

№ 62

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Dear Mr. Antonio Arimany,

I am writing to you as President of the Ukrainian Triathlon Federation. I want to share our serious concerns about the decision made by the World Triathlon Executive Board on 31 March 2026, which allows Russian Junior, Youth, and Para athletes to return to international competition under their national flags.

We are not writing to obstruct or create conflict. We respect the work of World Triathlon. However, we believe there are two important questions that have not yet been answered, and we ask that they be addressed clearly and openly.

1. Junior and Youth Athletes Are Connected to the Russian Government

The Ukrainian Triathlon Federation's Resolution (passed on the 21st of October 2024) states that athletes who are affiliated with the Russian military and/or government should not be allowed to compete. We believe this applies directly to Junior and Youth athletes.

In the Russian Federation, sport for young athletes is funded and controlled by the government. These athletes receive support from state institutions. This means they are connected — directly or indirectly — to the same government that started and continues the war against Ukraine.

We ask: how has World Triathlon considered this when making its decision? Allowing these athletes to compete under the Russian flag also gives international recognition to a country that is at war with Ukraine. We would like a **clear explanation** of how this issue was evaluated and **why** it was decided that Junior and Youth athletes are not affected by the existing rules.

2. How Will the Conditions Be Checked?

Both the Resolution and the Executive Board's letter state that Russian athletes must not be members of the military, and must not have made public statements supporting the war. We agree with these conditions. But we are concerned about how they will be checked in practice.

We have the following specific questions:

- Who will be responsible for checking whether athletes meet these conditions?
- Who will make sure these checks are done properly and fairly?
- Will there be a system — for example, an online platform or a reporting process — where federations or other parties can submit evidence if they believe an athlete does not meet the conditions?
- How will decisions be communicated, and who will the responsible body report to?

Without clear answers, these conditions cannot be properly enforced. The Ukrainian Triathlon Federation, and many other member federations, need to trust that this process is serious, transparent, and independent.

We respectfully ask for a formal written response to this letter as soon as possible. These questions are very important — for Ukraine, for our athletes, and for the values of our sport.

We remain ready to work together with World Triathlon and all member federations in a constructive way. Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,

Bogdan Mykhalus
President, Ukrainian Triathlon Federation

