



26 september 2026

FORMAL PROTEST

To:

President of the International Practical Shooting Confederation
Members of the IPSC Executive Council

Subject: Formal Protest against the restoration of Russian and Belarusian national representation in IPSC Level III–V competitions

Dear Mr. President,
Dear Members of the IPSC Executive Council,

The **Ukrainian Practical Shooting Federation (UPSF)**, the national sports federation officially recognised by the State of Ukraine as responsible for the development and representation of practical shooting in Ukraine, hereby expresses its **formal and categorical protest** against the decision to restore the participation of representatives of the Russian Federation and Belarus in IPSC Level III–V competitions under their national colours.

We call upon IPSC to reconsider this decision and to maintain the restrictions introduced in 2022 while Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues.

The reasons for the 2022 suspension have not disappeared

On 3 March 2022, IPSC decided that athletes and Range Officers from IPSC Russia and IPSC Belarus would not be permitted to participate in Level III–V matches **“until further notice.”** Earlier, IPSC had explicitly condemned the breach of peace committed by the Russian government.

The circumstances that led to those decisions have not changed.

Russia's war against Ukraine continues. Ukrainian cities and civilian infrastructure continue to be attacked. Civilians continue to be killed and injured, and Ukrainian athletes, coaches and members of the sporting community have lost their lives as a direct consequence of the aggression.

The position of the international community regarding Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is equally clear. On 2 March 2022, **141 UN Member States** voted for UN General Assembly Resolution ES-11/1, deploring Russia's aggression, reaffirming Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and demanding the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian forces. The same resolution also deplored Belarus's involvement in Russia's actions against Ukraine.

Russia's aggression against Ukraine did not begin in 2022. It began in 2014 with the occupation of Crimea and Sevastopol and subsequently expanded into the ongoing full-scale war.



FSPR cannot be separated from Russian state and security structures

This issue is not simply about the nationality of individual athletes.

The institutional structure and activities of the **Russian Practical Shooting Federation (FSPR)** demonstrate close links with Russian state, security and other governmental structures.

Its President, **Mikhail Gushchin**, publicly opposed the 2022 IPSC restrictions and thanked those within IPSC who supported the position that **“our sport is outside politics.”**

However, this position must be considered alongside the institutional reality of the organisation he leads.

In 2025, FSPR established a **Board of Trustees** which, according to FSPR itself, brought together **“key figures of state authorities and security agencies.”** FSPR stated that the Board would address, among other matters, patriotic education, weapons culture and legislative initiatives, and decided to invite representatives of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Sport and Ministry of Justice to participate.

The Board is chaired by **Sergei Kiriyyenko**, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Administration of the Russian Federation. Its membership includes senior representatives connected with the Russian state, defence and security sectors, including **Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, Igor Nasenkov, Petr Fradkov and Igor Shchyogolev.**

It also includes **Vladimir Solovyov**, whom the European Union officially identifies as a Russian propagandist who actively and strongly supports Russia’s military actions against Ukraine and supports policies undermining Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence.

Several members of this institutional structure are subject to international sanctions.

Under these circumstances, the assertion that FSPR exists independently of Russian state policy requires serious scrutiny.

FSPR has incorporated sporting structures from occupied Ukrainian territories

Of particular concern to Ukraine is FSPR’s treatment of internationally recognised Ukrainian territory.

FSPR’s own official structure includes a **“Federation of Practical Shooting of the Republic of Crimea.”** FSPR describes its regional federations as components of its structure operating within corresponding **“subjects of the Russian Federation.”**



ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ ПРАКТИЧНОЇ СТРІЛЬБИ УКРАЇНИ UKRAINIAN PRACTICAL SHOOTING FEDERATION

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Its official materials also identify practical-shooting structures in **Sevastopol**, the so-called “**Donetsk People’s Republic**”, and the occupied part of **Zaporizhzhia Region**. FPSR’s own catalogue lists the “Federation of Practical Shooting of the DPR”, while FPSR announced the establishment of the Zaporizhzhia federation in December 2024 and reported its accreditation in 2025 and again in 2026.

In March 2026, FPSR also reported conducting an official judges’ training seminar in **Primorsk, Zaporizhzhia Region**, and its instructor-training system currently lists Zaporizhzhia Region alongside Russian regions.

These are territories internationally recognised as part of Ukraine.

This is therefore not merely a question of political statements. It is the **institutional incorporation of sporting structures operating on internationally recognised Ukrainian territory into the Russian national federation**.

For UPSF, this directly concerns the integrity of the sport that the State of Ukraine has entrusted our Federation to develop and represent.

“Sport outside politics” cannot mean ignoring institutional facts

We recognise the distinction between judging an individual solely on the basis of nationality and assessing the institutional representation of a national sports organisation.

The decision before IPSC, however, goes beyond the participation of individual athletes.

It restores **national colours, national representation and officials** connected with sporting organisations whose institutional structures include senior state and security figures, sanctioned persons and a state propagandist, and which have incorporated practical-shooting structures from occupied territories of Ukraine.

For this reason, the principle that “sport is outside politics” cannot reasonably be used to disregard these facts.

Our position

The position of the Ukrainian Practical Shooting Federation is clear.

The reasons that led IPSC to impose restrictions in 2022 have **not disappeared**:

Russia’s aggression against Ukraine continues;

Ukrainian civilians and members of the sporting community continue to lose their lives;

Ukrainian territories remain occupied;



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Belarus continues to bear responsibility for its involvement in Russia's aggression as recognised in the UN resolution;

and FSPR's own actions demonstrate institutional links with Russian state and security structures and the incorporation of practical-shooting organisations from occupied Ukrainian territories.

The Ukrainian Practical Shooting Federation therefore **formally calls upon IPSC to reconsider the decision and to maintain the suspension of Russian and Belarusian national representation in Level III–V competitions while Russia's aggression against Ukraine continues.**

We also call upon IPSC to refrain during this period from restoring Russian and Belarusian **national flags, colours, official delegations and officials**, and to take the institutional actions of FSPR described above into account in any future consideration of its status.

This position is not directed against individuals solely because of their nationality.

It concerns the restoration of **official national and institutional representation** while the circumstances that led IPSC to impose restrictions in 2022 remain in place.

We respectfully ask the International Practical Shooting Confederation to reconsider its decision.

Sincerely,

Oleh Petrov

President

Ukrainian Practical Shooting Federation