



# **NEUTRAL ATHLETES REGULATIONS**

*(In force from 1 November 2019)*



All athletes, including athletes who have been granted Neutral Athletes status in accordance with Rule 3 of the Eligibility Rules, are subject to all World Athletics Rules and Regulations. However, due to the specificities of their status, the World Athletics Competition Rules, the World Athletics Technical Rules, the World Athletics Series Regulations and the World Athletics Marketing & Advertising Regulations are amended as follows in relation to the participation of Neutral Athletes.

## **1. Participation of Neutral Athletes**

### **1.1 Principles**

Clause 3.1 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations does not apply to Neutral Athletes. Instead, athletes who have been granted Neutral Athlete status in accordance with Rule 3 of the Eligibility Rules may apply to World Athletics to participate in the World Athletics Series Competitions via the Liaison person (as described in 1.6 below), by email at the latest by the entry deadline. Neutral Athletes may only apply to compete in individual events and provided they have achieved the Entry Standard for the event within the Qualification Period.

### **1.2 Qualification of Neutral Athletes by Entry standards**

In relation to Clause 3.3.2 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations, Neutral Athletes may achieve the Entry Standard in national competitions held in the country of the suspended Member Federation provided the competition in question meets all relevant requirements under World Athletics Rules.

### **1.3 Number of Neutral Athletes in each event**

The following paragraph shall be added to Clause 3.4 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations:

World Athletics may accept up to three Neutral Athletes in each event on condition that they are qualified. If more than three Neutral Athletes achieve the Entry Standard, the three who have achieved the best qualifying performance will be accepted. A fourth Neutral Athlete may compete as the Reigning World Champion or Diamond League / Hammer Throw Challenge Winner Wild card.

### **1.4 Final Entries**

Clause 3.6 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations shall be amended as follows for Neutral Athletes:

Final Entries of Neutral Athletes must be submitted by email to [events@worldathletics.org](mailto:events@worldathletics.org). The submission of Final Entries by the time of the final entry deadline which is not later than two Mondays before the first day of competition (e.g. Monday, 24 July for a competition starting on Friday, 4 August), midnight Monaco time.

### **1.5 Confirmation of Neutral Athlete Participation**

A Clause 3.6.1 shall be added to the World Athletics Championships Regulations which should read as follows:

World Athletics will confirm the participation of all Neutral Athletes in writing having first verified their qualification status. In confirming the participation of any Neutral Athlete, World Athletics may impose such conditions on their participation as it sees fit, including but not limited to the signature of a Neutral Athlete Agreement.

#### 1.6 Neutral Athlete Liaison Person

A Clause 3.6.2 shall be added to the World Athletics Championships Regulations which should read as follows:

To assist in the registration of Neutral Athletes, World Athletics may designate a single person to act on behalf of all Neutral Athletes seeking to participate from the same suspended Member Federation. If designated, the Neutral Athlete Liaison will be responsible for:

co-ordinating all aspects of the Neutral Athletes' participation at the World Athletics Championships (including the participation of any accompanying persons – see below);

submitting the Neutral Athletes' visa requests and entry information for the Neutral Athletes and any accompanying persons (including their travel information and accommodation needs) directly to [events@worldathletics.org](mailto:events@worldathletics.org);

co-ordinating the Neutral Athletes and accompanying persons' travel with events and the World Athletics Travel Office; and

co-ordinating all administrative procedures on site at the World Athletics Championships, including the payment of any due amount and the processing of final confirmations.

#### 1.7 Neutral Athlete Support personnel

Each Neutral Athlete is entitled to be accompanied by one person who is accredited for the period of the World Athletics Championships and may also apply for one Personal Coach Package (as described in the M Circular letter) for an additional person.

Neutral Athletes shall submit the name of the person whom they wish to accompany them at the World Athletics Championships by the same deadline as their application to compete in 1.1. All Neutral Athletes Support personnel shall be approved by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Executive Officer may at their discretion require further information to be provided about any nominated person before it gives its approval. All Neutral Athlete Support Personnel approved by the Chief Executive Officer shall be eligible to participate to competitions, whether held under the World Athletics Rules or the rules of an Area or a Member notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 3 of the Eligibility Rules.

