

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE: RESPONSES FROM THE SPORT ECOSYSTEM

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Centre for Sport
& Human Rights

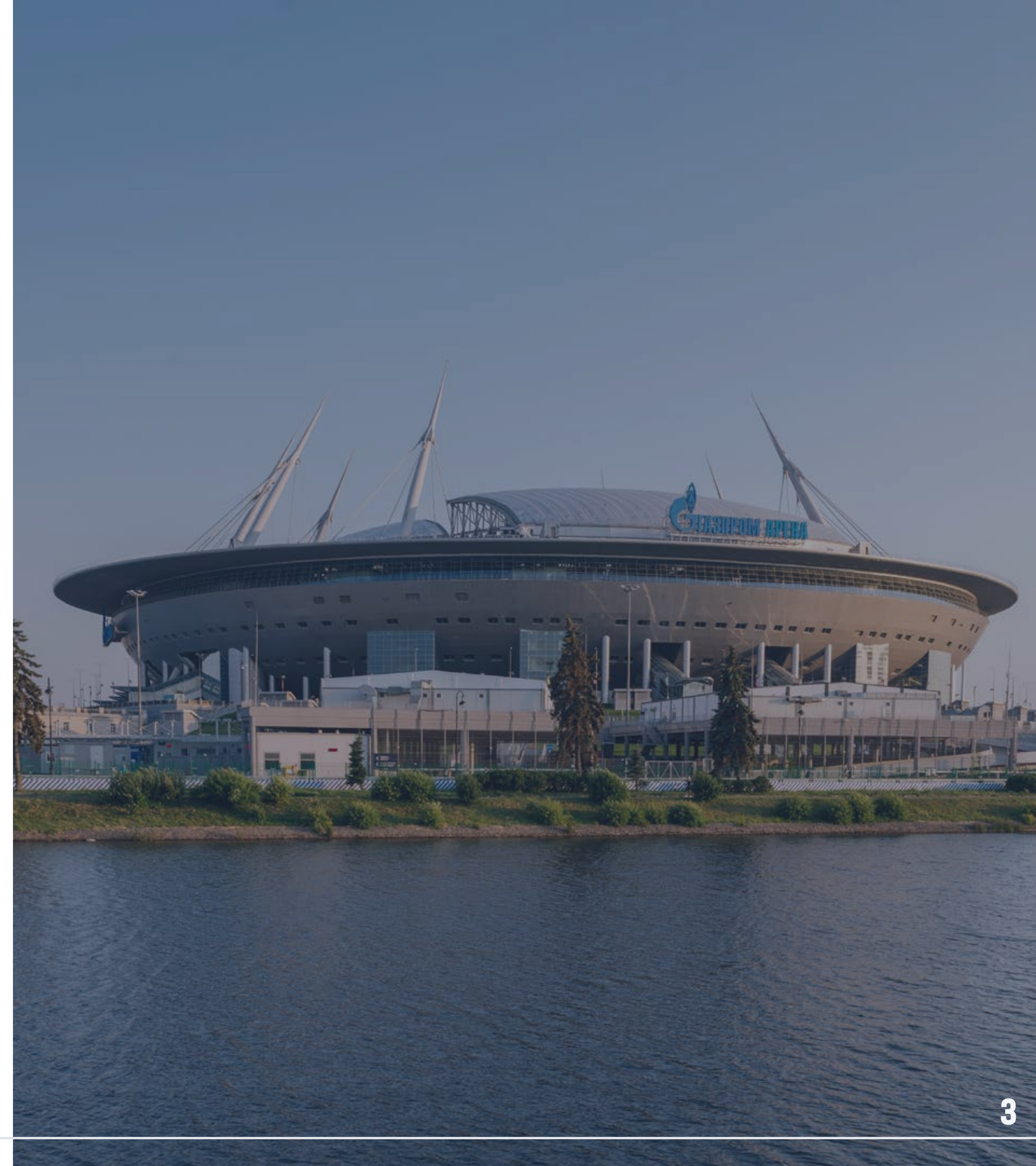
C O N T E N T S

| | |
|----|--|
| | Introduction |
| 01 | Intergovernmental Organisations |
| 02 | Governments |
| 03 | International Sport Organisations |
| 04 | Other |

