

UNCLASSIFIED



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Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) [25 STATE 55754](#)
 B) [25 STATE 55146](#)
Subject: (U) The Sports Exception to the Suspension of the Entry to the United States of Aliens from Designated Countries Pursuant to Section 212(f) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1182(f))

1. **SUMMARY:** The June 4 Presidential Proclamation "Restricting the Entry of Foreign Nationals to Protect the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats" fully or partially suspends the entry of aliens from 19 countries to the United States, pursuant to section 212(f) of the INA. The proclamation includes an exception for some participants in certain major sporting events. This cable explains that exception and announces the Secretary's determination of certain other "major sporting events." **END SUMMARY.**

(U) The Major Sports Exception

2. (SBU) Section 4(b)(iv) of the proclamation excepts from suspension and limitation on entry "any athlete or member of an athletic team, including coaches, persons performing a necessary support role, and immediate relatives, traveling for the World Cup, Olympics, or other major sporting event as determined by the Secretary of State." Consistent with the

nature of the proclamation's findings - that vetting and screening information for nationals of countries covered by the proclamation is so deficient as to warrant a full or partial suspension of admission - consular officers should apply the major sports exception appropriately to protect the United States from threats. As discussed below, only a small subset of travelers for the World Cup, Olympics, and other major sporting events will qualify for the exception set forth in section 4(b)(iv). Other travelers for these events are not excepted, unless they qualify for another exception such as a national interest exception as described in Ref A. When applying the Major Sports Exception, consular officers should follow the guidance on exceptions in Ref B.

3. [REDACTED] In section 4(b)(iv), the reference to "World Cup" pertains only to travel for the 2026 World Cup tournament. The reference to "Olympics" pertains only to travel for an Olympic Games, such as the 2028 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles and the 2034 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.
4. (U) The Secretary has determined that the events listed in paragraph 7 are "other major sporting events" covered by the major sports exception. This list is also available on [CAWeb](#).
5. [REDACTED] Accredited travelers for the World Cup, the Olympics, and other major sporting events designated under the provision who are from the 19 designated countries but who are not an "athlete or member of an athletic team, including coaches, persons performing a necessary support role, and immediate relatives" do not benefit from this exception. For example, accredited media and commercial partners do not benefit from this exception. COMs may instead consider whether to recommend such travelers for a national interest exception pursuant to Ref A. Additionally, persons traveling to attend any event as a spectator do not qualify under the major sports exception. When issuing any visa under the major sports exception, consular officers are reminded to follow the annotation guidance in Ref B. Note that whether the major sports exception applies has no bearing on visa validity. Further guidance

regarding reduced or limited visa validity pursuant to the proclamation will come via septel.

6. (U) **Inquiries:** Posts must refer any U.S. media inquiries regarding NIEs to CA-Press@state.gov and congressional inquiries regarding NIEs to ConsularOnTheHill@state.gov. Posts may continue to reply to routine case-specific constituent inquiries about cases subject to the PP.

7. (U) **Other Major Sporting Events under Section 4(b)(iv):**

[REDACTED]

Signature: RUBIO

Info: ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE *Routine*
XMT: BASRAH, AMCONSUL; CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; CHENGDU, AMCONSUL;
KABUL, AMEMBASSY; MINSK, AMEMBASSY; SANAA, AMEMBASSY; ST
PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL; VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL;
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