

Ref. No. PO 2026/30

January 31, 2026

Mr. Anatoly Terekhov  
President  
Russia Taekwondo Union

## **DECISION ON ATHLETES WITH RUSSIAN AND BELARUSIAN PASSPORTS**

Dear President Terekhov,

I hope this letter finds you well. I send my greetings to you from Fujairah, where we are having the first Extraordinary Council Meeting of 2026.

I wish to inform you that the Council has decided, with immediate effect, to permit junior and senior athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete under their respective national flags in all World Taekwondo-promoted and recognised championships. This decision follows the IOC's policy to allow Russian and Belarusian youth athletes to participate in the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games under their national flags.

However, World Taekwondo will still abide by the IOC's policy on existing restrictions, meaning international sports events may not be organised in Russia, and accreditation will not be issued to government officials from Russia and Belarus.

Taking this opportunity, I wish to reiterate World Taekwondo's stance on prioritizing human lives. I am particularly concerned about the safety and well-being of our athletes and officials. In this regard, I hope that this decision will contribute to a peaceful resolution of the ongoing war.

In addition, I wish to thank you for the hospitality that you extended to the Iranian referees. Your generosity enabled them to complete the courses successfully and return home with a peaceful mind. This is the Anatoly I know and respect. Thank you, my friend.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely yours,



Chungwon Choue  
President

Cc. Mr. Athanasios Pragalos, WT Vice President and ETU President

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