THE RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE: RESPONSES FROM THE SPORT ECOSYSTEM

The Government of Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, in an escalation of the war between the two Countries that started in 2014. The invasion is the largest conventional military attack on a sovereign state in Europe since World War II and led to swift reactions to impose coordinated sanctions on the Russian and Belarusian regime, including sanctions in the areas of business, media, entertainment and sport.

This document provides an overview of some of the reactions observed by the Centre across the global sport ecosystem. The list is by no means exhaustive and aims at informing the Centre's Advisory Council discussions on this topic.



01

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

UNITED NATIONS

On 25 February, the **United Nations Security Council [1]** failed to adopt a draft resolution which would have "deplored, in the strongest terms, the Russian Federation's aggression" on Ukraine. Of the 15 member states on the Security Council, 11 were in support, whilst 3 abstained from voting. The draft resolution failed due to Russia's veto.




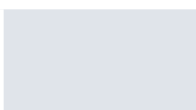
Due to the deadlock, the Security Council passed a **resolution** to convene the General Assembly for an Emergency Special Session, an unscheduled meeting to make urgent, but non-binding decisions or recommendations regarding a particular issue. Emergency special sessions are rare, having been convened only eleven times in the history of the United Nations.



On March 2, the eleventh emergency special session of the **United Nations General Assembly** culminated with the adoption of **Resolution ES-11/1**. The resolution was sponsored by 96 countries, and passed with 141 voting in favour, 5 against, and 35 abstentions (see table on page 3 below). The resolution demands a cessation in the use of force and the withdrawal of all military from Ukraine and reiterates the call for unhindered access for humanitarian support, and a return to dialogue and diplomacy.

[1] Current composition of the Security Council. Permanent Members: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States. Non-permanent Members: Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya Mexico, Norway, United Arab Emirates.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTE ON UKRAINE

