

Introductory Note

This document is effective from 1 January 2026 and replaces the guidance issued in 2025.

The LTA, AELTC, WTA, ATP, ITF and UK Government have worked to put in place a system that will allow players who are Russian or Belarusian nationals to take part in events in Great Britain in 2026.

In order to compete at ITF tournaments (including World Tennis Tour, Juniors, Wheelchair, and Masters events) and Tennis Europe tournaments in 2026, players will need to sign and submit a neutrality declaration to the LTA before the entry deadline for the event they wish to play in.

The purpose of the declaration is to ensure that players and relevant Player Support Team members (PST) do not use their participation in sporting events to support or promote the Russian and Belarusian regimes and that those regimes cannot derive reputational and other benefits by seeking to associate themselves with players. The purpose of the declaration is not to seek a statement that is critical of the Russian and/or Belarusian regimes.

Once a player has signed this declaration, they will be covered for all ITF and Tennis Europe sanctioned events in Great Britain in 2026.

Players competing in The Championships at Wimbledon or in WTA or ATP sanctioned events in Great Britain will need to complete separate documentation for those events and return them separately in accordance with guidance provided by AELTC and the tours.

Details on how to obtain these declarations and the differences are covered in the Q&A.

The Q&A also contains guidance for PST members who are Russian or Belarusian nationals.

Q&A

What is the purpose of the declaration?

The UK Government has issued guidance in relation to all sports events held in the UK. The Guidance requests that event organisers have in place neutrality declarations for all participating players and PST who are Russian or Belarusian nationals.

The purpose of the neutrality declaration is not to seek a statement that is critical of the Russian and/or Belarusian regimes.

It is intended to ensure that players (and relevant PST members) do not use their participation in sporting events in the UK to support or promote the Russian and/or Belarusian regimes and so that those regimes cannot derive reputational and other benefits by seeking to associate themselves with players.

What does the declaration ask of the player?

The following is an abbreviated summary of the declaration. Please read the full declaration to ensure you understand it. In summary by signing the declaration a player confirms that:

Clause 1	They are not participating in the event as a representative of the Russian and/or Belarusian states. This includes not being contracted to, or having any affiliation with, the Russian and/or Belarusian military or national security agencies including military affiliated sports clubs (for example membership of CSKA).
Clause 2	They are not in receipt of funding from the Russian or Belarusian states, including sponsorship from (i) companies operated or controlled by the Russian and/or Belarusian states, and/or (ii) Russian or Belarusian companies that are sanctioned by the government of the United Kingdom. Any existing funding arrangements with such companies must have been terminated. This includes not wearing or displaying the logos of these companies.
Clause 3	They won't express support for the invasion of Ukraine, or the Russian and Belarusian regimes and their leaderships. This includes verbal or written gestures or statements. This includes wearing or being seen with any item containing an image, symbol, flag, insignia or emblem that is recognised as supporting or indicates support for the invasion of Ukraine, the Russian and/or Belarusian regimes and/or their leaderships
Clause 4	The player will notify the LTA of the name and contact details of any person (such as coach, physio, support team member or family member) who has Russian or Belarusian nationality and intends to attend the event with them.

When is the declaration effective from?

Different parts of the declaration apply at different times, before and during the event.

Clause 1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">not participating as a representative	applies while participating in the events

Clause 2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not receiving funding and funding agreement terminated 	applies from a tournament's <u>entry deadline</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not wearing Russian-state sponsored logos 	applies from a tournament's <u>entry deadline</u>
Clause 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not expressing support 	applies from <u>a tournament's</u> entry deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> restriction on wearing symbols, flags etc. 	applies while participating in the events (see below for definition)
Clause 4	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifying the LTA of support team members 	Must be done before participating in the event (see below for definition)

'Participating in events' – means from the first time a player arrives on site (at any official tournament venue) to until the player leaves the site (of any official tournament venue) for the final time.

See slide 1 for more information.

When does the declaration expire and what happens if a player/PST has two tournaments close together?

The declaration can come to an end in a number of ways:

- 1) The declaration is no longer effective after the player's (or the PST member's) participation in the tournament has completely come to an end and they are no longer on premises related to the tournament.

However, it will come into effect again once a player enters another tournament.

If the player or PST has a 2nd tournament shortly after the first they would still be covered by the relevant clauses of the neutrality declaration. This is because the first tournament falls after the entry deadline has closed for the second tournament.

For example:

Player X plays ITF WTT MD at Glasgow (27 – 31 January) and intends to play MD at ITF WTT Sheffield (3 – 8 February). They exit Glasgow on 28 January – they will still be covered by the relevant sections of clause 2 and clause 3, of the neutrality declarations between 28 January and the start of their participation at Sheffield MD on 3 February. This is because this period is within the entry deadline period for Sheffield.

For more information see slide 2.

- 2) The player can choose to revoke the declaration which they may do at any time by providing notice to the LTA by emailing a statement to the LTA at declarations@lta.org.uk and stating **"I revoke my Neutrality Declaration as of this date."** I understand that if I revoke this Declaration, I cannot play any ATP, WTA, ITF, or Tennis Europe events in Great Britain for the remainder of 2026 unless I provide a new declaration.

What kind of financial support is considered under clause 2?

