

## INDIVIDUAL NEUTRAL ATHLETES (AIN) – Updated on 9 December 2025

### The current situation

- On 2 December, [CAS ruled](#) that Russian and Belarusian athletes and support personnel should be allowed to compete as Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) in qualification events for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games, as well as in the Games themselves, in compliance with the IOC eligibility criteria for AIN.
- On that same day, athletes interested in applying for AIN status could start doing so by sending an email to [neutralathletes@fis-ski.com](mailto:neutralathletes@fis-ski.com)

More information on the process and the criteria taken into account to grant AIN status is available in the [FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Policy](#) and its [annex document](#).

### Q&A

- **What is the review process like, exactly?**

There are a few steps to the process:

- Each eligible individual who submits a request by email receives an application form, along with the legal documents by which the AIN status is bound.
- Upon receiving the completed application form, FIS confirms that the applicant fulfils certain preconditions and, if so, then initiates the process of submitting each application to an eligibility check conducted by an external provider.
- Upon conclusion of this due diligence, the external provider submits a report to the FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Eligibility Review Panel (AINERP) for a final decision.
  - The AINERP is composed of the FIS Secretary General, an independent sports integrity expert, and a representative of the FIS administration that presents the external due diligence report and anti-doping status.

- **How long does this process take?**

FIS will put all the effort into expediting this process while ensuring, above all else, that it goes through the necessary due diligence. Cases can differ substantially between one another in terms of complexity, and the ability to process cases also depends on how many applications are received, but in general the entire review process is expected to be conducted within a few days and should not exceed 30 days as stated in the FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Policy.

- **How will we know who the athletes that have been accepted as AIN are?**

FIS will publish the list of AIN athletes on its website and provide updates anytime there are changes to that list.

- **What does an athlete need to do to qualify for the Olympic Winter Games?**

Athletes with AIN status are subject to the existing Olympic qualification criteria for each discipline. Also, it is important to note that in the disciplines in which athletes collect FIS points, those points obtained by athletes of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality shall remain protected until June 2026.

The qualification and quota information is available for each [Olympic](#) discipline.

- **Have Russian and Belarusian athletes been submitted to anti-doping tests during the years that they have been ineligible to compete in FIS events?**

During the period of ineligibility of Russian and Belarusian athletes, FIS has put in significant efforts to ensure that the FIS Anti-Doping out-of-competition activities remained fully operational for athletes from these countries.

Hundreds of anti-doping tests have been conducted under the FIS authority, and samples have been shipped to WADA-accredited laboratories.

The number of tested athletes per nation has remained stable over the course of the last several years. Any variations are due to the fact that the anti-doping program is constantly being adapted based on risk assessment, available testing analyses, and intelligence information.

- **Can FIS ensure the safety and security of Russian and Belarusian athletes at its events?**

Ensuring that FIS events are a safe and secure space for everyone is a non-negotiable commitment and a shared responsibility of FIS, Local Organizing Committees, and local authorities, as well as of every individual participating in an event.

- **What if a country denies entry to Russian or Belarusian citizens?**

The FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Policy states very clearly that the host country visa and entry policies remain in place and are determined solely by the host country. FIS bears no responsibility for denial of visas or entry to any persons granted eligibility under the FIS Individual Neutral Athlete Policy.

- **What are the conditions under which athletes can compete as AIN?**

Participation in competitions as AIN is conditional on strict neutrality towards the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. This requirement is outlined in the following points:

- No voluntary link with the Russian or Belarusian military or with any other national security agency.
- No communication associated with Russia or Belarus.
- No support for the war in Ukraine.

At FIS competitions, the presence of AINs is also conditioned to a few specific aspects:

- Individual Neutral Athletes may not participate in team competitions.
- No country symbols should be displayed at the events, that is:
  - o Flags of Belarus and Russia may not be raised or displayed.
  - o National anthems of Belarus and Russia shall not be played.
  - o Uniforms worn by AINs must be different from the national colors of Belarus and Russia.
- Individual Neutral Athletes may receive medals and participate in award ceremonies, but these medals shall not count towards any medal table by nations.

**/ENDS**