

Bylaw 4 Player Eligibility to Participate in the IIHF Championship Program and Olympic Competitions

4.1. Subject to 4.2 through 4.11, players must meet the following requirements to participate in the IIHF Championships and the Olympic Competitions:

- (a) hold citizenship in the representing country and submit to the jurisdiction of the representing MNA;
- (b) complete and submit to the IIHF Directorate the IIHF Player Entry; and
- (c) submit to the IIHF Directorate a national passport of the representing country that is valid for the duration of the event.

4.2. Players that have never played in an IIHF Championship

4.2.1 A male player who has two legal citizenships or more, or has changed his citizenship or has acquired or surrendered a citizenship and wants to participate for the first time in an IIHF Championship and/or an Olympic competition or in qualifications to these competitions, then in order to play for his country of choice the player must:

- (a) prove that he has (i) participated in the competitions within his country of choice on a consistent basis, over at least 16 consecutive months (480 days) and during two hockey seasons after his 10th birthday (ii) resided in his country of choice during that period and (iii) neither transferred to another country nor played ice hockey for a team registered or located within any other country during that period; and
- (b) if the country of his choice is one to which the player has transferred then he must have had an international transfer that was approved by the IIHF and dated at least 16 months (480 days) prior to his proposed participation.

4.2.2 A female player who has two legal citizenships or more, or has changed her citizenship or has acquired or surrendered a citizenship and wants to participate for the first time in an IIHF Championship and/or an Olympic competition or in qualifications to these competitions, then in order to play for her country of choice the player must:

- (a) prove that she has (i) participated in the competitions within her country of choice on a consistent basis, over at least eight consecutive months (240 days) and during one hockey seasons after her 10th birthday (ii) resided in her country of choice during that period and (iii) neither transferred to another country nor played ice hockey for a team registered or located within any other country during that period; and
- (b) if the country of her choice is one to which the player has transferred then she must have had an international transfer that was approved by the IIHF and dated at least eight months (240 days) prior to her proposed participation.

4.3. Eligibility of players that have played in an IIHF Championship

4.3.1 If a player has represented a country in any IIHF championship, or in the Olympic competition or in the qualification to these competitions, he will not be eligible to represent another country except that he may apply to the IIHF to represent another country if:

- (a) he is a citizen of that country;

- (b) he has an international transfer that was approved by the IIHF and dated at least four years prior to the start of the IIHF competition in which he wishes to participate;
- (c) he has participated, on a consistent basis, and resided in the country for at least four consecutive years (1460 days) in the national competitions of his new country during which period he has neither transferred to another country nor played ice hockey for a team registered/located within any other country: and
- (d) he has not played for his previous country in an IIHF competition either during this four-year period or between completion of this four-year period and the start of the IIHF championship he wishes to compete.

4.3.2 A player that has represented a country in any IIHF championship, Olympic competition or in the qualifications to these competitions and has later acquired another citizenship may continue to represent his old country if he is still a citizen of that country.

4.3.3 If a country or part of it becomes independent, or if a country or part of it becomes incorporated into another country, or if two or more countries are united into a new country, or if a country is divided into more countries, a player who has already represented a country and whose citizenship was subsequently changed by decision of the state authorities, may apply to the IIHF to play for any one of the partitioned or united countries without a waiting period upon providing proof of his new citizenship. This decision may only be made once and is final and irrevocable subject to Statute 22.

- 4.4. When a player wishes to establish his eligibility under Bylaw 4, the MNA for which he wishes to play must submit an application to the IIHF together with all applicable evidence at least four weeks before the competition or game in which the player wishes to play.
- 4.5. Cases involving exceptional circumstances can be submitted to Council for a Council exception. All other IIHF eligibility decisions may only be appealed to the IIHF Disciplinary Board within 14 days of the IIHF eligibility notification in accordance with the Disciplinary Code.
- 4.6. Players of non-member organizations who participate in IIHF Competitions must, for the period of these events, be under the control and management of the respective MNA and be eligible in accordance with the applicable criteria to compete and shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the IIHF.
- 4.7. The player and the MNA registering a player for an IIHF Championship, Olympic Competition and qualification thereto are at all times fully responsible for the player's eligibility, even if the IIHF approves the player's eligibility in accordance with Bylaw 4.4, and will be subject to the following disciplinary consequences:
 - (a) If one or more players is deemed ineligible during an IIHF Championship, Olympic Competition or qualification tournament thereto, then the games played by the team with an ineligible player shall be forfeited and the ineligible player disqualified from the tournament. In exceptional circumstances, the Directorate may vary the application of this clause in the best interests of the competition applying the principle that the team at fault should not take benefit of any ranking and with the objective not to disadvantage, even indirectly, other teams taking part in the competition. Any decision taken by the Directorate in this respect shall not be regarded as a precedent.

- (b) If the player is deemed ineligible after the IIHF Championship, Olympic Competition or qualification tournament thereto, and before the following Semi-Annual Congress, the team with the ineligible player shall be disqualified.
- (c) If the player is deemed ineligible after the next IIHF Championship or qualification thereto, the team with the ineligible player shall be removed from the relevant championship rankings, its results annulled, and the correct ranking established.
- (d) An ineligible player may not receive any award.
- (e) An ineligibility case may be submitted to the IIHF Disciplinary Board for further sanctions against the player and/or MNA in accordance with the IIHF Disciplinary Code.
- (f) Where the effect of any of the above measures has resulted in a change in the rankings following the completion of the championship, awards and payments shall be adjusted accordingly.

4.8. Eligibility rules for the applicable IIHF Competition may differ, and players must meet the applicable eligibility rules for each IIHF Competition.