



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS



AGE AND NATIONALITY





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Eligibility to play for a National Team

1.1 Any person holding the legal nationality (citizenship or national status) of a country, whether acquired at birth or later, is eligible to play for the National Team of the National Federation of that country, provided that all other conditions set out in these Regulations are fulfilled.

1.2 In cases where a territory shares a common passport with another state (e.g., United States territories, British Overseas Territories, etc.), and particularly where such a territory holds or seeks independent recognition through the International Olympic Committee (NOC status), the player must hold formal legal nationality of the territory as defined in its constitution or by the laws of the sovereign state and recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

1.3 The IFAF Executive Board may require additional proof of nationality (citizenship certificate, birth record of territorial origin, or NOC confirmation) where passport status alone does not distinguish citizenship from national status.

Passport

1.4 All players wishing to participate in IFAF competitions must present a valid passport or travel document issued by the competent authorities of the country they represent, together with any additional documentary proof of nationality required by the IFAF Executive Board.

1.5 For the avoidance of doubt, where a shared passport exists between two distinct territories, the athlete must demonstrate that they are a legal national of the territory they seek to represent.

Change of Nationality

1.6 A player may at any given point in their career, represent a second national team of the National Federation of the same country to which they may have changed their nationality as defined by the passport which they hold.

1.7 In representing a second national team the player recognises that they will be prohibited from representing either a third national team or the national team from which they have switched. Athletes with a dual passport are subject to the same regulations as the above. They are entitled to represent one of the national teams for which they hold a passport but once they represent a further national team (whether it be the second nation for which they held a passport or another) they may not represent either the national team from which they have switched or a third national team.

Application

1.8 The above regulations encompass all forms of football and are sport-specific meaning that if an athlete has a dual passport, they may represent different nation in another sport and this will have no bearing on IFAF. Also meaning that an athlete's eligibility is not discipline-specific.

1.9 Any change of national team must be notified to the IFAF Executive Board in advance of a tournament for approval. The player must have been eligible to represent their new nation on the first of January of the year of competition.

Age Range

2.1 An athlete shall be eligible to compete in an age group competition under these Rules if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification.

Proof of Age

2.2 An athlete must be able to provide proof of their age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of evidence as permitted by Championship Regulations. Any athlete who fails or refuses to provide such proof shall not be eligible to compete.

Age Ranges for Competition

2.3 Competition under these Rules may be divided into age group classifications as follows or as additionally prescribed in the relevant competition regulations for IFAF-sanctioned events.

Adult

Any athlete of 18 years of age or older on 31st December in the year of competition.

Under-20 (U20) Men and Women

Any athlete of 18,19 or 20 years on 31st December in the year of competition.

Under-17 (U17) Men and Women

Any athlete of 16 or 17 years on 31st December in the year of the competition.

Under-15 (U15) Men and Women

Any athlete of 14 or 15 years on 31st December in the year of the competition.

Safeguarding

2.4 All competitions which feature players or entourage who are below the age of 18 years must have a safeguarding protocol in place for youth athletes.

2.5 Note for competition age ranges: For example, a continental championship may choose to have an upper age of U19 so all players would be available for a U20 World Championship the following year. The lower age range cannot be reduced however.

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