The Chief Executive Officer's decision whether or not to approve Neutral Athletes' Support Personnel shall be subject to the appeal provisions set out below. In confirming the participation of any accompanying person, the Chief Executive Officer may impose such conditions on their participation at the World Athletics World Championships as they see

fit, including but not limited to the signature of a Neutral Athlete Support Personnel Agreement.

### 1.8 Neutral Athlete Uniform

One sentence shall be added before the last sentence of Rule 5.1 of the Technical Rules, which shall read as follows:

At all Competitions under paragraphs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6 and 1.7 of the International Competition definition, Neutral Athletes shall participate in the uniform clothing approved by World Athletics.

Clause 3.8 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations shall be amended as follows for Neutral Athletes:

Neutral Athletes may participate in the competition and related ceremonies in any neutral uniform of their choice provided that it conforms to World Athletics Rules and Regulations (including without limitation the World Athletics Marketing & Advertising Regulations) as amended hereby and does not contain any colour(s) of, or otherwise bear any resemblance to, the team uniform and/or flag of the Neutral Athlete's suspended Member Federation/country.

All Neutral Athletes must bring their team uniform to the accreditation centre for inspection, during the accreditation procedures and shall abide by any direction or ruling by Chief Executive Officer in their discretion at any time concerning the uniform to be worn. A failure to wear the uniform approved by World Athletics or to abide by any direction or ruling of World Athletics concerning the uniform to be worn will be referred to the Advertising Commissioner and/or the relevant Referee and may result in sanctions as set forth under Clause 11.1.1 of the Advertising Regulations.

## 2. **Financial Conditions**

The first paragraph of Clause 4.2 of the Technical Regulations for World Athletics Championships, shall be amended as follows for Neutral Athletes (the rest of the provision remaining unaltered):

### 2.1 Financial Support

All Neutral Athletes finally entered into the Competition will benefit from return economy class travel and full-board accommodation.

## 3. **Technical Matters and Requirements**

### 3.1 Technical Meeting

Clause 7.7 of the Technical Regulations for World Athletics World Championships shall be amended as follows for the Neutral Athletes:

Two days prior to the first day of the Competition, a Technical Meeting shall be held which one representative (and, if necessary, an interpreter) may attend on behalf of the Neutral Athlete.

#### **4. Protocol Matters**

##### **4.1 Opening Ceremony**

Clause 8.1 of the Technical Regulations for World Athletics World Championships shall be amended as follows for Neutral Athletes:

The participation of Neutral Athletes and their accompanying persons at the Opening Ceremony shall be at the specific direction of World Athletics in consultation with the LOC. Neutral Athletes shall be represented at the Opening Ceremony by:

A placard bearing the name 'Neutral Athletes' and/or 'ANA';

The World Athletics flag or such other neutral flag as World Athletics may so direct.

Both placard and flag shall be paraded into the Opening Ceremony venue in a way and at a time to be proposed by the LOC.

##### **4.2 Medal Ceremonies**

Clause 8.2 of the World Athletics Championships Regulations shall be amended as follows for Neutral Athletes:

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals shall be presented to the first three placed athletes in each individual event which may include Neutral Athletes.

If a Neutral Athlete is the first placed athlete in an event, the World Athletics anthem shall be played instead of the anthem of the Neutral Athlete's country.

##### **4.3 Closing Ceremony**

Clause 8.3 of the Technical Regulations for World Athletics World Championships shall be amended as follows for the Neutral Athletes:

The participation of Neutral Athletes and their accompanying persons at the Closing Ceremony shall be at the specific direction of World Athletics in consultation with the LOC.

#### **5. Conduct of Neutral Athletes**

##### **5.1 General**

Neutral Athletes and their accompanying persons are expected at all times to demonstrate the highest standards of behavior at the World Athletics Championships both on and off the field of play.

Neutral Athletes and their accompanying persons shall act at all times with the utmost good faith towards World Athletics, the LOC, officials, other athletes and athlete support personnel and each other.

