

Confirmed

Executive Committee of the Latvian Olympic Committee
at the meeting of May 18th, 2022
Decision No. 3.2. Protocol No. 6.

**Guidelines
for the participation of the athletes and representatives of the Latvian Olympic Sports Federations
in the international sports**

On February 24th, 2022, in gross violation of the Olympic Truce and the international law, the Russian Federation (Russia), with the support of the Republic of Belarus, launched an aggressive war and invaded Ukraine, causing harm to Ukrainian society, and death and indescribable suffering to its people.

On March 3rd, 2022, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia passed the Law on Support of Civilians of Ukraine ¹, the purpose of which is to provide support to Ukrainian civilians leaving Ukraine or unable to return to Ukraine due to the armed conflict caused by the Russian Federation, while it is ongoing, as well as providing general support to the society of Ukraine.

In its statement of April 21st, 2022 “On the Aggression of the Russian Federation and War Crimes in Ukraine” ², the Saeima acknowledges that the Russian Federation is currently committing genocide against the Ukrainian people and strongly condemns the military aggression and large-scale invasion of Ukraine with the support and involvement of the Belarussian regime.

In view of the above circumstances and in order to prevent the influence of Russia’s “soft power” in Latvian sports, Amendments to the Sports Law were adopted on April 28th 2022 ³, which prohibit, inter alia, teams registered in the Republic of Latvia, athletes and sports personnel participate in the sports competitions taking place in the territory Russia and Belarus or directly related to these countries, to organize such competitions in the territory of the Republic of Latvia and to co-operate with sports agents from Russia and Belarus.

Basing on the above, the Latvian Olympic Committee (LOC)

joins the condemnation of the genocide, inhuman violence and discrimination against the Ukrainian people;

considers it necessary to take decisive steps to curb the “soft power” of Russia and Belarus in both the Latvian and international sports;

urges all LOC members, Latvian sports organizations, athletes and sports personnel to:

- 1) ensure without delay full compliance of its sports organizations with the provisions of the Sports Law and other applicable regulatory enactments both with regard to the officials of these sports organizations, as well as with the participation in sports competitions and the organization thereof;
- 2) in addition to the restrictions specified in the Sports Law, take all necessary actions to prevent the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes and sports personnel in sports competitions or any other sports-related events in Latvia or events organized by Latvian sports organizations abroad;
- 3) to initiate and support the suspension or termination of the membership of the national sports organizations of Russia and Belarus in the relevant international sports organizations;
- 4) to initiate and support the suspension or termination of the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes and sports personnel in sports competitions included in the calendars of international sports organizations or any other sports-related events;
- 5) to initiate and support the suspension or removal of Russian and Belarussian sports officials from any duties in international sports organizations;
- 6) to assess in each case the usefulness of their participation in the work of such sports organizations, as well as in competitions included in their calendars or in any other sports-related events, which have not excluded, suspended or revoked Russian and Belarussian national sports organizations, athletes and sports personnel;
- 7) to encourage athletes and sports personnel of their respective sport who at the same time have a combined nationality of Latvia and Russia or Belarus to make a clear choice with which one of these countries they wish to maintain their commitment;
- 8) to evaluate the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes in Latvian sports clubs in each individual case in accordance with the applicable regulatory enactments and these Guidelines;
- 9) to provide all possible support to Ukrainian sports organizations, athletes and sports personnel in order to prevent, at least in part, the dire consequences of war and the negative impact on their participation in sport;
- 10) to the extent possible and without prejudice to applicable laws and regulations and these Guidelines, to support

¹<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/330546-ukrainas-civiliedzivotaju-atbalsta-likums>

²<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/331839-for-krievijas-federacijas-agresiju-un-kara-noziegumiem-ukraina>

³ <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/332005-grozijumi-sporta-likuma>

those Russian and Belarusian athletes and sports personnel who clearly and unequivocally condemn the aggressive Russian and Belarusian warfare in Ukraine and are actively pursuing the cessation of such hostilities and the restoration of peace;

- 11) to apply the policy of “zero tolerance” in relation to those representatives of the Latvian sports society whose activities and opinions expressed are in conflict with the interests of the State of Latvia;
- 12) to express condemnation, publicly and privately, of the aggressive war of Russia and Belarus in Ukraine, and support to the victims of this war and to the territorial integrity of Ukraine;
- 13) to explain publicly and privately the position formulated in these Guidelines to both Latvian and foreign members and colleagues;
- 14) in case of questions or uncertainties regarding regulatory enactments and their application, apply to the Sports Department of the Ministry of Education and Science, but in case of sports or ethical issues - to the Ethics Commission of the LOC.
