPETITIONS**

Athletes / National Officials eligible pursuant to these criteria shall be granted an Elite AIN Licence / National Officials Licence to register and to participate in ISMF competitions by their respective National Member as provided for by the ISMF rules and guidelines, subject however to the following specific additional requirements which must be strictly observed.

The entry process shall be performed as a neutral administrative process. It has the sole purpose of allowing the entry and participation of the athletes with neutral licence pursuant to the criteria as individual athletes. Collectively, they do not form a delegation representing their respective National Member.

The ISMF shall not be held responsible for any competition missed by the athletes and their Neutral Official while their application is being reviewed.

For the avoidance of doubt, the National Member is and remains fully responsible in respect of their respective athletes, notably and without limitation as regards consequences under the ISMF Anti-Doping Rules of antidoping violations, whether committed out or in competition, including at competitions to which the athletes participate pursuant to these criteria.

## **10. NEUTRAL OFFICIALS**

Neutral Officials with neutral licence to provide individual support to athletes entered at a competition, in particular in coaching, technical and medical respects, may be entered for ISMF competitions. Only Neutral Officials reasonably needed may be entered and the number of entries may be accordingly limited. Entries for Neutral Officials must specify their support function(s) in connection with a or several athletes.

Neutral Officials policy is the same as for athletes except the Anti-Doping testing. However, in case of sanctions of the athletes for non-compliance with these AIN Criteria, their Neutral Official Licence is sanctioned as well.

## **11. REQUIREMENTS TO BE OBSERVED AT COMPETITIONS**

The athletes and Neutral Officials shall wear neutral uniform, clothing and attire. The main colour shall be in one tone preferably in turquoise / solid grey / black colour (without designs nor patterns). They shall not bear any inscription (including any abbreviation) referring to Russia or Belarus, and/or any national emblems, symbols or logos, nor any markings or designs, which can be perceived as making reference to the athletes respective country or National Member, nor any inscription, sign or marking which may be understood as a reference to the war and support thereto. The uniform and clothing must be submitted to ISMF for approval together with the licence application (see Art. 4). Any use of uniform or clothing other than the one approved by the ISMF may result in the athletes immediate refusal to start, disqualification and are subject to AIN licence revocation.

The athletes and Neutral Officials shall abstain from any statement or behaviour (of any nature whether by word, song, signs or move) which may be interpreted as a support to the war. These requirements apply at the competition venue(s) but also in the wider environment of the competition, including any official area apart from the venue(s) or area used in connection with the competitions, without limitation, the hotels and travel to and from the competition venue(s) and to from the competition city, or on any occasion (for example official invitations, press conferences etc.) held in connection with the competition.

The ISMF (represented by the officials entrusted with the implementation of the requirements set forth in this article) may take immediate measures to preserve the competition and require the concerned athlete or Neutral Official to immediately remove or cover any element and/or to immediately discontinue any behaviour, which in their discretion may not be in compliance with the above. In case of refusal, the concerned athlete and/or Neutral Official may immediately be removed from the competition venue and/or be excluded from the competition.

If the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office considers that further consequences may be warranted beyond exclusion from the specific competition, it may refer the matter to the Disciplinary Commission.

## **12. DISTINCTIVE NATIONAL SIGN**

The appearance of all emblems, names, acronyms, colours, flags and anthems linked to Russia and Belarus (current or historical) is prohibited at all ISMF senior competitions and events.

Where the use of a flag is necessary to identify AIN senior athletes (e.g. at ceremonies, protocol events, on-site, TV/media displays etc.), either an ISMF flag or no flag shall be used. The anthem to be used to represent any AIN senior athlete at an official ceremony (opening or closing, flower or award etc.) shall be a neutral anthem (other than the Olympic anthem). The Russian and Belarussian anthems (or any anthem linked to the Russian Federation or Republic of Belarus) must not be played or sung at any point during ISMF senior competitions.

LOCs of senior events shall withdraw references to Russia and/or Belarus on all documents and publications in both printed and electronic format, including, but not limited to, start lists, result lists, rankings and TV graphics. The acronym to be used instead of RUS and BLR shall be AIN (Athlètes Individuels Neutres).

## **13. MEDIA INTERACTIONS**

Neutral Individual Athletes and their National Officials will be allowed to go through the mixed zone. They will be allowed to give interviews to media during such competitions.

