

## 2020 Revised Terms of Reference for the World Athletics Russia Taskforce

### 1. Background

- 1.1 On 9 November 2015, an Independent Commission appointed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (**WADA**) published a report that (1) identified systemic failures within Russia that prevent or diminish the possibility of an effective anti-doping programme, to the extent that neither the All-Russia Athletic Federation (**ARAF**, now known as the Russian Athletics Federation, or **RusAF**), nor the Russian national anti-doping organisation (**RUSADA**), nor the Russian Ministry of Sport could be considered compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code (**Code**); and (2) noted that as a result there was a deeply rooted culture and practice of use of prohibited performance-enhancing substances and methods by Russian athletes, fostered by complicit coaches, administrators, medical personnel and laboratory personnel, who had persuaded Russian athletes to dope and/or facilitated and/or covered up their doping.
- 1.2 In response, on 13 November 2015 the IAAF Council<sup>1</sup> provisionally suspended RusAF's membership of the IAAF with immediate effect, on the ground that RusAF had breached the objects of the IAAF pertaining to eradicating doping and safeguarding the authenticity and integrity of the sport. Council also stated that to regain IAAF membership, RusAF would have to fulfil a list of requirements, and that an inspection team would be appointed, consisting of an independent chair, Rune Andersen, and a number of Council members, to determine whether or not those requirements had been met (the **Russia Taskforce** or **Taskforce**). The Council members subsequently appointed with the Chair to the Russia Taskforce were Abby Hoffman (CAN), Anna Riccardi (ITA), Frank Fredericks (NAM), and Geoff Gardner (NFI). Frank Fredericks was subsequently replaced on the Taskforce by Rožle Prezelj. In December 2015, Terms of Reference for the work of the Taskforce were published (the **2015 Terms of Reference**).
- 1.3 In response, RusAF replaced its senior officials and governing council, and reported regularly on its compliance efforts to the Taskforce, but as of November 2019 RusAF had not yet satisfied all of the requirements for reinstatement.
- 1.4 On 21 November 2019, the Athletics Integrity Unit (**AIU**) charged RusAF with breaching its obligations under the IAAF/World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules (**ADR**), specifically by failing to report anti-doping rule violations and failing to cooperate with the AIU's investigation into anti-doping rule violations, and by engaging in improper acts in relation to doping in athletics and obstructing, hindering or delaying the AIU's investigation.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 22 November 2019, Council decided to suspend the reinstatement process pending resolution of the charges against RusAF. Once again, RusAF replaced its senior officials and governing council, and on 3 March 2020 RusAF's new President, Mr Evgeniy Yurchenko, formally admitted on behalf of RusAF that it had committed various violations of the ADR.
- 1.6 At its meeting on 12 March 2020, Council (1) decided to impose certain sanctions on RusAF for its admitted violations of the ADR; (2) expressed concern that there appears to have been little or no change in the deep-seated culture of lack of respect for anti-doping norms and lack of integrity in addressing doping in Russian athletics; and (3) mandated the Russia Taskforce to propose revised terms of reference for a new process for the reinstatement of RusAF to

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<sup>1</sup> The IAAF has since changed its name to World Athletics.

membership of World Athletics, such process to incorporate (insofar as is practicable) certain principles specified by Council in its decision.

- 1.7 In accordance with that mandate, the Russia Taskforce proposed these revised terms of reference, which were approved by Council at its meeting on 2 December 2020 (the **2020 Terms of Reference**), to replace the 2015 Terms of Reference with immediate effect.

## 2. **Reinstatement process**

- 2.1 In order to be reinstated to membership of World Athletics, RusAF has to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Council (by RusAF's own efforts but also by securing the support and assistance of other relevant parties, as necessary) that the following conditions (the **Reinstatement Conditions**) have been met, and can reasonably be expected to continue to be met moving forward:

- 2.1.1 RusAF complies with all of the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Program and of the World Athletics ADR that are applicable to a member federation of World Athletics;

- 2.1.2 both the AIU and RUSADA are able to carry out their respective anti-doping activities in Russia and in relation to athletes and athlete support personnel affiliated to RusAF effectively and without interference; and

- 2.1.3 the participation in international competitions of athletes and athlete support personnel who are affiliated to RusAF will not jeopardise the integrity of those competitions.

