



## **INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION**

### **FIH REGULATIONS Governing the Eligibility of a Player to play International Hockey for a Country / National Association**

#### **1. General Principles**

- 1.1 To be eligible to represent a country as a Junior or Senior player in an inter-nations event, a player must be a national of that country. To be eligible to represent a country in a Masters inter-nations event a player must be a national of that country, or have been a resident of that country for a minimum of 12 months immediately prior to the event.
- 1.2 Nationality is determined by the holding of a valid passport of the country the player is selected to represent.
- 1.3 The rules for the eligibility of players to compete in Olympic Games are governed by the IOC Olympic Charter.
- 1.4 The Executive Board is empowered to recognize suspensions or disqualifications of clubs declared by the NA to which they belong and, if so, to see to it that these decisions are applied by all National Associations.
- 1.5 In the case of Junior and Senior players the FIH Executive Board, and in the case of Masters the Board of IMHA / WGMA, may authorise National Associations to play against non-affiliated associations but only when the non-affiliated association has shown interest in seeking affiliation to the FIH or in the case of Masters then to the IMHA / WGMA.

#### **2. Junior Players**

- 2.1 A junior player is any player under twenty-one (21) years of age at the relevant date.
- 2.2 A junior player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time, may elect to represent only one of them but while a junior he may, with the approval of the Executive Board, elect to represent the other of which the player is a national.
- 2.3 A junior player who, having represented a country while he is a junior, obtains a second or other nationality may, with the approval of the Executive Board, represent that second or other country.
- 2.4 On a junior player who has represented a country at junior level becoming a senior player, he may make a new choice but, having made that choice and having represented a country at senior level, he cannot then represent another country at senior level for three years from the date he last represented the original country without the prior written approval of the Executive Board and the National Association for whom he has previously represented.
- 2.5 Any junior player who has represented his country at a senior level ceases to be a junior player for the purposes of this Eligibility Regulation and his eligibility is governed by the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 (below) of these Regulations.

### **3. Senior Players**

- 3.1 Senior players are all players selected to represent a country in an FIH sanctioned match or tournament which has no restrictions on age.
- 3.2 A senior player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent only one of them.
- 3.3 Having represented a country at senior level and / or been on the final entry team list as presented at the pre-tournament briefing, the player cannot then represent another country (including the other country of which he is a national) for three years from the date he last represented the original country and without the prior written approval of the Executive Board.
- 3.4 A senior player who, having represented a country at senior level, changes nationality or acquires a new nationality, may not represent the new country for three years after the date he last represented the original country without the written approval of the Executive Board and the previous National Association. Unless the player elects to represent the new country in accordance with this paragraph the player may continue to represent the original country assuming he has retained that country's passport.
- 3.5 If an associated State, a province or overseas department of a country or a colony, acquires its independence, or if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of borders, or if a new National Association is recognized by the FIH, a player may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, elect to represent his new country. This choice may only be made once.
- 3.6 In all cases not expressly addressed in the Statutes or Regulations, in particular in those cases in which a player would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he is a national or to have a choice as to the country which he intends to represent, the Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and in particular issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of players, including the length of any waiting period.

### **4. Masters Players**

- 4.1 Masters players are all players selected to represent a country in an FIH sanctioned Masters match or tournament which has restrictions on age. The age of a Masters player shall be determined and calculated as at 31st December in the year of the event.
- 4.2 A Masters player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent only one of them. In addition a Masters player may qualify to represent a country by having been a resident of that country whom he elects to represent for a minimum of 12 months immediately prior to the event in which he is to play.
- 4.3 Having represented a country at Masters level and/or been on the final entry team list as presented at the pre-tournament briefing, the player cannot then represent another country for 12 months from the date he last represented the original country without the written approval of the Board of IMHA / WGMA.
- 4.4 In all cases not expressly addressed in these Regulations the Board of IMHA / WGMA may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and in particular issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of players, including the length of any waiting period.