## **14. SANCTIONS AND WITHDRAWAL OF THE AIN LICENCE**

Senior athletes or Neutral Officials in respect to which the first exclusion criteria set forth in Art. 2 of these criteria becomes subsequently applicable have the obligation to inform the ISMF and to voluntarily waive their Elite AIN Licence / Neutral Officials Licence. Failure to do so may lead to sanctions, including the withdrawal of the AIN Licence.

The ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office shall have the authority to withdraw any Elite AIN Licence or Neutral Official Licence at any time if it determines that the athlete or official no longer meets the eligibility requirements under these criteria, including but not limited to the occurrence or discovery of any of the exclusion criteria outlined in Art. 2.

The decision to withdraw a licence shall be notified in writing and becomes immediately enforceable upon issuance. The Athlete or Neutral Official shall be deemed ineligible to participate in ISMF events as of the effective date of the decision.

In urgent or manifest cases (e.g., newly confirmed affiliation with the military or evidence of support for the war), the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office may implement an interim suspension with immediate effect pending full review and final decision.

Any such decision by the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office shall be subject to appeal in accordance with Art. 17 of these criteria.

Any discriminatory behaviour towards an athlete of Russian or Belarusian sporting nationality authorized to participate in an event under the present criteria shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings. The proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Disciplinary Commission Rules.

## **15. DURATION AND EXPIRY OF THE AIN LICENCE**

The Elite AIN Licence and Neutral Official Licence shall be valid only for the competitive season for which it has been granted. For the avoidance of doubt, the validity of each AIN Licence – also in case of its renewal – shall expire on 30 June following the end of the competitive winter season (e.g., 30 June 2025 for the 2024–2025 season).

## **16. RENEWAL OF THE AIN LICENCE**

The AIN Licence will be automatically renewed at the beginning of each season upon receipt of a non-refundable renewal fee of EUR 1'500, provided that the following conditions are met:

- The AIN Licence from the previous season has not been withdrawn or revoked by the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office according to Art. 14 of these AIN Criteria.
- No exclusion criteria under Article 2 have arisen since the last approval.

By paying the renewal fee, the Athlete or Neutral Official confirms the continued validity of the previously submitted Declaration and Undertaking (Annex 1), including the accuracy of personal information, the absence of any exclusion criteria, and compliance with ISMF neutrality requirements.

The ISMF reserves the right to re-verify any renewed AIN Licence at its discretion pursuant to Article 5. Should any new facts emerge, that would trigger exclusion under Article 2, the renewal may be denied or revoked.

The renewal fee must be paid at least 30 working days before the registration deadline for the first ISMF event in which the Athlete or Neutral Official intends to participate. Late payments may be considered exceptionally, but ISMF does not guarantee timely processing and confirmation of renewal before the event.

Participation in ISMF competitions without a valid, renewed AIN Licence remains strictly prohibited.

## **17. DECISION OF THE ISMF ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE OFFICE**

Decisions of the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office rendered under these Criteria, including decisions concerning eligibility, licence issuance, renewal, suspension, or revocation, shall be final and binding.

Any decision of the ISMF Ethics and Compliance Office relating to the grant, refusal or withdrawal of an AIN Licence may be appealed exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

## **18. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENTS, REPEAL**

This Policy enters into force immediately. It may be amended from time to time or repealed by the ISMF Council.

Further specifications subject to ISMF Rules and Guidelines published on the ISMF website.

