

# ISBHF NATIONAL TEAMS PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS

## January 2010

### 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.

### 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 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 future return to play for the originating Nation.

Players with multiple nation eligibility must respond within 45 days of an invitation to the National Team of their resident country, otherwise the player may be disqualified to play for any other nation for that upcoming WC/WJC. Notice must contain warning, and follow-up procedures noted by issuing National Team in case player did not receive initial notice. Before disciplinary action may proceed, issuing nation must confirm player received invitation either through registered post/mail or email confirmation from player.

### 7. U20 Players

Definition: U20 players are players who are, according to the ISBHF age guidelines, eligible to play for a U20, U18, or U16 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

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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 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.

10. Non-Resident Players for Nations Emerging from GM status: (ENG, GRE, IND, ITA, PAK, POR)

Players must have full eligibility in place by August 31 of year prior to WC/WJC, and copies of documents are to be supplied to ISBHF for review by December 31 of year prior to WC/WJC. This requirement would not be required if 10+ resident players are confirmed for the roster. If team arrives at WC with less than 10 resident players, then any players not meeting above criteria will be disqualified. The onus will be on player to prove prior eligibility.

Residency shall be defined as living in the country, providing proof of permanent address, **and** proof of long-term employment or school enrolment.

When a nation achieves 10+ resident players on their roster, all heritage players from their past WC/WJC participations shall be deemed "grandfathered" as an eligible "citizen" player, however, not as a "resident" player unless meets above residency definition.

11. Nations without resident league

For 2011 any nation without a resident league by end of August will be prohibited from competing in A-Pool, with league defined as:

- (i) By end of August 2010 a 4-team league (60 players) should be in existence with a full regular season played over a period of time (not

tournament).

- (ii) By end of 2011 should be 8 teams (120 players), which can be different levels or age groups.

- (iii) By end of 2012 should have both a U-18 program and a senior program.

12. 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

13. 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.

14. 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

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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

The surcharge fee shall be waived if team achieves 10+ resident players on the roster.

*\* 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:*

- *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*