



Asylum Research & Global Assistance



## **NIKITA MAZEPIN INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING REVIEW**

### **Neutral Analytical Overview of the International Sporting, Legal, and Public Positioning of Nikita Dmitrievich Mazepin**

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#### **1. Purpose of the Review**

This document provides a neutral factual overview of the international positioning of Nikita Dmitrievich Mazepin, former Formula One driver and professional racing driver.

The review is based exclusively on open-source information and confirmed public materials. It does not assess motives, does not make allegations, does not draw conclusions concerning responsibility, and does not link Nikita Mazepin's actions to the actions of other persons unless such connection is directly documented in public sources.

#### **2. General Profile**

Nikita Dmitrievich Mazepin is a Russian racing driver whose international public profile is primarily connected with his participation in Formula One with Haas F1 Team in 2021, the termination of his Haas contract in March 2022, his inclusion on and subsequent removal from the European Union sanctions list, and his later participation in endurance racing and rally raid.

His post-2022 international positioning has included legal challenges to sanctions-related restrictions, public statements concerning the continuation of his racing career, and participation in racing formats outside Formula One.

#### **3. International Racing Career Before Formula One**

Before entering Formula One, Nikita Mazepin competed in several international junior racing categories, including Formula Renault, Toyota Racing Series, FIA Formula 3 European Championship, GP3 Series, FIA Formula 2 Championship, and F3 Asian Championship.

In 2018, he competed in the GP3 Series with ART Grand Prix and finished second in the championship. He later competed in Formula 2, including with Hitech Grand Prix in 2020, where he finished fifth in the championship standings.

These results formed part of his progression into Formula One.

#### **4. Formula One Activity**

In 2021, Nikita Mazepin competed in Formula One for Haas F1 Team. During that season, the team operated under the name Uralkali Haas F1 Team.

Mazepin participated as a full-time Formula One race driver during the 2021 season. His teammate was Mick Schumacher.

The 2021 season remains the central period of his Formula One career. Public racing records identify him as having entered 22 Formula One Grands Prix during that season.

#### 5. Termination of Haas Contract in March 2022

In March 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Haas F1 Team terminated both its title sponsorship agreement with Uralkali and its driver contract with Nikita Mazepin.

After the termination, Mazepin publicly stated that he had been prepared to compete under neutral status if required by the relevant motorsport authorities. Public reporting at the time noted that the FIA had allowed Russian and Belarusian drivers to compete in a neutral capacity, subject to specific conditions.

Mazepin also announced the creation of the "We Compete as One" foundation, presented publicly as an initiative intended to support athletes affected by political or conflict-related restrictions on participation.

#### 6. European Union Sanctions

Nikita Mazepin was included in European Union restrictive measures in March 2022.

The restrictive measures affected his ability to travel and access funds within the European Union. He subsequently challenged the measures before the General Court of the European Union.

On 20 March 2024, the General Court delivered its judgment in Case T-743/22, Nikita Dmitrievich Mazepin v Council of the European Union. The Court annulled the acts maintaining him on the EU sanctions list.

The Court stated that the association criterion required a link going beyond family relationship and that the Council had not discharged its burden of proof to establish such a link. The judgment is relevant to this review because it removed a major EU legal restriction affecting Mazepin's international sporting mobility and career options.

#### 7. Public Positioning After EU Sanctions Annulment

Following the annulment of EU restrictive measures in March 2024, public reporting described the judgment as a significant legal development in Mazepin's effort to contest sanctions-related restrictions and preserve the possibility of continuing his international racing career.

Reuters reported that the ruling formed part of Mazepin's broader effort to challenge sanctions and return to international motorsport. Public reporting also noted that he had challenged sanctions in Canada.

In July 2024, motorsport media reported that Mazepin completed a GT3 test in Hungary after EU sanctions against him had been lifted.

#### 8. Asian Le Mans Series Activity

After leaving Formula One, Nikita Mazepin returned to international racing through endurance competition.

In 2023, he participated in the Asian Le Mans Series in the LMP2 category with 99 Racing, competing under neutral status.

Public records identify his participation alongside teammates including Neel Jani and Gonçalo Gomes. His results included podium finishes and points in the LMP2 classification.

During the 2023–2024 Asian Le Mans Series season, Mazepin again competed with 99 Racing. Public racing records indicate that his results included wins and podium finishes.

This endurance racing activity represented his most visible international racing participation after Formula One.

#### 9. Rally Raid and Off-Road Competition

Nikita Mazepin also participated in rally raid and off-road racing after 2022.

Public racing records indicate that he competed in the Silk Way Rally in 2022 in the T3 category with SNAG Racing and achieved a class victory.

He also participated in additional off-road and Baja-style competitions.

This activity forms part of his post-Formula One sporting repositioning, alongside endurance racing.

