The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Tennis Star Daniil Medvedev Says He Will Not Give Up Russian Citizenship

By AFP

January 21, 2026



Daniil Medvedev. **EPA / TASS**

Grand Slam champion Daniil Medvedev said Wednesday that he has no plans to change his nationality, distancing himself from a growing number of Russian tennis players who have done so in recent years.

Since the full-scale invasion in February 2022, several Russian players on the professional tennis circuit have sought to sever formal ties with their home country.

Daria Kasatkina, a former world No. 8 now ranked 43rd, switched her allegiance to Australia last March after criticizing Russia's treatment of LGBTQ+ people. She has also described the war as a "nightmare."

More recently, tennis player Anastasia Potapova announced that her application for Austrian citizenship had been approved.

Medvedev, however, said he does not intend to follow that path.

“I 100% understand and respect [those decisions], because, you know, that’s something you can do basically, especially in sports,” he said at the Australian Open. “It’s even maybe a bit easier than for other people.”

Related article: As Visa-Free Chinese Tourism Begins, Russians Reluctantly Welcome the Influx

“I never really considered this,” said Medvedev, 29, who was born in Moscow and now lives in Monte Carlo. “Because I believe... where you are born is important.

“But again, a lot of players change [citizenship], and I’m friends with them. I’m friends with a lot of players in the locker room, so it’s their choice,” he said.

Russian and Belarusian tennis players currently compete in international competitions under a neutral white flag.

In addition to Kasatkina and Potapova, Russian-born Kamilla Rakhimova and Maria Timofeeva have also changed their sporting allegiance, both now representing Uzbekistan.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/01/21/tennis-star-daniil-medvedev-says-he-will-not-give-up-russian-citizenship-a91735