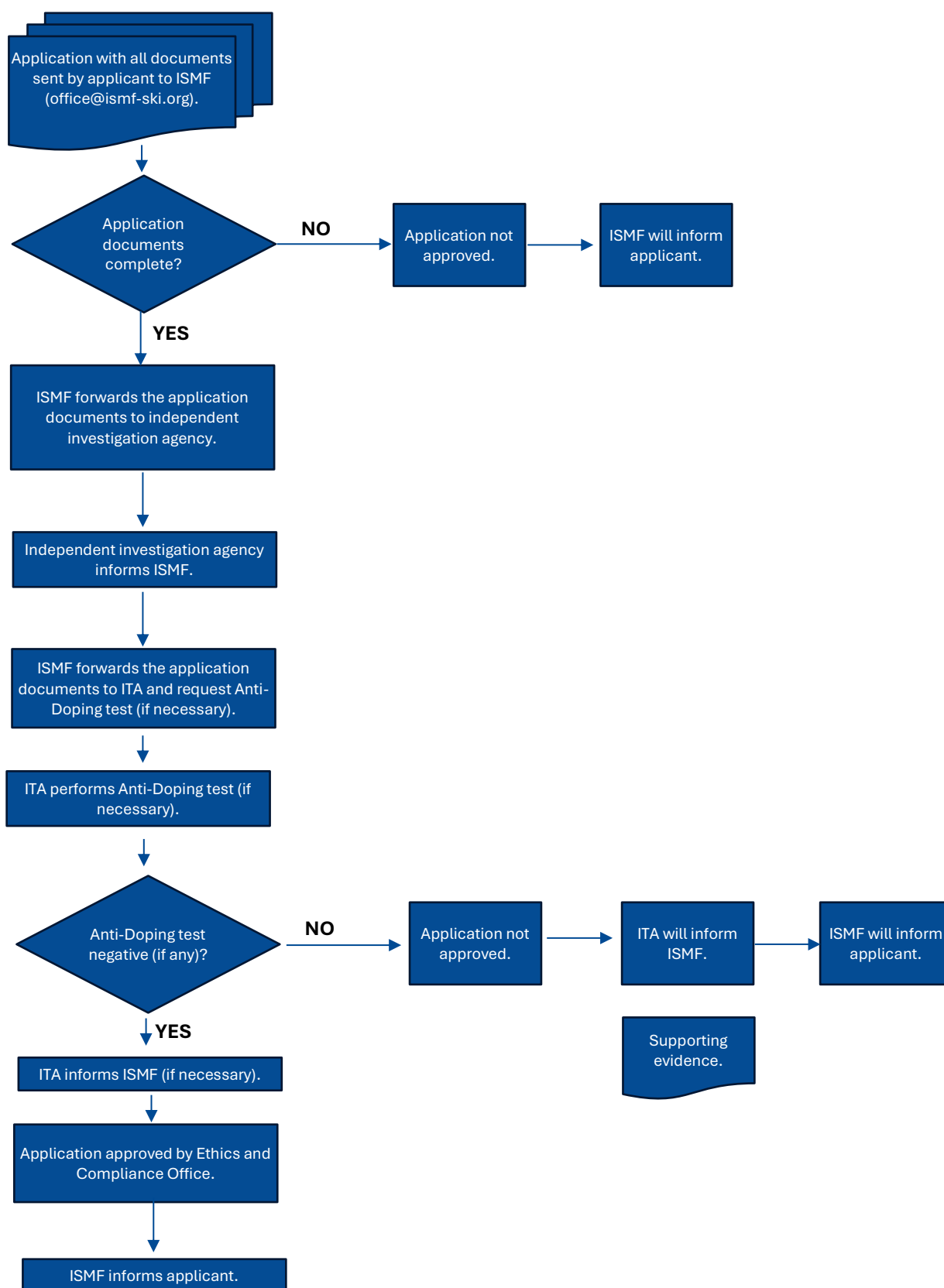
This policy as well as any amendment thereof shall be promptly published on the ISMF website.



Policy issued by the ISMF Council on 27 February 2024 and amended on 4 December 2024, on 19 June 2025, on 25 September 2025 and on 29 December 2025.