Neutral Athletes and their accompanying persons shall comply with the Advertising Regulations for the whole duration of the Competition, including the events, the laps of honour, all ceremonies (victory, opening and closing) interviews and press conferences.

The display, by any person, including without limitation Neutral Athletes, of the national colours, flag, name (in any language or format) national emblem or other national symbol of a suspended Federation shall be prohibited in the same terms as Political/Religious Advertising under the Advertising Regulations and shall be subject to the sanctions set forth under Clause 11.1.1 of the Advertising Regulations.

Clause 3.1.1(b) of the Advertising Regulations shall be amended as follows for the Neutral Athletes:

No national colours, flag, name (in any language or format) national emblem or other national symbol of the country of the Neutral Athlete shall appear on their body (including without limitation hair colouring, skin colouring, tattoos, jewellery, hair shaving and nail varnishes), apparel (including without limitation clothing, jewellery, hairbands, shoes and bags - as an exception to Clause 3.1.6 of the Advertising Regulations), equipment or medical supports (including without limitation bandages and tapes) at any time whilst in the Host City or in the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, Warm-up Area, Call Room, training grounds and hotels.

The national anthem of the country of the Neutral Athlete shall not be played or sung at any time within the vicinity of any venue associated with the event including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds and hotels.

No flags, banners or posters bearing the national colours, name or flag of the country of the Neutral Athlete shall be taken into the vicinity of any venue associated with the event, including but not limited to the competition venue, warm-up area, call room, training grounds and hotels.

No statements shall be given, written, broadcast, posted or distributed in any format during the event by any Neutral Athlete or his/her accompanying person on behalf of anyone other than themselves as individuals.

The following Clauses the Advertising Regulations shall not apply to Neutral Athletes:

4.1.2(c), 4.1.2(d), 4.1.2(f) and 4.1.2(g);

4.1.3(c), 4.1.3(d), 4.1.3(f) and 4.1.3(g);

4.1.4(c) and 4.1.4(d).

The second sentence of World Athletics Rule 29 of the Competition Rules shall be amended as follows:

The Call Room Judges shall ensure that Neutral Athletes are wearing the uniform clothing approved by World Athletics, that the bibs are worn correctly and correspond to the start lists, that shoes, number and dimension of spikes,

advertising on clothing and athletes' bags comply with the Rules and Regulations (including as amended herein) and that unauthorised material is not taken into the arena.

Appendices 1 to 4 to the Advertising Regulations shall be amended to reflect the absence of the national flag of the suspended Federation.

## 5.2 Sanctions

Neutral Athletes and their Support Personnel who act in breach of the Advertising Regulations as amended hereby shall be reported to the Advertising Commissioner and/or other relevant official who may impose sanctions in accordance with the Advertising Regulations.

Neutral Athletes and their Support Personnel who act in breach of the Technical Regulations or the Competition Rules as amended hereby shall be reported to the relevant Referee and/or other relevant official who may impose sanctions in accordance with the Technical Regulations or Competition Rules.

The Advertising Commissioner and/or relevant Referee and/or relevant other official may thereafter refer the matter to the Athletics Integrity Unit for further investigation and/or disciplinary measures. The Athletics Integrity Unit may also of its own volition take up any case which has already been dealt with in the first instances by the Advertising Commissioner and/or relevant Referee and/or other relevant official where it considers that the case may involve a potential breach of the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct.

Additionally, a violation by an Applicable Person of the Rules and Regulations as defined in the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct may constitute a breach of the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct (3.3.16 of the Integrity Code of Conduct). In addition, breach of any of the standards set out above may amount to a breach of the World Athletics Integrity Code of Conduct. In either case, such potential breach may be subject to investigation, provisional measures (including provisional suspension) and prosecution before the Disciplinary Tribunal by the Athletics Integrity Unit.

## 6. **Final Provisions**

Council shall have discretion to decide on any matters not provided for in these Regulations. The relevant party may appeal a final decision of the Chief Executive Officer to the Council. The Council's decisions on such matters shall be final and binding.