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13 June 2026

TO ALL FEDERATIONS

Subject: Official Communication

Reg. No: FMJD-2026-28

Dear FMJD member federations and draughts players,

Yesterday, the FMJD Board unanimously decided that starting July 1, Belarusian draughts players—both youth and adults—will be allowed to participate in FMJD tournaments under a neutral status (without a flag and anthem).

This decision is based on the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) position from May 7, 2026, which states that Belarusian athletes should be allowed to compete again, as the Belarusian Olympic Committee meets all IOC requirements.

This decision does not apply to Russian athletes.

Additionally, the FMJD Board decided that if any athlete or delegation member publicly supports the war (whether in the competition venue, in the media, on social media, or elsewhere), the FMJD has the right to disqualify them immediately.

Furthermore, the FMJD does not undertake the responsibility to guarantee the participation of Belarusian athletes in countries where obtaining a visa is difficult or impossible due to political reasons.

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Moving forward, visa restrictions related to FMJD events cannot be taken into account when choosing future competition venues. If there are no significant political changes, Belarusian athletes will be able to compete on a regular basis (with their flag and anthem) starting January 1, 2027.

The FMJD Board fully condemns the war in Ukraine and Russian aggression.

At the same time, the FMJD Board considers it crucial to remain part of the international sports movement, led by the IOC.

This decision is fully aligned with international policy, which aims to bring peace to the world and allow sports to contribute to achieving it. The decision is also based on letters sent to the Board by several federations, the majority of which align with this course of action.

The FMJD Board believes that the purpose of this six-month transition period is to ensure that the policy change is sustainable.

With respect and on behalf of the Board,

Janek Mäggi
President of FMJD

Digitally signed by

Janek Mäggi (Estonia)
President:

Verified FMJD Correspondence

VERIFIED