

RUSSIA TASKFORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 30 JULY 2020

I am pleased to present the following report to the World Athletics Council on behalf of the Russia Taskforce:

1. At its meeting in March, Council made two decisions in relation to RusAF:

1.1 First, Council decided to sanction RusAF's admitted breaches of the Anti-Doping Rules during the Lysenko investigation with a \$10 million fine, with \$5 million to be paid by 1 July 2020 and the other \$5 million suspended. Council required RusAF to pay the related costs by 1 July 2020 (a sum of \$1.31 million), and also stated that for the remainder of 2020 no more than ten Russian athletes would be granted eligibility to compete (as neutral athletes) in the Olympic Games, World Athletics Series events, and the European Athletics Championships. Council's decision also stated: *'If RusAF fails to pay either the US \$5 million mentioned in paragraph 4 or the costs mentioned in paragraph 5 in full on or before 1 July 2020, Council reserves the right to reconsider this decision and to revoke or amend any part of it and/or supplement it as Council sees fit'*.

1.2 Second, Council mandated the Taskforce to draw up new terms of reference for the reinstatement of RusAF's membership, based on the development of a detailed plan designed (a) to ingrain a culture of zero tolerance for doping throughout Russian athletics; and (b) to rehabilitate RusAF so that it becomes a trusted ally of World Athletics in the fight for clean sport. That plan was to be drawn up by representatives of RusAF, the Ministry of Sport, the Russian Olympic Committee, RUSADA, and two athletes from the RusAF Athletes Commission, sitting together as the **RusAF Reinstatement Commission**, with the help of two international experts designated by World Athletics. Once the plan was approved by Council, the two international experts (supervised by the Taskforce) would then oversee implementation of the plan on the ground in Russia, in order to ensure that the desired change in culture was reflected and implemented in RusAF's strategy and in all of its operational policies, practices, procedures, and decision-making.

2. After the meeting, the initial signs were that Mr Evgeniy Yurchenko, who had replaced Mr Shlyakhtin as RusAF President, was ready to lead real reform at RusAF. He did not appeal against the sanctions imposed by Council for RusAF's gross breach of the Anti-Doping Rules. To the contrary, he advised the World Athletics President that *'RusAF respects the decisions made'* by Council, and welcomed them as having *'contributed to improving the overall climate within the whole Russian athletics community'*, and as the *'fresh start'* that RusAF was *'striving for'*. Obviously the fine was an extra-ordinary and unbudgeted expense for RusAF, but he did not express any concern about being able to find the money to pay it.

3. Unfortunately Mr Yurchenko subsequently failed to deliver on the requirements put on RusAF by Council in March:

3.1 RusAF failed to pay either the \$5 million fine or the \$1.31 million in costs due, either by the 1 July deadline or subsequently. Importantly, Mr Yurchenko did not blame the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, in a letter dated 8 July 2020 (copy attached), he said that World Athletics' failure to agree the members of the Reinstatement Commission, and the consequent failure to make any meaningful progress towards reinstatement, *'has paralyzed the search for potential donors (not mentioning sponsors or partners) to attract additional funding'*.

3.2 In fact, as the World Athletics President set out in his response dated 10 July 2020 (copy attached), the record is very clear that it is Mr Yurchenko alone (not World Athletics) who is to blame for the lack of progress towards reinstatement: it took him till 9 June 2020 to produce the required information about the members of the RusAF Reinstatement Commission and to produce a draft reinstatement plan that was woefully inadequate.

4. In his letter to Mr Yurchenko of 9 July 2020, the World Athletics President concluded: *'The Council will undoubtedly be very disappointed to see that the radical change in attitude that you promised from the new RusAF regime has not materialised'*. The Taskforce shares that disappointment. Over the last five years, the Taskforce has spent an enormous amount of time and effort trying to help RusAF reform itself and Russian athletics, for the benefit of all clean Russian athletes. The Taskforce has made itself available at all times to RusAF, and has responded expediently to all requests for help, but ultimately has seen RusAF achieve very little in terms of changing the culture of Russian athletics.

