

***Subject: Notice Regarding Recent Conduct and Request for Corrective Action and Official opinion ***

On behalf of the Ethics Committee of the Pole Sports & Arts World Federation (POSA), which met to evaluate the events that took place during the award ceremony of the Pole Sport World Championships, we would like to draw attention to the behaviour of the athlete **Viktorija Koshevaia (Russia), who competed as an International Neutral Athlete**

Context of Concern

Following her second-place finish in the senior women's category—a remarkable achievement in a highly competitive international context—the athlete initially refused to participate in the awards ceremony, exposing herself to the risk of disqualification.

The intervention of the Head Judge Alessia Fontana (Italy) and her coach, Natalia Guseva, was necessary to convince her to take the podium. During the ceremony, she appeared wearing a leotard that did not comply with her country's standard uniform (although it was accepted as an exception), removed her medal while still on the podium, and left before the President's speech was over.

Considerations

This conduct did not comply with the principles of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship enshrined in the POSA Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, Rules & Regulations and Code of Discipline, which require honesty, fairness, and the absence of behaviour that damages the image of the Federation and the sport. Although there are no grounds for direct sanctions by this Committee, as the infringements do not constitute violations punishable at the time (given that the athlete left the podium only when the President thanked the athletes in his closing remarks), the decision on any disciplinary measures is left to the athlete's National Federation, given that Koshevaia's behaviour embarrassed the entire Russian team, which, on the contrary, has always shown great respect for its opponents and the rules of the sport.

The fact that Koshevaia emphasized on social media (Instagram) that she is “proud of her behaviour” highlights a total lack of humility and sportsmanship, which further embarrasses her National Federation.

Corrective Measures

Given the situation, this Committee has decided not to take any corrective measures against Viktorija Koshevaia, we are only issuing a **“warning”** for not wearing the national tracksuit at the award ceremony.

However, we would like to emphasize that if she had left the Sports Hall in order not to participate in the Award Ceremony, or if she had left the podium just a few seconds before the President's final sentence, this would have constituted disrespectful conduct towards the jury, and the athlete would have been disqualified immediately.

Closing Statement

We are available to the Russian Federation for any clarification regarding possible national sanctions that athlete Koshevaia may receive, and we reiterate that participation in a sports federation requires mutual respect and sportsmanship above all else, regardless of competitive results. The Ethics Committee remains available for further clarification.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eng. Cesare Bianchi

President, POSA Ethics Committee

2025 December 20th

