

Russian Athletics Federation To Request Participation Of Racewalker

The Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF) has remarked it will ask the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to allow race walker [Klavdiya Afanasyeva](#) to compete at the World Championships next month.

The 21-year-old secured qualification for flagship event of the IAAF that is scheduled to take place from August 4 to 13 after she won the women's 20 kilometers race walk event at the European Under-23 Championships in Polish city Bydgoszcz. This came after Afanasyeva was declared eligible to compete under a neutral banner by the world governing body of athletics. The application of Klavdiya Afanasyeva to the IAAF Doping Review Board was only for the European Under-23 Championships that means she has to apply separately for the right to compete at the World Championships.

The Russian Athletics Federation remains banned from international athletics competitions because of [doping](#) allegations, pending its completion of reinstatement criteria. Athletes of the country are allowed to compete as neutral athletes if they can successfully demonstrate they have been operating in an effective testing system.

Andrei Kruporushnikov, sports director of the Russian athletics federation, remarked a request will be now be lodged to the IAAF for the participation of Afanasyeva. Kruporushnikov remarked this is a fantastic result, considering that we are happy with any place on the pedestal and added we will try to do it so that Afanasyeva can compete at the World Championships in London.

The IAAF recently allowed 16 Russian athletes including former world long jump champion Aleksandr Menkov to compete neutrally at global events by the world governing body of athletics. In 2013, Menkov won gold at his home World Championships in Moscow with a personal best and national record of 8.56 meters. Menkov also claimed win at the 2013 European Indoor Championships in Gothenburg after he took silver at the previous year's World Indoor Championships in Istanbul. The former world long jump champion should now be able to compete under the IAAF banner at the 2017 World Championships.

The list of others cleared to compete neutrally include shot putter Aleksandr Lesnoi and 1,500m champion Valentin Smirnov, two home gold medal winners at the 2013 Summer Universiade in Kazan. Ilya Shkurenov, a multi-eventer who finished fourth in the decathlon at the 2015 World Championships, is also cleared. The 2014 European bronze medal winning triple jumper Alexey Fedorov and Irina Gordeeva, a high jumper who finished third at the 2012 European Championships are also cleared. Others who have received permission by the IAAF to compete are hammer thrower Danil Danilov, triple jumpers Irina Gemeniuk and Viktoriia Prokopenko, discus throwers Viktor Butenko and Luliia Maltseva, 400m hurdler Timofey Chalyy, sprinters Alena Maminia and Viacheslav Kolesnichenko, and shot putter Konstantin Lyadusov. Race walker Olga Eliseeva is also cleared to at the European Under-20 Championships taking place in Italian city Grosseto from July 20 to 23.

In a statement, the IAAF had remarked the participation of all these athletes as [neutral athletes](#) in international competition is still subject to formalities for eligibility under IAAF Rules being completed and subject to acceptance of their entries by individual meeting organizers.