5. At the request of the World Athletics President, the Taskforce stood down on 1 July 2020, after RusAF failed to pay the amounts due on that date. In addition, the Doping Review Board has not actioned any applications for Neutral Athlete status since that date.

6. Mr Yurchenko resigned as RusAF President on 13 July 2020. Last Friday, 24 July, the RusAF First Vice-President, Mr. Alexey Plotnikov, got in contact, asking for a further opportunity to engage with the Taskforce. The correspondence with Mr Plotnikov is attached. The Council will see that Mr Plotnikov was told there would be no engagement because the amounts outstanding had not been paid by RusAF. This morning a letter was received from the Russian Minister of Sport, Mr Oleg Matytsin (copy attached), stating that the two outstanding RusAF invoices (in the amount of \$5 million, for the fine instalment; and in the amount of \$1.31 million, for the costs) will be paid before 15 August 2020.

7. If payment is indeed received in full by that date, the Taskforce would be ready, if Council so wishes, to re-engage with the reinstatement process on the basis specified by Council in March 2020. If the promised payment is not received by that deadline, however, or if the promised plan is not provided and implemented properly thereafter, in the view of the Taskforce it will be time to expel RusAF from membership of World Athletics.

8. The Taskforce therefore recommends that the Council decides as follows:

8.1 Expulsion decision:

- (1) To recommend to Congress that it resolves to expel RusAF from membership of World Athletics, in accordance with Article 14.1 of the Constitution, on the basis that the matters that led Congress to suspend RusAF from membership pursuant to Art 13.7 have not been satisfactorily addressed.
- (2) To recommend that a Special Congress meeting be convened as soon as possible to allow Congress to consider and vote on the proposal to expel RusAF. In the circumstances of the ongoing and worsening pandemic, that Special Congress meeting should if possible be held virtually, to avoid delay.

- (3) That pending Congress's decision, the 'Neutral Athlete' mechanism will not be made available to Russian athletes.

8.2 The expulsion decision at paragraph 8.1 is suspended, but will come into effect immediately and automatically if any of the following conditions is not met:

- (1) Payment in full of the two outstanding RusAF invoices to be received on or before close of business in Monaco on 15 August 2020.
- (2) The RusAF Reinstatement Commission to provide the draft plan referenced in the third paragraph of the Council's decision of 12 March 2020 – of suitable scope and depth, with an implementation plan and progress indicators -- to the Taskforce on or before 31 August 2020.
- (3) Any changes required by the Taskforce to the draft plan to be incorporated to the Taskforce's satisfaction on or before 30 September 2020.
- (4) The plan to be brought into effect and satisfactory progress achieved against the plan (as determined by the Taskforce, based on the input of the international experts appointed by World Athletics), as reported to the Taskforce to Council at each of its subsequent meetings.

In relation to Authorised Neutral Athletes ('ANAs'):

- i. Athletes may apply for ANA status for 2020 competitions in accordance with the process specified by the Doping Review Board.
- ii. No ANA status will be granted to any athlete for 2020 competitions unless and until conditions (1) to (3) above are met.
- iii. If conditions (1) to (3) are met then, in accordance with Council's March decision, (1) no more than 10 athletes (in total, not per event) will be granted ANA status for World Athletics Series events. (The only such event scheduled for 2020 is the World Athletics Half Marathon Championships in Gdynia); (2) there is no cap on ANAs for other international competitions in 2020.
- iv. Council's March 2020 decision to allow up to 10 Authorised Neutral Athletes for World Athletics Series events and the Tokyo Olympics will be reviewed no earlier than December 2020, based on an assessment of the progress made by RusAF against the reinstatement plan.

Rune Andersen, Taskforce Chair
30 July 2020