



ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT A MEMBER RULES

(In force from 1 November 2019)

Specific Definitions

The words and phrases used in these Rules that are defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) shall have the meanings specified in the Constitution and the General Definitions, or (in respect of the following words and phrases) the following meanings:

"National Representative Competitions" means the International Competitions listed in paragraph 1.1 of the International Competition definition that are contested by teams of athletes who are entered by Members to represent their respective Countries or Territories, whether at senior level or at U20 or U18 or any other age group level.

"Other Relevant Competition" means any competition that is not a National Representative Competition but that is contested by teams of athletes who are entered by bodies authorised to submit entries to that competition to represent a Country or Territory, whether at senior level or at U20 or U18 or any other age group level. Examples include the Olympic Games, the Youth Olympic Games, and the Commonwealth Games.

"Residence" means the place or location in which the athlete is registered with the relevant authorities as having their primary and permanent home and/or where they ordinarily live for at least 75% of the time, excluding trips away to train or compete; and the word 'Reside' is to be interpreted accordingly.

1. Eligibility to Represent a Member

1.1 In National Representative Competitions, Members shall be represented only by athletes who comply with the eligibility requirements of this Rule.

1.2 An athlete who has never competed on behalf of a Country or Territory in a National Representative Competition or in any Other Relevant Competition shall be eligible to represent a Member in a National Representative Competition if:

1.2.1 they are a Citizen of the Country or Territory that the Member represents by virtue of:

- a. having been born, or having a parent or grandparent who was born, in the Country or Territory (as applicable); or
- b. having Resided in the Country or Territory (as applicable) for at least three years; or
- c. they have been granted refugee status or asylum status and permission to Reside in the Country of the Member (or in the parent Country of the Territory of the Member, where applicable); or
- d. they are a Citizen of the Country or Territory that the Member represents by virtue of marriage, by virtue of Residence for a period less than three years, or by virtue of any other means of naturalisation not set out in Rule 1.2.1, and the approval of World Athletics is granted, which approval shall be conditional upon:
 - i the athlete observing a waiting period of three years from the date that the application for approval is made to World Athletics (during which period the athlete must not represent any Member in National Representative Competition or compete in any Other Relevant Competition); and
 - ii the athlete demonstrating that they have a genuine, close, credible and established link to that Country or Territory (as applicable) and/or will have such a link by the end of the waiting period.

1.3 If an athlete is eligible to represent more than one Member under Rule 1.2, he may choose which Member to represent, by representing that Member in a National Representative Competition or by competing on behalf of the Country or Territory of that Member in the Athletics programme of any Other Relevant Competition.

1.4 An athlete who has competed on behalf of the Country or Territory of a Member in a National Representative Competition or in any Other Relevant Competition shall not be eligible to represent another Member in a National Representative Competition, except as follows:

1.4.1 in the following circumstances:

- a. if the Country or Territory (as applicable) of the first Member is subsequently incorporated in another Country that is or subsequently becomes a new Member, they may represent the new Member with immediate effect; or

- b. if the Country or Territory (as applicable) of the first Member ceases to exist and the athlete becomes a Citizen as of right of a newly formed Country ratified by treaty or otherwise recognised at international level that subsequently becomes a new Member, they may represent the new Member with immediate effect; or
 - c. if the Territory of a Member does not have a National Olympic Committee or other relevant body authorised to enter teams in Other Relevant Competitions, the athlete may compete for the Territory's parent Country in Other Relevant Competitions without affecting his eligibility to compete for the Member representing that Territory in National Representative Competitions;
- 1.4.2 alternatively, an athlete may represent another Member with the approval of World Athletics, which approval shall be conditional upon:
- a. the athlete observing a waiting period of three years from the date that the application for approval is made to World Athletics (during which period the athlete must not represent any other Member in National Representative Competition or compete in any Other Relevant Competition); and
 - b. the athlete demonstrating that as at the end of the waiting period:
 - i they are or will be aged twenty or over; and
 - ii they are or will be a Citizen of the Country or of the parent Country of the Territory which the Member represents; and
 - iii they are or will have a genuine, close, credible and established link to that Country or Territory (e.g., through Residence there).
- 1.5 As a general rule, an athlete will only be permitted to transfer allegiance in accordance with Rule 1.4.2 once. In exceptional circumstances, World Athletics may permit the athlete to transfer allegiance a second time, but only back to the original Member.
- 1.6 In accordance with Rule 2.2 of the Eligibility Rules, the eligibility of an athlete competing under these Rules shall at all times be guaranteed by the Member to which the athlete is affiliated. The burden of proving that an athlete is eligible in accordance with this Rule rests with the Member and the athlete concerned. The Member must provide World Athletics upon demand with valid / authentic documentation demonstrating the athlete's eligibility and such other evidence as may be necessary to prove the athlete's eligibility on a definitive basis. If required by World Athletics, a Member shall provide a certified copy of all documentation on which it seeks to rely in demonstrating the athlete's eligibility under this Rule.
- 1.7 This Rule does not apply to Neutral Athletes.
- 1.8 World Athletics will have discretion (which it may delegate to a committee or panel) to waive or vary any of the requirements of this Rule in circumstances that are deemed exceptional.
- 1.9 The Regulations on Eligibility to Represent a Member in National Representative Competitions shall govern the practical implementation of this Rule.