

# Eligibility of Athletes from an IOF suspended country

## Background

Where a situation arises that an International Orienteering Federation affiliated country is suspended by the IOF, the following policy has been agreed by the British Orienteering Board and will be implemented for athletes from those suspended federations.

The Board agreed the British Orienteering will follow the IOF rules (agreed in July 2024) moving forward for elite races: <https://orienteering.sport/regulations-iof-independent-athlete-status/>

### [Independent athlete status regulations](#)

#### **Elite/ WRE events in the UK:**

- Athletes from an IOF suspended country may only take part in M/W21 Elite/ WRE races if they hold Independent athlete status sanctioned by the IOF. (Note: Independent athlete applications are granted twice a year in April & November and lasts for 12 months)

#### **Non-Elite/ WRE events in the UK:**

- Athletes from a suspended country are permitted to compete in the non-elite classes at events providing they were members of a British Orienteering affiliated club or were members of an unsanctioned IOF affiliated country/ association/ club prior to their countries suspension by the IOF.
- In the case of Russian and Belarusian athletes, they are permitted to compete in the non-elite classes at events providing they were members of a British Orienteering affiliated club in 2021 and/or who had joined British Orienteering in 2022 prior to the invasion or were members of an unsanctioned IOF affiliated country/ association/ club prior to the invasion in 2022.

#### **All events:**

- No athlete from a country suspended by the IOF, who meets the entry criteria and competes either independently or in non-elite events, is permitted to wear any kit associated with the suspended country, including club or national shirts, throughout the event.
- Whilst the suspension by the IOF is in place, British Orienteering will not accept any new members from any suspended country.

## Due process for checking an athlete's status

Elite/ WRE event organisers can check the status of an Independent athlete via the IOF eventor website or by contacting British Orienteering.

For all non-elite/ WRE events, where independent athlete status isn't required, event organisers can contact British Orienteering to conduct the appropriate checks.

## Implication

This policy comes into effect with immediate effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025