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Story: IOC President Thomas Bach announces Executive Board decision on participation of Russian athletes at Olympic Games Rio 2016

Date: 24 July 2016

Location: IOC Headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland

SHOT LOG & transcripts of soundbites:

00:00 Exterior shots, IOC headquarters, Lausanne, Switzerland.
00:13 Olympic rings.
00:18 Interior shots, IOC headquarters.

SOUNDBITE: IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)
00:31 Q. What was the outcome of the Executive Board meeting?
00:35 “We have decided today that no Russian athlete can compete in the Olympic Games Rio 2016 unless he or she meets some very strict criteria. For instance we decided that the presumption of innocence cannot be applied to Russian athletes. The International Sports Federations will carry out an individual analysis of each athlete’s anti-doping record taking into account only reliable international tests. That means Russian tests cannot be taken into consideration. Unlike any other National Olympic Committee, no Russian athlete who has ever had a doping sanction will be accepted in the Olympic Games Rio 2016, even if he or she has served the sanction. The IOC will then take the final decision based on the advice of an arbitrator of the Court of
Arbitration for Sport, the highest judicial authority in sport.”

**SOUNDBITE: IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)**

01:47 Q. Why have you not banned all Russian athletes?
01:50 “Every human being is entitled to individual justice. There we have set the bar to the absolute limit for how Russian athletes can achieve to compete in Rio. All of them have to meet individually this number of very strict criteria we have established today.”

**SOUNDBITE: IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language)**

02:16 Q. Why did the IOC not accept the concept of neutral athlete?
02:18 “First of all the Olympic Charter does not foresee such a concept of a neutral athlete and the situation is very different from the International Athletics Federation. There the IAAF had suspended the Russian National Federation after serious allegations of a corruption case involving both the National Russian Federation and the officials of the International Federation. This corruption case is until now subject of a criminal investigation by the French legal authorities to which the IOC is a civil party. This is an extreme situation which does not exist in any other International Federation, nor at the level of the IOC.”

End

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