



International Sport Federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee

WBF Eligibility Code

(approved by the WBF Executive Council in Veldhoven, 17th October, 2011 and amended in Chennai, 1st October 2015, in Wroclaw 10th September 2016, in Lyon 19th August 2017 and in Orlando 25th September 2018)

1. General Principles

1.1 To be eligible for participation in the World Championships a player non-playing captain, coach, trainer and other team official must comply with the WBF Laws and Rules & Regulations. In addition the players and non-playing captains must comply with the conditions of eligibility set forth in this Code. No coach, trainer and/or other team official shall act for more than one Federation in any WBF Championship.

1.2. The above-noted persons must respect the spirit of fair play and nonviolence, and behave accordingly. The players must respect and comply in all aspects with the World Anti-Doping Code.

1.3. Compliance with the WBF Eligibility Code is mandatory for any qualifying event leading up to any of the WBF Championships and for any event for which WBF Master Points are awarded.

1.4. Any player and Non Playing Captain must be a National or a Bona Fide Resident (as set forth in Section 3 below) of the country of the NBO that he will represent as player or non-playing captain.

1.5 No player may represent another country in a WBF championship, any regional or national championship recognized by the WBF, as such by the awarding of WBF Master Points, until at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since he/she has represented a different country in such events, without the specific permission of the WBF Credential Committee based on an extraordinary situation.

1.6. All matters relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in the above mentioned events shall be resolved by the WBF Credential Committee, in accordance with art. 8.9 of the WBF By-Laws.

1.7. For avoidance of doubt, the participation and accreditation to any WBF Championship has to be intended by strict personal invitation.

1.8. Any player with pending ethical violation charges is not eligible for invitation to play in a WBF event.

1.9. Any player who has been convicted of collusive cheating is not eligible to play as the partner or teammate of another player who has been convicted of collusive cheating.

2. Dual or More Nationality

2.1. A competitor who 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 country in a World Championships in continental or regional or national championships recognized by the WBF, he/she may not represent another country unless he/she meets the conditions set forth in Section 2.2 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

2.2. A competitor who has represented one country in World Championships, in Continental or Regional Games or Championships recognized by the WBF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the World Championships, or in any event set forth in paragraph 1.3 above, to represent his new country provided that at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the two NBOs involved and by the WBF Credential Committee, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

2.3. If an associated State, Province or Overseas Department, a Country or Colony acquires independence, if a Country becomes incorporated within another Country by reason of a change of border, if a Country merges with another Country, or if a new NBO is recognized by the WBF, a player may continue to represent the Country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he/she may, if he/she prefers, elect to represent his Country or be entered in the World Championship by his new NBO if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once in any 10-year period.

3. Bona Fide Residents

3.1. To be considered Bona Fide Resident, a non-citizen is required to submit appropriate documentation to prove that he/she is a bona fide resident. Failing to so establish that fact will result in a denial of an invitation by the WBF Credential Committee.

3.2. The requirements to prove that a player is bona fide resident of the Country of the NBO approved by the WBF Executive Council are an integral part of this Code.

3.3. The choice to represent a Country as a bona fide resident may be made only once in any 10-year period except as approved by the WBF Executive Council and is subject to the limitations of Section 2.2 above. In a case where a player returns to his country of birth or first nationality, the period should be reduced to 3 years.

3.4. A player having represented one Country in a World Championship, or in any event above mentioned at point 1.3 to represent his new country provided that at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country.

4. Age Restrictions

4.1. There may be no age limit for players in the World Championship in the Open, Women and Mixed categories.

4.2. Players competing in Under 26 Men and Women events must not have achieved their 25th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. In the case of special events (e.g. for younger players or University events) the Supplementary Conditions of Contest shall detail the age requirements. Players competing in Under 21 events must not have achieved their 20th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. Players competing in Under 16 events must not have achieved their 15th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place.

4.3. Players competing in Seniors events must reach the age of 65** during the calendar year of the event in question. But see the timescale below for the implementation of this regulation:

** 19th August 2017 : The WBF Executive Council decided to raise the age requirement for Senior players to 65 over the next 8 years in accordance with the following schedule:

- Thus from 1st January 2018, a Senior player must be aged 61 in the year of the Championship in which he is going to play
- On 1st January 2020 this will be raised to 62 years of age
- On 1st January 2022 it will be raised to 63 years of age
- On 1st January 2024 it will be raised to 64 years of age
- On 1st January 2026 it will be raised to 65 years of age

4.4. The trials which allow participation in the World Championship are an integral part of the World Championship.

5. Invitations and Entries

5.1. The invitations to take part in the World Championships shall be sent out by the WBF.

5.2. Only NBOs recognized by the WBF and in good standing may submit entries for competitors in the World Championships.

5.3. Only NBOs in good standing with the compliance of the entry-fees (if any) can participate the World Championships.

6. Youth & Transnational Championships

The definition of Youth and Transnational Championships are stated in the General Condition of Contest approved by the Executive Council.

Those players nominated for participation in Youth or Transnational Championships shall not be subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.

7. Violations

The violations are subject to the WBF Disciplinary Code. In the event that one or more members of a team are deemed to have been ineligible as provided in this Code (including any qualifying event), the entire team shall be disqualified by the WBF Disciplinary Commission.

8. Effective Date

The WBF Eligibility Code as amended becomes effective on 25th September 2018.