

Guidance Note
2019 Applications for Neutral Athlete Status

1. Following the IAAF Council's decision on 4 December 2018 not to reinstate the Russian Athletics Federation to membership, this note is issued to provide guidance to athletes from Russia who seek to compete as Neutral Athletes in International Competitions taking place in 2019.
2. The note should be read in conjunction with the latest version of the IAAF Guidelines for Applications under Rule 22.1A that were approved in December 2017: [\[Link\]](#) (the Guidelines).
3. Athletes granted Neutral Athlete status for 2018 who wish to re-apply for such status in 2019 should submit their applications on the provided form: [\[Link\]](#).
4. Athletes who were denied Neutral Athlete status for 2018 or earlier and wish to re-apply for 2019, or who are submitting an application for Neutral Athlete status for the first time for 2019, should submit their applications in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Guidelines.
5. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the Guidelines, no application shall be reviewed by the Doping Review Board in 2019 unless it is accompanied by an official letter from RusAF, providing any relevant information that the federation holds for the applicant, and specifically advising whether it agrees that the applicant meets all relevant requirements and whether it endorses the application.
6. In accordance with paragraphs 7.5 and 8 of the Guidelines, the following additional guidance is provided:
 - a. Any athlete seeking to compete as a Neutral Athlete in the **U20 category** at the **IAAF World Cross Country Championships** to be held in Aarhus, Denmark on 30 March 2019 must have been in a registered testing pool and subject to fully WADA Code-compliant drug-testing for a period of 6 continuous months prior to the competition, consistent with the Doping Review Board's practice for previous U20 events at World level, including the 2018 World U20 Championships in Tampere.
 - b. Any athlete seeking to compete as a Neutral Athlete in the **European U20 Championships** to be held in Boras, Sweden from 18-21 July 2019 must similarly have been in a registered testing pool and subject to fully WADA Code-compliant drug-testing for a period of 6 continuous months prior to the competition. Athletes not currently in a registered testing pool wishing to compete at the European U20 Championships must be added to the National Registered Testing Pool by no later than 1 January 2019 and enter their whereabouts directly into ADAMS from that date. A failure to provide updated whereabouts information in ADAMS from 1 January 2019, or a failure by an athlete to be

available for testing on an unannounced basis at any time at the whereabouts provided, will be reported to the Doping Review Board and taken into consideration in their assessment of the athlete's application to compete in the European U20 Championships.

- c. In all other cases, the Relevant Period i.e., the period under paragraph 7.5 of the Guidelines for which the applicant must have been in a registered testing pool and subject to fully WADA Code-compliant drug-testing shall be 12 continuous months prior to the competition for which approval is sought, consistent with the Doping Review Board's practice in 2017 and 2018.

Note: any applicant who is granted Neutral Athlete status to compete in the U20 category at the World Cross Country Championships or at the European U20 Championships on the basis set out in paragraph 6 above must apply separately to compete in other International Competitions and be able to establish a Relevant Period of 12 months for such purpose.

7. In accordance with the Guidelines, the IAAF will not process applications if they are submitted less than 4 weeks before the entry deadline for the International Competitions for which eligibility is sought. The relevant deadlines for submitting Neutral Athlete applications to compete in the key World and European competitions in 2019 are therefore as follows:

Competition	Date of competition	Deadline for Entries	Deadline for submitting Neutral Athlete applications	Relevant Period (para 7.5)
European Indoor Championships	1-3 March 2019	21 February 2019	24 January 2019	12 months
European Throwing Cup	9-10 March 2019	27 February 2019	30 January 2019	12 months
IAAF World Cross Country Championships	30 March 2019	18 March 2019	18 February 2019	12 months for senior races
				6 months for U20 races
European Race Walking Team Championships	19 May 2019	9 May 2019	11 April 2019	12 months
European U23 Championships	11-14 July 2019	1 July 2019	3 June 2019	12 months
European U20 Championships	18-21 July 2019	8 July 2019	10 June 2019	6 months
IAAF World Championships	26 September – 6 October 2019	16 September 2019	19 August 2019	12 months

8. For International Competitions for which there are no entry deadlines (e.g., IAAF Diamond League, World Indoor Tour and other invitational one-day meetings), applications should be submitted as early as possible to ensure that they can be processed in time. If an applicant is granted Neutral

Athlete status to compete in a one-day meeting, it is still for the relevant Meeting Director to decide if the applicant is invited to the meeting.

9. Applications that meet all the relevant requirements under the Guidelines shall be processed by the IAAF Secretariat without delay and referred to the Doping Review Board. The Doping Review Board shall conduct its review of the application in accordance with the Guidelines as soon as practicable but it cannot guarantee doing so by any particular deadline. In particular, and without limitation, the Doping Review Board notes that, as a condition of WADA's recent reinstatement of RUSADA, the Russian authorities must permit an independent expert to access the instruments in the Moscow laboratory to extract an authentic copy of the underlying analytical data for samples collected from Russian athletes in the period 2012-2015 by no later than 31 December 2018 and, once the data has been reviewed to determine which samples need to be re-analysed, the Russian authorities must permit re-analysis of those samples at a WADA-accredited laboratory by no later than 30 June 2019. The Doping Review Board reserves the right not to approve individual applications for Neutral Athlete status for 2019 until such time as it has been able to review such data for those applicants and, if need be, subject outstanding samples to re-analysis, and thereby satisfy itself that the applicant is not implicated (knowingly or unknowingly) in the matters disclosed therein.