02 March 2022

| | |
|------------|---|
| In Favour |  |
| Against |  |
| Abstention |  |
| Absent |  |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------|---|----------------------|
|  | Afghanistan |  | Cameroon |  | Finland |  | Kuwait |  | Nepal |  | Saudi Arabia |  | Ukraine |
|  | Albania |  | Canada |  | France |  | Kyrgyzstan |  | Netherlands |  | Senegal |  | United Arab Emirates |
|  | Algeria |  | Central African Republic |  | Gabon |  | Lao PDR |  | New Zealand |  | Serbia |  | United Kingdom |
|  | Andorra |  | Chad |  | Gambia |  | Latvia |  | Nicaragua |  | Seychelles |  | Untied Rep Tanzania |
|  | Angola |  | Chile |  | Georgia |  | Lebanon |  | Niger |  | Sierra Leone |  | United States |
|  | Antigua-Barbuda |  | China |  | Germany |  | Lesotho |  | Nigeria |  | Singapore |  | Uruguay |
|  | Argentina |  | Colombia |  | Ghana |  | Liberia |  | North Macedonia |  | Slovakia |  | Uzbekistan |
|  | Armenia |  | Comoros |  | Greece |  | Libya |  | Norway |  | Slovenia |  | Vanuatu |
|  | Australia |  | Congo |  | Grenada |  | Liechtenstein |  | Oman |  | Solomon Islands |  | Venezuela |
|  | Austria |  | Costa Rica |  | Guatemala |  | Lithuania |  | Pakistan |  | Somalia |  | Vietnam |
|  | Azerbaijan |  | Cote D'Ivoire |  | Guinea |  | Luxembourg |  | Palau |  | South Africa |  | Yemen |
|  | Bahamas |  | Croatia |  | Guinea-Bissau |  | Madagascar |  | Panama |  | South Sudan |  | Zambia |
|  | Bahrain |  | Cuba |  | Guyana |  | Malawi |  | Papu New Guinea |  | Spain |  | Zimbabwe |
|  | Bangladesh |  | Cyprus |  | Haiti |  | Malaysia |  | Paraguay |  | Sri Lanka | | |
|  | Barbados |  | Czech Republic |  | Honduras |  | Maldives |  | Peru |  | Sudan | | |
|  | Belarus |  | Dem PR of Korea |  | Hungary |  | Mali |  | Philippines |  | Suriname | | |
|  | Belgium |  | Dem Rep of the Congo |  | Iceland |  | Malta |  | Poland |  | Sweden | | |
|  | Belize |  | Denmark |  | India |  | Marshall Islands |  | Portugal |  | Switzerland | | |
|  | Benin |  | Djibouti |  | Indonesia |  | Mauritania |  | Qatar |  | Syrian Arab Rep | | |
|  | Bhutan |  | Dominica |  | Iran |  | Mauritius |  | Rep of Korea |  | Tajikistan | | |
|  | Bolivia |  | Dominican Republic |  | Iraq |  | Mexico |  | Rep of Moldova |  | Thailand | | |
|  | Bosnia-Herzegovina |  | Ecuador |  | Ireland |  | Micronesia (FS) |  | Romania |  | Timor-Lese | | |
|  | Botswana |  | Egypt |  | Israel |  | Monaco |  | Russian Federation |  | Togo | | |
|  | Brazil |  | El Salvador |  | Italy |  | Mongolia |  | Rwanda |  | Tonga | | |
|  | Brunei Darussalam |  | Equatorial Guinea |  | Jamaica |  | Montenegro |  | Saint Kitts-Nevis |  | Trinidad-Tobago | | |
|  | Bulgaria |  | Eritrea |  | Japan |  | Morocco |  | Saint Lucia |  | Tunisia | | |
|  | Burkina Faso |  | Estonia |  | Jordan |  | Mozambique |  | Saint Vincent - Grenadines |  | Turkey | | |
|  | Burundi |  | Eswatini |  | Kazakhstan |  | Myanmar |  | Samoa |  | Turkmenistan | | |
|  | Cabo Verde |  | Ethiopia |  | Kenya |  | Namibia |  | San Marino |  | Tuvalu | | |
|  | Cambodia |  | Fiji |  | Kiribati |  | Nauru |  | Sao Tome-Principe |  | Uganda | | |

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

AFRICAN UNION

On February 24, the Chair of the **African Union** and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission **called** on the Russian Federation and any other regional or international actor to imperatively respect international law, the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Ukraine, to establish an immediate ceasefire and to open political negotiations without delay, under the auspices of the United Nations.

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union issued multiple **responses** including additional economic sanctions against Russia, military supplies and humanitarian assistance.

ASEAN

The Foreign Ministers of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** **called** for an immediate ceasefire or armistice and continuation of political dialogues that would lead to sustainable peace in Ukraine.

CARICOM

The Heads of State and **Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)** strongly **condemned** the military attacks and invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and called for an immediate ceasefire and an end to all acts of aggression, the urgent withdrawal of Russian military forces in Ukraine.

GOVERNMENTS

Ministers from 37 nations signed a joint statement on Tuesday March 8 calling for sporting sanctions to be imposed on Russia and Belarus following the invasion of Ukraine "until cooperation under the fundamental principles of international law has become possible again."

Signatories include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

"Respect for human rights and peaceful relations between nations form the foundation of international sport" the statement said and also called for Russia and Belarus not to be permitted to "host, bid for or be awarded any international sporting events."

Furthermore, **"any ban should also be extended to individual athletes selected by Russia and Belarus administrators, as well as teams or cities effectively representing the states such as major football clubs"**.

