

ISBHF NATIONAL TEAMS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

January 2006

1. Objective

The following rules would apply for all ISBHF members as well as nations which are not or not yet ISBHF members but participate with a national team at a tournament organised by the ISBHF or play an international match against a nation which is an ISBHF member.

2. Area of applications

As national team games are concerned:

- (i) International Championships (World Cup / Continental Cup)
- (ii) International Tournaments
- (iii) Official national team games

International Matches which are well defined as exhibition games for development, do not fall under the player Eligibility rule.

International Matches between two LM Category Nations (see below) are only exhibitions games, when the location, where the game takes place, is not in a LM Category Nation.

3. Nationality

As long as a country has its own national team, this country applies to be a member nation of its own, and players may have its citizenship. A nationality of a confederation of nations is not considered in this case.

Example: Scotland has its own National Team but the players are UK citizen.

4. Country allocation

All member nations will be allocated into one of two categories

- (i) LM-Large Memberships (Countries where the sport is well developed and have a large number of participants)
- (ii) GM-Growing Memberships (Countries where there are fewer participants and the sport is still in an early growth stage)

Each year at the annual ISBHF Congress the categories will be reviewed and redefined for the next year, and subject to paragraph 11.

New Countries are automatically placed in GM Category in their first year, and shall be permitted this status for a maximum period of three years from the first WC/WJC they attend.

The country allocation is only valid for their active players.

5. Player recognition

A player, whether he plays or not, is officially recognized as a National Team player if he is named on the match sheet.

6. Active Players

Definition: Active players are players who are, according to the ISBHF age guidelines, no longer eligible to play for a U20 national team, and players who are eligible to play for a U20 national team but have played for a senior national team.

Players who play for a Nation are not eligible to play for any other Nation, unless they reside in this new nation and receive citizenship or similar document*. For such a change of Nation to be valid for international competition, the players must wait a period of three years from the last world championship before being eligible for the new Nation. Players making a change of Nation cannot in the future return to play for the originating Nation.

7. U20 Players

Definition: U20 players are players who are, according to the ISBHF age guidelines, eligible to play for a U20 national team.

Once a U20 player has played for a senior national team, regardless of his age, the article 6. "Active Players" shall apply to him.

By way of transfer from a U20 Player to an Active Player, their history will be deleted and the rules under article 6 "Active Players" apply to him without bias. (Except article 8 "Active and U20 Players").

A player can either play for his home country (i.e. place of residence) or the country of his citizenship. For the determination of the country of his citizenship only the nationality of the player is crucial. The parental citizenry is irrelevant. Therefore, a player can play for several nations in his history as a U20 Player if he changes country of residence. However, players who have played for a nation are not eligible to play for another nation in same year.

8. Active and U20 Players

Players who played for a nation are, even if they transfer from U20 to Active Players, not eligible to play for another nation in same year.

9. Players of Heritage

As many as 8 players, whose parents or

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grandparents are/were citizens of that nation, can be used by a GM nation, only after a minimum of 17 players of citizenship* or former citizenship have been named to the official national team roster. Players of Heritage must provide copy of legal document establishing citizenship or former citizenship of parent or grandparent, example: birth certificate, old passport, citizenship certificate, or marriage certificate from that nation.

development in the home nation, and the balance of 25 Euros will be placed in the ISBHF Development Fund to be used in youth development in other countries at the discretion of the ISBHF

** For the purposes of this regulation, due to the differing government citizenship rules from nation to nation, the following other valid documents may be accepted:*

10. Sanctions

Infringements against these rules will be penalised as follows:

Team: Game forfeit by 5:0 plus
Fine of CHF 500.— per game by
infringements during
Championships
Fine of CHF 250.— per game by
infringement during an
international tournament
Fine of CHF 100.—per game by
infringement during a national
team game

Player: Blocked for all national team
games for a period of one year

- *Work visa, with proof of residency in the nation*
- *Student visa, with proof of residency in the nation*
- *Landed immigrant certificate*
- *Birth certificate*
- *Person of Origin certificate*
- *Proof of citizenship*
- *National I.D. Card*

11. Development targets for new nations

GM nations will lose their eligibility to participate in WC, WJC, and CC events if they do not meet the following development conditions:

- (i) Establish a fully functioning league in the nation, with a minimum of 50 players, within three years of first participation in WC or WJC.
- (ii) Establish youth programs in the nation, with a minimum of 50 players U-20, within five years of first participation in WC/WJC.
- (iii) Mandatory participation in Continental Championships at Senior level, if such exist, in the off years of WC, effective 2008.
- (iv) Mandatory participation in Continental Championships at U-16 or U-18 level, if such exist, in the off years of WJC, within seven years of first participation in WC or WJC.

12. Development surcharge fee

Any nation with less than 500 registered youth players in the nation are subject to a development tax of 125 Euros per player used at WC who resides in a foreign nation.

100 Euros of each fee shall be held in escrow and directed by the ISBHF towards youth