



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
CP FOOTBALL

IFCPF Athlete Nationality Policy

January 2018

Introduction

This document forms the IFCPF Nationality Policy, based upon the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Handbook 'Chapter 3.1 - IPC Policy on the nationality of competitors', including amendments applicable in all IFCPF sanctioned tournaments.

1. Policy Statement

Any competitor participating in IFCPF sanctioned tournaments, must be a national of the country of the IFCPF Member Organisation which is entering such competitor.

In specific and/or exceptional circumstances this rule may be interpreted or reconsidered by IFCPF as outlined in section 3 below.

2. Application

This IFCPF Policy applies to athletes participating in any IFCPF sanctioned tournament.

The term 'country' wherever used in these rules shall mean any country, state, territory or part of a territory which in its absolute discretion is accepted by IFCPF as constituting the area of jurisdiction of a recognised IFCPF Member Organisation.

The appropriate evidence that a competitor is a national of any country will generally be that he or she holds an official passport issued by the respective country. The concepts of 'nationality' and 'residence' or 'domicile' are separate and distinct. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of 'nationality' unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy.

3. Principles & Definitions

3.1 Specific and Exceptional circumstances for participation in IFCPF sanctioned tournaments.

Where applicable, IFCPF shall have regard to the specific circumstances described at 3.1.1 - 3.1.3 below.

3.1.1 Competitors with two or more nationalities:
A competitor who under this policy is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he/she may elect. However, after having represented

one of the countries that he/she would be eligible for under this policy in an IFCPF sanctioned tournament he/she may not represent another country (unless he/she meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 3.1.2 below).

3.1.2 Competitors changing or acquiring a new nationality:
This section applies to a competitor who has represented one country in an IFCPF sanctioned tournament (being a country for which that competitor is deemed eligible under this policy) and who subsequently changes his/her nationality or acquires a new nationality, or who holds two or more IFCPF recognised nationalities simultaneously and wishes to change the country he/she represents to one of his/her other existing nationalities. In such circumstances, the competitor may participate in IFCPF sanctioned tournaments, representing his/her new country, provided that a waiting period of at least three (3) years has passed since the competitor last represented his/her former country. This waiting period may be reduced or eliminated by IFCPF, with the agreement of the respective IFCPF Member Organisation of the competitor's former country and his/her new country. IFCPF will take a decision to reduce the 'waiting period' based on the merits of each application, on a case-by-case basis.

3.1.3 Statelessness:
IFCPF will have regard to the plight of stateless persons (as that phrase is understood in international law and more specifically defined in the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees). IFCPF will determine the eligibility requirements of any athlete deemed to be a stateless person.

3.1.4 Exceptional circumstances:
Where a competitor objects to the nationality attributed to him or her under the above rules and only where genuine exceptional circumstances exist, or in circumstances not fully covered by the above rules, a competitor may apply to IFCPF for a ruling on his or her nationality. On such an application, IFCPF may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period or any other requirements or conditions.

4. Procedures

4.1 Any application for a consideration under 'specific or exceptional circumstances' shall be submitted to IFCPF by the respective IFCPF Member Organisation that wishes to enter the competitor into competition. The application should be made at least six months in advance of the relevant competition, and shall be accompanied by all relevant evidence and/or by any other documentation as required by IFCPF. This may include, but is not limited to, evidence of support from the IFCPF Member Organisation of the country of origin.

4.2 The IFCPF Executive Board may delegate authority to the IFCPF Executive Committee to decide and resolve all matters relating to the determination of the country that a competitor may represent in IFCPF sanctioned tournaments.

4.3 The IFCPF Executive Committee may consult with the IFCPF Legal Advisors (and IPC Legal Advisors, where appropriate) with regard to specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence and may issue further details of procedure and set timelines to ensure and monitor the implementation of this Policy.

Appendix 1 - UK Home Nations Eligibility Agreement

To overcome potential complications where United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland passport holders (“**UK Citizens**”) are entitled to represent more than one UK Home Nation (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) under the IFCPF Athlete Nationality Policy (the “**Policy**”), the following criteria are to be determinative as to which UK Home Nation a player can elect to represent pursuant to section 3.1.1 of the Policy; and the Policy shall be construed as if the UK Home Nation thereby elected is included within the definition of the term “*country*”:

1. A player that is a UK Citizen who wishes to take part in an IFCPF sanctioned tournament may elect to play for a UK Home Nation pursuant to section 3.1.1 of the Policy only if he/she fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
 - a. He/she was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation;
 - b. His/her biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation;
 - c. His/her grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation; and/or
 - d. He/she has lived continuously on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation for at least two years.
2. Regardless of paragraph 1 above, the UK Home Nation Associations may make an agreement under which item (d) of paragraph 1 above is deleted completely or amended to specify a longer time limit. Such agreements shall be lodged with and ratified by the IFCPF Board.
3. Any player who assumes a new nationality by becoming a UK Citizen and who has not previously played in an IFCPF sanctioned tournament may elect to play for a UK Home Nation pursuant to section 3.1.1 of the Policy only if he/she fulfils at least one of the following conditions:
 - a. He/she was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation;
 - b. His/her biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation;
 - c. His/her grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation; and/or
 - d. He/she has engaged in a minimum of five years education under the age of 18 within the territory of the relevant association;
 - e. He/she has lived continuously for at least five years after reaching the age of 18 on the territory of the relevant UK Home Nation.