



Updated 1 July 2024

Participation of RUS athletes in Virtus competition

On 24th June 2024 and effective immediately, the Virtus Governing Board agreed that "Following the decision of the IPC GA (Nov23), Virtus will allow the participation of RUS nationals as neutrals (athletes and staff) in upcoming Virtus competition based on the rules prepared by IPC and amended for Virtus". These amendments are set out below:

To be read in conjunction with 'World Para Sports Neutral Athlete and Support Personnel Regulations' (Nov 2023) – attached.

- Para 1 – As Belarus is not a member of Virtus, guidance relates to Russian athletes only at this time.
- Para 5 – for Virtus team sports, this also includes basketball, football/futsal and para hockey. For the avoidance of doubt all relay events are also considered as team sports however doubles events in tennis and table tennis are considered as individuals (where both players are neutral athletes).
- Para 6 – the guidance concerning representatives of NPC RUS are accepted in full. Representatives of the Virtus member 'Russian Federation for Intellectual Disability' are not excluded unless they additionally hold a role with the NPC or other governing organisations mentioned.
- Para 9 – Uniform must be approved by Virtus and - where relevant – the <https://www.itf.com/2023/11/25/itf-world-youth-championships-2023-begins-tomorrow/> or sanctioning IF.
- Para 11 – in Virtus competition, athletes will be designated "Neutral Virtus Athletes"
- Para 18-21 – the Virtus flag will be used
- Para 25-27 – Virtus additionally reserves the right to exclude an athlete who fails to observe the Virtus policies and procedures
- Para 28 – Russian Sports Federation for Intellectual Disability agree to reimburse any such costs in relation to Virtus' implementation of the rules.
- Para 29 – There will be no charge payable to Virtus

'Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Neutral Athlete and Support Personnel Regulations' (March 2024

- Terms:






- For 'Paralympic Games', read 'Virtus competition'
- For 'NPC' read 'Virtus National Member Organisation'
- Paragraph 7 - Any athlete found ineligible by IPC will also be deemed ineligible for Virtus competition
- Paragraph 12 – For IPC read Virtus.
- Paragraph 15 – For 'Neutral Paralympic Athlete', read 'Neutral Virtus Athlete (NVA)'.
- Paragraph 30 – For 'NPC Russia', read 'Russian Virtus Member Organisation'.
- Section F – In addition, Virtus reserves the right to amend the rules at any time as it sees fit, or should IPC guidance change.
- Paragraph 35 – For 'IPC', read 'Virtus'

Other:

- **Medal Tables**

- Medal wins will be listed separately from nations.
- Medal counts will not contribute to any country's tally.
- Example entry on medal table:

Rank	Nation/Team				Total
1	Japan	3	2	1	6
—	Virtus Neutral Team*	1	0	1	2

Other sports which sanction Virtus competition:

- ITF – Tennis - as per IPC position above ([ITF Statement: ITF suspends Russia and Belarus from ITF membership and international team competition | ITF \(itftennis.com\)](#))
- ITTF – Table Tennis – as per IPC position above ([ITTF Statement on the Participation of Players with a Russian or Belarusian Passport - International Table Tennis Federation](#))
- WT – Taekwondo – as per IPC position above ([\[World Taekwondo\] World Taekwondo Council approves participation of Individu..](#)) – only currently relevant to Global Games