02

03

INTERNATIONAL SPORT ORGANISATIONS

International sport organisations have announced sanctions against Russia and Belarus.
The measures taken by sport bodies include:



Condemning the invasion of Ukraine



Cancelling & relocating events



Preventing participation of athletes & team officials in competitions



Allowing the participation of individuals on the conditions that no association with their country is made



Suspending national sport federations' membership



Suspending leadership representation in governance structures



Suspending and/or cancelling sponsorship contracts



Withdrawing orders of honours from Government Representatives

INTERNATIONAL SPORT ORGANISATIONS' RESPONSES

This list provides an overview of public statements and responses from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Special Olympics, International University Sports Federation, the Federations recognised by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), the Federations recognised by the Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations (AIOWF) and others (UEFA, FIA, and International Chess Federation). The document is based on publicly available information (last updated 29 March 3pm CET).

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

| | Condemning the invasion of Ukraine | Cancelling and relocating events | Preventing participation of athletes & team officials in competitions | Allowing the participation of individuals on the conditions that no association with their country is made | Suspending national sport federation membership | Suspending leadership representation in governance structures | Suspending and/or cancelling sponsorship contracts | Withdrawing orders of honours from Government Representatives | Providing Humanitarian Assistance |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| International Olympic Committee (IOC) | February 24 | February 25 | February 28 | February 28 (Wherever preventing participation is not possible on short notice) | | | | February 28 | March 3 |
| International Paralympic Committee (IPC) | March 2 | | March 3 | | March 2 (Intention to discuss it) | | | March 2 | |
| Badminton World Federation (BWF) | February 28 | February 28 | March 1 | | | | | | |
| Fédération Internationale de Luge de Course (FIL) | March 2 | March 2 | March 2 | | | March 2 | | | March 14 |
| FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) | February 27 | February 27 | February 27 | | | | | | March 19 |
| International Automobile Federation (FIA) | March 1 | March 1 | March 1 | March 1 | | March 1 | | | March 11 |
| International Basketball Federation (FIBA) | | March 2 | March 2 | | | | | | |
| International Biathlon Union (IBU) | February 26 | March 2 | March 2 | | March 29 | No representation since 2017 | | | March 17 |
| International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (IBSF) | | | March 2 | | March 2 | | | | |
| International Boxing Association (IBA) | March 4 | March 4 | March 4 | | | | | | |

| | Condemning the invasion of Ukraine | Cancelling and relocating events | Preventing participation of athletes & team officials in competitions | Allowing the participation of individuals on the conditions that no association with their country is made | Suspending national sport federations membership | Suspending leadership representation in governance structures | Suspending and/or cancelling sponsorship contracts | Withdrawing orders of honours from Government Representatives | Providing Humanitarian Assistance |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| International Canoe Federation (ICF) | <u>March 1</u> | | <u>March 1</u> | | | <u>March 1</u> | | | <u>March 14</u> |
| International Chess Federation | | | <u>March 16</u> | <u>March 16</u> | | | | | <u>March 24</u> |
| International Cycling Union (UCI) | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> (Provided that they are registered with a team that is neither Russian nor Belarusian) | | | | | |
| International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) | <u>March 2</u> | <u>February 28</u> | <u>March 2</u> | | | | | | <u>February 28</u> |
| International Fencing Federation (FIE) | | <u>March 2</u> | <u>March 2</u> | | | <u>March 1</u> (President Usmanov suspends exercise of his duties) | | | |
| International Golf Federation (IGF) | | | <u>March 2</u> | | | | | | |
| International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) | <u>March 4</u> | <u>February 26</u> | <u>March 4</u> | | | | | | |
| International Handball Federation (IHF) | <u>March 7</u> | <u>March 7</u> | <u>March 7</u> | | | | | | |
| International Hockey Federation (FIH) | | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) | | <u>February 28</u> | <u>February 28</u> | | | | | | <u>March 15</u> (Led by national federations) |
| International Judo Federation (IJF) | | <u>March 2</u> | | <u>March 2</u> | | | | <u>February 27</u> | |
| International Rowing Federation (FISA) | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | <u>March 16</u> |
| International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) | | | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | <u>March 19</u> |
| International Skating Union (ISU) | | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International Ski Federation (FIS) | | <u>February 25</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International Surfing Association (ISA) | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International Swimming Federation (FINA) | <u>March 8</u> | <u>March 23</u> | <u>March 8</u> | | | | | <u>March 1</u> | |