Any financial support (including support in kind – such as access to training facilities or coaching) received from the Russian and/or Belarusian state(s) (including the Russian Tennis Federation or the Belarusian Tennis Federation) and/or (i) companies controlled or operated by the Russian and/or Belarusian state(s), and/or (ii) Russian or Belarusian companies that are sanctioned by the government of the United Kingdom.

Any such funding agreements must have been terminated (rather than suspended) by the entry deadline closing for the tournaments.

Junior players and parents/guardians signing for them should consider carefully whether they can meet the declarations rules in relation to financial support.

What if I have already signed an older version of the declaration from 2023 - 2025?

You will still need to complete an updated declaration form for 2026. Please ensure you have completed the updated 2026 form in relation to ITF events. If you signed a declaration in relation to the Wimbledon Championships or ATP/WTA Tour events in 2025, you will need to complete separate forms/documentation for these events in 2026.

For a list of companies that the UK Government considers controlled or operated by the Russian state, please see the UK Sanctions list:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list>.

The search function should be used to search for any person or company who provides players and PST with any sort of financial support.

What if I am playing multiple WTA, ATP, ITF or Tennis Europe events in Great Britain?

Players and PST must complete a separate declaration for WTA events, ATP events, ITF sanctioned events (ITF declaration also covers Tennis Europe) and The Championships at Wimbledon. Once they have completed the ITF declaration they will be covered for all ITF and Tennis Europe events in the UK for the remainder of 2026. Similarly, once they have completed the WTA or ATP declaration they will be covered for all WTA or ATP events in 2026.

What is the process for ITF sanctioned events.

Players and PSTs are required to obtain the applicable neutrality declaration form from the ITF Fact Sheet (available on IPIN) and submit the signed form to declarations@lta.org.uk before the respective entry deadline for the first tournament being entered in 2026. If you do not sign and return the declaration to the LTA by the entry deadline, you will be removed from the Tournament entry list immediately at the entry deadline.

What is the process for The Championships at Wimbledon?

All players due to compete at The Championships at Wimbledon should request a letter of invitation from the AELTC. All players will also receive a copy of the entry conditions specific to The Championships which will include the wording of the UK Government approved neutrality declaration. This will outline requirements for players to participate in The Championships.

Players should be aware they must sign separate declarations for any ITF events and ATP/WTA events if they also wish to play in Great Britain.

Fulfilling the requirements to play in The Championships does not ensure entry to the other tour events in Great Britain.

What is the process for ATP or WTA events in Great Britain?

A separate declaration form is available from the player areas of the ATP or WTA website. This must be completed and returned to the tours before entries close for the ATP or WTA event in question.

Do I need to sign the declaration in order to ensure visas are processed by the UK Government?

If you receive a letter of invitation from The Championships and sign and return a declaration to the AELTC, this will form part of the visa process for the entire period you are in the UK. If you do not receive a letter of invitation from The Championships and require a letter from the LTA to support a visa application to enable you to participate in an event in Britain, please contact declarations@lta.org.uk.

I do not feel I can sign the declaration. What should I do?

If you do not feel able to sign the declaration, you should not do so. There are alternative ITF events taking place outside of Great Britain that you may be able to enter.

What happens if I enter an ITF event in Britain but have not signed the declaration?

You must sign the declaration in order to stay on the entry list. If you do not sign and return the declaration to the LTA by the entry deadline, you will be removed from the Tournament entry list at the entry deadline.

What will happen if I break the declaration?

Any player who breaks the terms of the declaration could face sanctions, including possible expulsion from the event. Compliance with the declaration will be enforced by the ITF or Tennis Europe, which may also impose additional sanctions through enforcement of its rules, Code of Conduct and tournament terms and conditions.

Players are also at risk of exclusion from The Championships at Wimbledon if they breach the declaration at another event in Great Britain.

What will happen if I sign the declaration but then wish to withdraw from a tournament before it begins?

Players will be subject to normal ITF or Tennis Europe withdrawal rules and penalties. If you withdraw but are playing in another ITF or Tennis Europe tournament in Great Britain in 2026, the declaration will continue to be effective. If you wish to revoke your declaration, you will need to comply with the revocation provision set out above for it to be no longer binding.

What is the process for PST members who are Russian or Belarusian nationals?

Players must declare any PST members (including coaches, physios, family member or others) who are Russian and/or Belarusian nationals on their ITF neutrality declaration form. For a full list of PST members, please refer to the definition of "Related Persons" in the ITF World Tennis Tour Code of Conduct.

PST members who are Russian and/or Belarusian nationals will also need to comply with the same declaration wording and will be contacted by the LTA to complete a declaration before the event.

What will happen if PST members who are Russian or Belarusian nationals do not sign a neutrality declaration?

Any PST members who are Russian or Belarusian nationals and have not signed the declaration will not be able to attend the tournament venue.

I don't understand something or I need more help?

If it is related to the neutrality declaration or UK visa process, please contact declarations@lta.org.uk

If it is related to entry procedures for a tournament, please contact the relevant ITF Tour:

- ITF World Tennis Tour Men - mens@itftennis.com
- ITF World Tennis Tour Women - womens@itftennis.com
- ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors - juniors@itftennis.com
- ITF World Tennis Masters Tour - masters@itftennis.com
- ITF Beach Tennis Tour - beach@itftennis.com
- UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour - wheelchair@itftennis.com