



21.3.2023

Helsinki, Finland

Statement: Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials cannot return to international competitions

The Finnish Canoeing and Rowing Federation find the Russian invasion of Ukraine to be a blatant breach of international law. The Russian aggression in Ukraine has not changed. Under these circumstances, it will be unacceptable to open up for Russian and Belarusian international sports participation. We stand firmly in our position. Now, is not the right time to consider their return. Our view is in line with the statement from the national sports associations, the Olympic Committees and Paralympic Committees in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We support the IOC statement made in the Olympic Summit 9 December 2022, and reaffirmed 25 January 2023, which reinforced that the sanctions that were put in place in February 2022 remain firmly in place.

ICF should lead the international sports world by showing example of humanity, respect and peace. Our sport should take a stand and make sure that the solidarity towards Ukraine stays strong as was stated in the ICF decision 1.3.2022: *"Athletes from Russia and Belarus will be suspended from competing at any International Canoe Federation events until further notice because of hostilities in Ukraine, it was announced today. In addition to athletes, the executive committee of the ICF also voted unanimously to suspend all officials from Russia and Belarus from officiating at any event sanctioned by the governing body, and from attending or taking part in any ICF meetings, committees and forums, until further notice."*

Common statement from the national sports associations, the Olympic Committees and Paralympic committees in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

1. The situation with the war in Ukraine has not changed.
2. Therefore, we stand firm in our position, not to open for Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials in the international sports participation.
3. Now is not the right time to consider their return; that is our position.
4. We, the Nordic Olympic and Paralympic Committees and Confederations of sports, take this opportunity to reaffirm our steadfast support once again with the Ukrainian people and the demand for peace.
5. The Nordic Olympic and Paralympic Committees and Confederations of sports will work together and in close dialogue with relevant stakeholders to evaluate and monitor the situation closely.

Helsinki, Finland, 21.3.2023

Finnish Canoeing and Rowing Federation

Minna Kantsila
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