INTERNATIONAL BOWLING FEDERATION

12 November 2026

**To: Russian Bowling Federation / Belarusian Bowling Federation**

**Subject: Reinstatement of Russian and Belarusian Athletes in IBF Competitions**

Dear President,

I am writing to formally advise you of a decision taken by the International Bowling Federation (IBF) Executive Committee at its meeting held in Munich on 11 October 2026 concerning the eligibility of athletes holding Russian and Belarusian passports to participate in IBF competitions.

Following consideration of the matter and the evolving position of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Executive Committee approved the reinstatement of eligible Russian and Belarusian athletes to IBF World Championships and other IBF-sanctioned international competitions, on the same sporting basis as athletes from other IBF Member Federations.

In reaching its decision, the Executive Committee took into consideration the IOC's decisions in 2026, including the lifting of recommended restrictions on Belarusian athletes and the subsequent revision of its recommendations concerning the participation of Russian athletes and teams in international competitions governed by International Federations.

Accordingly, eligible athletes from your Federation may once again be considered for participation in IBF competitions through the normal national representation arrangements.

Participation will remain subject to the following requirements:

1. **IBF Eligibility:** Athletes must satisfy the applicable IBF Articles of Association, eligibility regulations and competition rules.
2. **National Representation:** Athletes must be entered and represented through a recognised IBF Member Federation in accordance with normal IBF entry and national representation procedures.
3. **Anti-Doping:** All athletes must comply fully with the applicable anti-doping rules and requirements, including any relevant testing and monitoring requirements.
4. **Integrity and Safeguarding:** Athletes and officials must comply with all applicable IBF integrity, safeguarding and conduct requirements.
5. **Host-Country Requirements:** Participation remains subject to the laws, regulations and entry requirements of the country hosting the competition.
6. **Competition Protocols:** The use of national flags, anthems, uniforms and other national identification at IBF events will be governed by the applicable IBF regulations and event protocols.
7. **Membership Financial Obligations:** All outstanding membership fees, annual subscriptions and any other membership dues owed by your Federation to both the International Bowling Federation (IBF) and its respective Zone Organisation must be paid in full before any athletes from your Federation are permitted to participate in IBF World Championships or other IBF-sanctioned international competitions. Confirmation of settlement of all outstanding dues may be required before competition entries are accepted.

The IBF considers this decision an important step in ensuring that eligible athletes have the opportunity to participate in international bowling competitions on sporting merit, while maintaining the integrity, fairness and proper governance of our sport.

We look forward to welcoming your athletes back to IBF international competitions and to receiving your Federation's cooperation in implementing this decision.

Yours Sincerely



**Michael Seymour**
**CEO, International Bowling Federation (IBF)**

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