- 2.2 RusAF shall establish a Reinstatement Commission, chaired by the RusAF President and including senior representatives of the Ministry of Sport, the Russian Olympic Committee, and RUSADA, as well as at least two representatives appointed by the RusAF Athletes Commission (the **RusAF Reinstatement Commission**).

- 2.3 World Athletics may designate international experts to participate in the work and the meetings of the RusAF Reinstatement Commission.

- 2.4 The RusAF Reinstatement Commission shall draw up as soon as possible for consideration by Council a detailed plan agreed by all of the members of the Commission, listing the points that the Commission considers need to be actioned in order:

- 2.4.1 to ingrain a culture of zero tolerance for doping throughout Russian athletics, including (without limitation) among coaches and other athlete support personnel who are employed by the Centre for Sports Preparation and/or through regional Ministries of Sport;

- 2.4.2 to rehabilitate RusAF so that it becomes a trusted ally of World Athletics in the fight for clean sport; and

- 2.4.3 to meet the Reinstatement Conditions and to prove a basis for World Athletics and its stakeholders to believe that they will continue to be met moving forward.

- 2.5 The plan proposed by the RusAF Reinstatement Commission shall incorporate, to the extent necessary, the specific requirements developed under the 2015 Terms of Reference, including the Verification Criteria and the conditions set out in the Reinstatement Roadmap.

- 2.6 The RusAF Reinstatement Commission may consult with and/or seek guidance from the Russia Taskforce in drawing up the plan. In any event, it shall keep the Taskforce informed on progress.
- 2.7 Council will decide, having considered any recommendations of the Taskforce, whether to approve the plan (with or without amendments).
- 2.8 Once a plan has been approved by Council (the **Reinstatement Plan**), World Athletics will retain international experts (who may or may not be the same international experts designated to work with the RusAF Reinstatement Commission) to oversee implementation of the Reinstatement Plan on the ground in Russia, in order to ensure that the change in culture is reflected and implemented in RusAF's strategy and in all of its operational policies, practices, procedures, and decision-making.
- 2.9 The RusAF Reinstatement Commission and the international experts will report to the Taskforce on progress against the Reinstatement Plan, and on any obstacles that have been encountered to progress against the Reinstatement Plan.
- 2.10 The framework pursuant to which RusAF, the RusAF Reinstatement Commission, the international experts, the Russia Taskforce and Council will interact in respect of the Reinstatement Plan will be as set out in the Framework Agreement made between World Athletics and RusAF on 10 November 2020 (the **Framework Agreement**).
- 2.11 RusAF will reimburse World Athletics for all of the costs and expenses of the international experts mentioned in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.8 above, as well as for all of the other costs and expenses incurred by World Athletics in imposing, enforcing and assessing compliance with the Reinstatement Conditions and the Reinstatement Plan, in accordance with the Framework Agreement.

### **3 Mandate of the Taskforce**

- 3.1 The Taskforce is mandated to take all such steps as it deems necessary to determine whether the Reinstatement Conditions have been met and can reasonably be expected to be met moving forward, including (without limitation):
  - 3.1.1 acting as the intermediary between RusAF/the RusAF Reinstatement Commission and Council in respect of the Reinstatement Plan, liaising as necessary with RusAF/the Reinstatement Commission on behalf of Council, and reporting back to Council on progress;
  - 3.1.2 coordinating and meeting as necessary with representatives of relevant third parties, including WADA, RusAF's members and affiliated organisations (including regional members/affiliate organisations), RUSADA, the Russian Ministry of Sport, and the Russian Olympic Committee; and
  - 3.1.3 overseeing the work of the international experts and receiving from the international experts regular updates of the Reinstatement Commission's and RusAF's efforts and progress towards Reinstatement Conditions.
- 3.2 The Doping Review Board will remain responsible for determining applications made by athletes affiliated with RusAF for special eligibility to participate as 'Authorised Neutral