#### 10. Middle East and Sports-Car Racing

Public racing records indicate that in 2025 Mazepin participated in the Middle East Trophy in the GTX category with Graff Racing.

This continued his participation in endurance and sports-car racing formats outside Formula One.

The available public record does not establish that this activity represented a return to Formula One.

#### 11. Public Statements on Formula One Return

Public reporting in 2024 indicated that, after the annulment of EU sanctions, Nikita Mazepin ruled out an immediate return to Formula One and referred to the need to consider a second phase of his career.

This public positioning is relevant because Formula One remained part of his sporting identity and public profile, while his practical racing activity after 2022 has been concentrated in endurance racing, testing, and rally raid rather than a confirmed Formula One race role.

No open-source material reviewed for this document confirms any Formula One race contract after the termination of his Haas contract in March 2022.

#### 12. International Motorsport Status

Based on open sources, Nikita Mazepin's international sporting status after 2022 may be summarized as follows.

He is a former Formula One driver.

He has not returned to Formula One as a confirmed race driver.

He has competed in international endurance racing, including the Asian Le Mans Series.

He has competed under neutral status.

He has participated in rally raid and sports-car activity.

He has challenged sanctions affecting his ability to travel, access racing opportunities, and maintain an international sporting career.

He obtained annulment of the acts maintaining him on the EU sanctions list by judgment of the General Court of the European Union dated 20 March 2024.

### 13. Public Statements and Communication Themes

Public statements attributed to Nikita Mazepin after 2022 have generally concerned the following themes:

continuation of his racing career;

reaction to the termination of his Haas F1 contract;

willingness to compete under neutral status;

the effect of political restrictions on athletes;

the creation of the "We Compete as One" foundation;

legal challenges to sanctions;

the possibility of returning to Formula One;

development of alternative racing activities after Formula One.

This review does not analyze the motives behind those statements. It records them only as publicly reported elements of Mazepin's international positioning.

### 14. International Projects

The principal international projects or public initiatives associated with Nikita Mazepin after 2022 include:

the "We Compete as One" foundation, announced in March 2022;

Asian Le Mans Series participation with 99 Racing;

rally raid participation, including Silk Way Rally activity;

GT and sports-car testing after removal from the EU sanctions list;

Middle East Trophy participation with Graff Racing.

The available open-source record does not support describing these projects as political initiatives. They are therefore characterized in this review as sporting, public-support, or racing-career activities, depending on the specific context.

## 15. Legal and Sanctions Events After EU Sanctions Annulment

The central legal event after March 2024 is the General Court judgment of 20 March 2024 annulling the acts maintaining Nikita Mazepin on the EU sanctions list.

After that judgment, public reporting described Mazepin as removed from EU restrictive measures.

The available public record also refers to sanctions-related litigation or challenges in other jurisdictions, including Canada. This review records the existence of such public references but does not treat them as equivalent to the EU General Court judgment unless final judicial materials are available.

The annulment of EU measures changed Mazepin's legal position in the European context and enabled renewed sporting activity in Europe, including reported GT3 testing in Hungary in 2024.

## 16. Relationship to Other Persons

This review does not connect Nikita Mazepin's actions to the actions of other persons unless such connection is directly documented in open sources.

Public sources identify Dmitry Mazepin as his father and note that EU restrictive measures initially referred to that relationship. The General Court judgment of 20 March 2024 is relevant because it addressed whether the association criterion had been sufficiently established.

Beyond this documented legal and family relationship, this review does not infer coordination, shared intent, responsibility, or institutional connection.

## 17. Limitations

This review is based only on open-source information available at the time of preparation.

It does not include confidential records, private correspondence, non-public contracts, internal racing-team documents, or unpublished legal materials.

The review does not assess political views, legal responsibility, reputational conclusions, personal motives, or the appropriateness of any institutional decision.

## 18. Conclusion

Nikita Dmitrievich Mazepin's international positioning after 2022 is defined by the transition from Formula One driver to former Formula One driver pursuing alternative international racing activity while challenging sanctions-related restrictions.

His confirmed public record includes Formula One participation with Haas in 2021, termination of the Haas contract in March 2022, inclusion in EU restrictive measures, annulment of the acts maintaining those measures by the General Court of the European Union on 20 March 2024, subsequent endurance racing activity in the Asian Le Mans Series, rally raid participation, GT and sports-car testing, and public statements concerning the continuation of his racing career.

The available open-source record supports a neutral characterization of Mazepin as a former Formula One driver and active racing driver whose post-2022 international positioning has involved legal challenges to sanctions, participation in non-Formula One racing formats, and public communication concerning athletes affected by restrictions on international competition.

Key source basis: EU General Court press release and judgment materials on Case T-743/22, Reuters reporting on the EU sanctions annulment, Guardian reporting on Haas termination and “We Compete as One,” and motorsport reporting on post-annulment GT3 testing.