WBF Bona Fide Residence Criteria

Players, who are not Nationals of the Country they wish to represent in WBF Representative Events (as defined within the WBF Eligibility Code), may be allowed to rely on Bona Fide Residence (“BFR”) if they are able to satisfy the WBF of the legitimacy of their residence.

The proviso is incorporated within the WBF’s conditions of eligibility to participate, to facilitate the opportunity for those players who have relocated to a country, that is not the country of their citizenship and, who genuinely and continuously reside in the country that they now wish to represent.

BFR is one’s actual or true residence, maintained in good faith, and does not include a temporary or superficial residence established for convenience or for the purpose of circumventing the conditions of representative participation.

It is for the player who seeks to rely upon BFR to satisfy the WBF and demonstrate the genuineness of their residence. It is not to allow the transfer of a player’s allegiance for any reason other than their genuine relocation to a new country. Those players who are unable to demonstrate to the absolute satisfaction of the WBF’s Credentials Committee will not be allowed to represent the chosen country in WBF Representative Events.

The request for BFR and all related documentation must be forwarded to the WBF Credentials Committee by the interested NBO; individual requests will not be accepted.
The following criteria will apply for those players seeking reliance upon BFR:

- the player must have a visa or permit that allows him to remain in that Country for a period of at least one year; or the laws of that Country allow the player to remain for a period of at least one year.
- Residence may be established and supported by the production of documents from several of the following indicative categories:
  1. National voter’s registration, tax records or other governmental documents;
  2. National or local Residency Permit;
  3. Homeowner or tenant records, utility bills and similar;
  4. Social Security, National Health Insurance records and similar;
  5. Such other documents that may unequivocally demonstrate physical presence.

In addition, the player, for whom the request is made to rely upon BFR, must submit a written application that contains the following information:

- Details of his previous Country of residence and the date on which they relocated to the present residence;
- If he represented his previous Country in any WBF Representative Event, the dates and detail of any such representation;
- A signed statement that he is a BFR of the country which he now seeks to represent.

If the Credentials Committee is not satisfied with the documents submitted it may require further proof and/or information.

A player that is accepted by the Credentials Committee as a BFR should be aware that the criteria applied in determining their application are a continuing requirement.

For the avoidance of doubt, the above rules and requirements do not apply to those participating in WBF Youth Events and Transnational Events.

Approved by the WBF Management Committee at its meeting in San Francisco, California on 2nd December 2019