



April 06, 2022

FAQ concerning the Sanctions on the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus

Foreword

After two years of pandemic, which has already massively affected the exertion of our sport, we are once again confronted with a situation that we could not have imagined just a few weeks ago and which is shaking the foundations of our society and peaceful coexistence. A conventional war against a sovereign state in Europe on the current scale was unthinkable and has led to unprecedented reactions from governmental, non-governmental and private organizations worldwide. The FEMA Board expresses thereby its full solidarity with everyone affected by the war in Ukraine.

This FAQ (frequently asked question) shall give you a better understanding why the FEMA Board imposed sanctions on the FEMA Member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus on 30.03.2022.

Why has the FEMA Board imposed sanctions on the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus?

The aim of the FEMA is to uphold the interests of its Members in all international matters concerning tether car racing. The current situation does not allow for a fair and safe participation of all FEMA members in international events. By not sanctioning athletes from Russia and Belarus associations, we would allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to be able to continue to participate in sports events, while many athletes from Ukraine are prevented from doing so because of the unilateral attack on their country. Sanctioning the FEMA member associations of the Russian Federation and Belarus is the only legitimate mean, a sporting organization like the FEMA has at its hand to counter the current situation and a way to show support to fundamental human rights.

Why has the FEMA Board imposed sanctions and followed a recommendation by the IOC while not being associated with the Olympic Committee

As early as the end of February 2022, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended that international sports federations and organizers shall not invite or admit Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials to international competitions and sporting events. Many IOC member and non-member organizations have followed this recommendation.

While discussing possible sanctions, the FEMA-Board looked to comparable international sports federations with similar requirements and statutes for guidance. The organization most comparable to FEMA, the EFRA (European Federation of Radio Operated Model Automobiles), has fully adopted the IOC recommendations. The FAI (Federation Aéronautique Internationale), which regulates both large-scale and model aviation, has done the same.

On what legal ground did the FEMA Board decide on sanctions against the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus?

Article 6 of the FEMA Statutes refer to the Membership ceases and gives the FEMA Board under reference (b) the possibility for an exclusion ordered by the Executive Board, for just cause, with a right of appeal to the Delegates Meeting. Appeals must be lodged within 30 days of the Executive Board's decision being notified.

Why did the FEMA Board disregard Article 3 of the FEMA Statutes?

The FEMA Board agrees that sport must not be used to pursue a political agenda and shall, according to the Olympic Charter, protect and promote fundamental human rights.

It was taken into account that none of our sport friends from the Russian Federation, regardless of their personal political views, can directly influence the decisions taken by the Russian government. However, given the current situation and the severe neglecting of fundamental human rights, it is no longer possible to speak of political reasons. A failure to act would be in clear contradiction to all international sports organizations and would be morally and ethically indefensible.

The actions taken by international sport governing bodies in response to Russia's assault on Ukraine are consistent with the principle of neutrality of sport. They do not seek to achieve a political agenda but to realize the goal of Olympism, which is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.

Why did the FEMA Board not propose to the FEMA Delegates to vote about sanctions against the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus?

Taking the severity and the urgency of the situation into account, as well as the responsibilities of the FEMA Board and the Delegates Meeting outlined in Article 6, Article 18 and Article 29 of the FEMA Statutes, the FEMA Board acted within its competence to protect the FEMA and our sport as best as possible, given the current situation.

How long will the sanctions against the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus be uphold?

The sanctions against the FEMA member association of the Russian Federation and Belarus are applied with immediate effect and until further notice. The FEMA Board understands that the taken measures are not shared by all FEMA member association. The FEMA Board will continue to observe the actions taken by comparable international sports federations with similar requirements and statutes for guidance and assesses all future developments. As soon as the situation permits the lifting of the imposed sanctions will be discussed in order to resume the respectful competition, as we are all united by our passion for our sport.

Michael Schmutz
FEMA President