- Athletes' in international competitions. The Russia Taskforce will liaise with the Doping Review Board as necessary to facilitate the execution of their respective mandates.
- 3.3 The Chair will provide progress reports to the World Athletics President from time to time, as necessary. The Chair will also provide progress reports at meetings of Council, including commentary on progress to date and also on any perceived obstacles to further progress, including obstacles presented by third parties.
- 3.4 These 2020 Terms of Reference will be published on the World Athletics website. Thereafter the Russia Taskforce will make any public statements, including comments to the media, through the Chair alone.
- 3.5 The Russia Taskforce will make decisions unanimously or by majority vote, with each member of the Russia Taskforce having one vote (so five in total). In the event of a deadlock (e.g., due to an absence or an abstention), the Chair will have the casting vote. In the event the Chair is in the minority, he will have the right to dissent and/or to resign from the Taskforce, as he sees fit.
- 3.6 If and when the Russia Taskforce concludes that RusAF has demonstrated (by its own efforts but also by securing the support and assistance of other relevant parties, as necessary) that the Reinstatement Conditions have been met, and can reasonably be expected to continue to be met moving forward, such that in the opinion of the Russia Taskforce RusAF's membership of World Athletics should be restored, the Chair will submit a written report to that effect to Council, via the World Athletics President (the **Final Report**). Any Taskforce member who dissents from this conclusion shall be entitled to have that dissent recorded in the Final Report, together with the reasons for that dissent. The Final Report will also contain any recommendations that the Russia Taskforce may consider appropriate as to how to ensure ongoing satisfaction of the Reinstatement Conditions (such as, for example, reinstatement of RusAF's membership of World Athletics being made conditional upon periodic demonstration moving forward of continuing compliance with the Reinstatement Conditions).
- 3.7 The Final Report will be published on the World Athletics website (less any confidential and/or sensitive information that the Chair decides should be redacted prior to publication).

#### **4 Organisation/resources**

- 4.1 The Russia Taskforce is free to organise its activities as it sees fit. It may meet in person or via teleconference, as the Chair sees fit.
- 4.2 World Athletics will supply the administration and operational resources required by the Taskforce to carry out its work.
- 4.3 World Athletics will engage counsel as agreed by the World Athletics President with the Chair to provide legal advice and assistance to the Taskforce in accordance with the instructions of the Chair, and will bear the related costs and expenses directly (such costs and expenses to be subject to reimbursement by RusAF in accordance with paragraph 2.10, above).
- 4.4 All members of the Russia Taskforce will be bound by and required to comply with the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct.
- 4.5 The remuneration of the Taskforce and policy on reimbursement of expenses will be dealt with in a separate agreement.

**5**      **Term**

- 5.1      The Taskforce has already commenced its work. There is no fixed deadline for completion of the Taskforce's mandate. It is to strive to complete that mandate as quickly as is reasonably practicable, but in no circumstances is that objective to be allowed to compromise the integrity of its conclusions and recommendations.
- 5.2      Save where Council decides otherwise, the mandate of the Taskforce will end only once it has delivered the Final Report to Council. If any member of the Taskforce steps down or otherwise becomes unavailable before that point, the Chair and the World Athletics President will decide together whether that member should be replaced, and if so then by whom. If the person who steps down or otherwise becomes unavailable is the Chair, the World Athletics President will decide how to proceed, in consultation with the remaining members of the Taskforce.

**6**      **Amendments/Matters not otherwise provided for**

- 6.1      These 2020 Terms of Reference may be amended by the World Athletics President, on behalf of the World Athletics Council, as necessary following consultation with the Chair.
- 6.2      Any matter arising that is not addressed in these 2020 Terms of Reference will be determined by the World Athletics President, on behalf of the World Athletics Council, in consultation with the Chair.

*2nd*  
\_ December 2020



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Sebastian Coe, World Athletics President  
For and on behalf of the World Athletics Council