



28 February 2022

Mr. Ievgen Bashenkov
President
Ukrainian Rugby Federation

Re: Decisions of the World Rugby Executive Committee

Dear President, Dear Ievgen,

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2022 detailing the struggles faced by your Union and the people of Ukraine following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

We are writing to confirm that the World Rugby Executive Committee met this evening, February 28, 2022, to consider the crisis in Ukraine together with the appropriate Rugby sanctions to be taken against the Rugby Union of Russia and the Belarus Rugby Federation. The decisions of the Executive Committee, which will take immediate effect, are copied below.

The Rugby family continues to stand in solidarity with our friends in Ukraine at this deeply disturbing time for your country and people and we remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sir Bill Beaumont in black ink.

Sir Bill Beaumont CBE DL
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Alan Gilpin in black ink.

Alan Gilpin
CEO

cc: *Octavian Morariu, President Rugby Europe and IOC Member*
Florent Marty, CEO Rugby Europe
David Carrigy, Chief of International Relations & Participation
Steph Nel, RPM Europe

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World Rugby Media Release – February 28, 2022

World Rugby confirms sporting sanctions for Russia and Belarus

World Rugby reiterates its condemnation of Russia's aggressive invasion of Ukraine and the facilitation of this action by Belarus. The global rugby family is united in standing in solidarity with everyone affected by these deeply disturbing events and joins the global community in calling for the restoration of peace.

The World Rugby Executive Committee has today decided to take immediate additional steps to protect the rugby family and take a strong stance against the conflict in line with recommendations by the International Olympic Committee (IOC):

- The full and immediate suspension of Russia and Belarus from all international rugby and cross-border club rugby activities until further notice
- The full and immediate suspension of the Rugby Union of Russia from World Rugby membership until further notice

The decision has been taken with the interests of rugby's values of solidarity, integrity and respect at heart. World Rugby also remains in contact with colleagues at the Ukraine Rugby Federation and has pledged its full support to the rugby community in the country.

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