



The Watch Oak, Chain Lane, Battle, East Sussex TN33 0YD

Telephone [01424 775222](tel:01424 775222)

Email [office@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:office@englishchess.org.uk)

Website [www.englishchess.org.uk](http://www.englishchess.org.uk)

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Registration No. 5293039 | VAT Registration No 195643626

Affiliated to Fédération Internationale des Échecs

Dear Delegates and President,

I am writing to urge you to vote against the resolution at the General Assembly to reverse sanctions on the Russian Chess Federation.

At the last General Assembly in Budapest, I urged delegates to oppose a similar motion, primarily because it was, and remains, contrary to IOC policy. IOC recognition is hugely important for many federations in securing funding, and reversing sanctions puts this at risk.

Many of you agreed and sanctions were upheld, with only a limited carve out to allow discussions with the IOC regarding youth and disabled events. The FIDE Council has since violated that decision by permitting the Russian women's team to compete in Madrid at the Women's Team Championship. There has been a deliberate attempt to present this as compliant with the General Assembly's mandate, it is not.

The IOC's position remains unchanged. It continues to recommend that Russian and Belarusian teams should not participate in international competitions. This applies across all Olympic disciplines, including the upcoming Winter Olympics. In support of their reinstatement, the RCF has circulated a letter from the IOC. This letter does not endorse their return. It simply restates each federation's independence and responsibility for its own decisions. Presenting this as a "no objection" is deeply misleading. IOC policy has not changed.

The letter itself contradicts the Russian Chess Federation's case. It cites decisions by the Aquatic World Federation that exclude Russian and Belarusian teams entirely from team events such as water polo. The RCF are mixing up individual participation rules, where neutral Russian athletes may compete if they meet the criteria, with team eligibility, where Russian and Belarusian teams remain fully excluded. This distinction is crucial, and it must not be misrepresented. Individual Russians have always been, and will remain, able to compete neutrally.

There is no reason for FIDE to act as a broker between the RCF and the IOC. Nothing prevents the RCF from asking the IOC directly whether it supports Russian participation. They will not do so because the response would be clear. Instead, they have attempted to mislead and confuse delegates. It is reasonable to ask whether FIDE would make the same effort for any of your federations under similar circumstances, or whether the RCF is receiving special treatment.

FIDE should pay more attention to ensuring that federations maintain the IOC recognition they depend on for funding.





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For these reasons, I urge you to reject this resolution. If any delegate wishes to discuss further, you reach me at [Malcolmpein@gmail.com](mailto:Malcolmpein@gmail.com)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Pein". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Malcolm Pein, English Chess Federation Director of International Chess