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

| | Condemning the invasion of Ukraine | Cancelling and relocating events | Preventing participation of athletes & team officials in competitions | Allowing the participation of individuals on the conditions that no association with their country is made | Suspending national sport federations membership | Suspending leadership representation in governance structures | Suspending and/or cancelling sponsorship contracts | Withdrawing orders of honours from Government Representatives | Providing Humanitarian Assistance |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) | | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | <u>March 18</u> |
| International Tennis Federation (ITF) | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | <u>March 9</u> |
| International Triathlon Union (ITU) | <u>February 25</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International University Sports Federation | <u>February 26</u> | <u>February 26</u> | | | | | | | |
| International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | |
| International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) | <u>March 3</u> | <u>March 3</u> | <u>March 3</u> | | | | | | <u>March 3</u> |
| Special Olympics | <u>March 4</u> | <u>March 4</u> | | | | | | | <u>March 24</u> |
| Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) | <u>February 28</u> | <u>February 28</u> | <u>February 28</u> | | | | | | |
| Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) | <u>February 24</u> | <u>February 25</u> | <u>February 28</u> | | | | <u>February 28</u> | | <u>March 1</u> |
| United World Wrestling (UWW) | | <u>March 2</u> | <u>March 2</u> | | | | | <u>February 27</u> | |
| World Archery Federation (WA) | <u>March 2</u> | <u>February 26</u> | <u>March 2</u> | | | | | | |
| World Athletics (WA) | <u>February 24</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | <u>March 1</u> (Intention to discuss it) | | | | |
| World Curling Federation (WCF) | <u>March 3</u> | <u>March 4</u> | <u>March 4</u> | | | | | | |
| World Dance Sport Federation | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | | <u>March 7</u> (Supporting IOC letter) |
| World Rugby (WR) | <u>February 25</u> | <u>February 25</u> | <u>February 28</u> | | <u>February 28</u> | | | | |
| World Sailing | | <u>March 1</u> | <u>March 2</u> | | | | | | |
| World Skate | | <u>March 1</u> | | <u>March 1</u> | | | | | |
| World Taekwondo (WT) | <u>March 3</u> | <u>March 3</u> | <u>March 3</u> | | | | | <u>February 28</u> | |

OTHERS

Since the invasion of Ukraine, many other actors in the sports ecosystem have also taken action to condemn Russia. This list provides examples of responses from actors such as athletes, broadcasters, professional sports and sponsors.

ADIDAS

On March 1, German sportswear company **Adidas** has suspended its partnership with the Russian Football Union (RFS) with immediate effect.

ANDREY RUBLEV

Russia's second-highest ranked tennis player **Andrey Rublev** appealed to peace at the Dubai Tennis Championship by signing a TV camera lens on court with "no war please."

EUROPEAN BROADCASTERS UNION

The **European Broadcasters Union (EBU)** Executive Board, in light of ongoing events in Ukraine, has decided to suspend representatives from its three Russian Members from serving in its governance groups, including the Executive Board and all Statutory Committees and to exclude Russia from the 2022 Eurovision Song Contest.

FC SCHALKE 04

The Managing Board and Supervisory Board of the German football team **FC Schalke 04** announced on February 28 the decision to prematurely end the club's partnership with GAZPROM.

MANCHESTER UNITED

On February 25, Football club **Manchester United** ended its sponsorship deal with Russia's national airline, Aeroflot, which has been the club's official carrier since 2013.



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