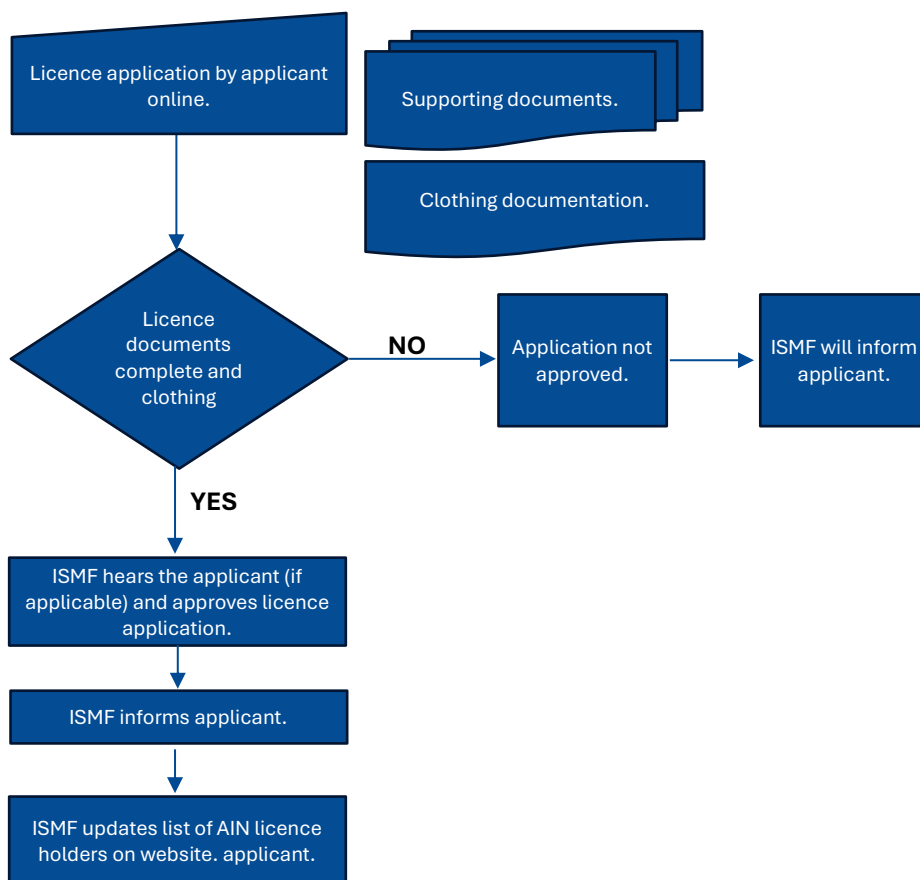
License applications pending at the time of adoption of a new version of the AIN Criteria by the ISMF Council will continue to be governed by the AIN Criteria in force at the time of the application. As a result, license Fees will not be refunded to applicants, even if they no longer need a license to participate in ISMF competitions.

## APPENDIX 1<sup>2</sup>–FLOW CHART “APPLICATION PROCESS”



<sup>2</sup> The appendices (1 and 2) are intended solely for illustrative purposes and shall not be deemed substantive or determinative in the interpretation or application of this regulation .

## APPENDIX 2 - FLOW CHART "LICENSE PROCESS"



## ANNEX 1 – DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING

I, the undersigned (athlete / National Official), being fully aware of and understanding the contents of this declaration and undertaking, accept the following terms and conditions as prerequisite to obtain an AIN Licence / Neutral Official Neutral Licence:

1. As part of my general obligations as participant to ISMF competitions, I shall at all times abide by the ISMF Rules and Guidelines including without limitation all applicable provisions such as the ISMF Anti-Doping Rules.
2. I further hereby specifically confirm to have read, understood and accept to follow the ISMF CRITERIA FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN ATHLETES IN ISMF COMPETITIONS (hereinafter the “criteria”).
3. I hereby confirm that I understand and accept that my eligibility to participate and the validity of my corresponding entry in ISMF competitions is specifically subject to the conditions set forth in the criteria.
4. I do hereby expressly confirm that I do not intend to breach the criteria, however, I acknowledge that if such a breach occurs, I will be subject to the consequences of such actions.
5. I undertake to duly and fully cooperate with any process of verification performed pursuant to Article 5 of the criteria. I understand and accept that adverse inferences may be drawn from failure to fully cooperate with the verification process, notably through refusal to answer and/or to provide evidence.
6. I hereby confirm that I understand and accept that additional Anti-Doping testing will be required as specified in Article 6 of the criteria.
7. I hereby understand and accept that my participation to any ISMF competition will be subject to the requirements outlined in the criteria and I undertake to fully abide thereby.
8. I hereby confirm that I am not funded by any means by the Russian/Belarusian government\* and I have not received, nor will I receive any financial support, sponsorship, assistance or similar aid from the Russian/Belarusian government\* concerning my participation in the ISMF events.
9. I undertake to refrain from making public statements, comments, taking any action or behaving in any way that may harm the interests of the competition, its integrity or the participant’s neutrality required as a condition of participation.
10. This declaration and undertaking and the criteria are subject to Swiss Law and any dispute in connection therewith shall be exclusively and finally decided by the Court of Arbitration for Sport Lausanne.

\*military organisations

Last name	
First name	
Birthday (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Gender	
Email address (if minor, parent’s/guardian’s email)	
Function (for National Officials)	
ADAMS ID (if existing)	

Place/ Date:

Signature:

(if minor, parent’s/guardian’s signature)

Place/ Date:

Signature: