



# **PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT A NATION**

Edition 2023

Decided by the IFF Central Board 14.11 2021

Valid from 01.01 2023

## 1. PERMANENT NATIONALITY

Any person holding a permanent nationality (citizenship) is eligible to play for the representative teams of the association of that country.

### **Proof of permanent nationality:**

- The only document considered to be valid proof of a player's identity and nationality shall be a permanent international **passport** that explicitly, and in Latin characters, states the player's first name(s) and surname(s), as well as their day, month and year of birth
- Identity cards or other local supporting official documents shall not be accepted as a valid means of identification for the purpose of proving nationality

## 2. SPORTING NATIONALITY

In the case of a player who has not represented any country at international level, they should be allowed to choose their sporting nationality based on fulfilling one of the following criteria:

- i. Born on the territory of the relevant association;
- ii. Biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant association;
- iii. Grandmother or grandfather was born on the territory of the relevant association;
- iv. Has lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years

### **Proof of sporting nationality:**

- Birth certificate showing the player's first name (s) and surname (s), date of birth, and place of birth; OR
- Birth certificate showing biological mother/grandmother's or biological father/grandfather's first name (s) and surname (s), date of birth, and place of birth PLUS proof of relationship to the player (see 2.1 for more information); OR
- Proof of having lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years (see 2.2 for more information)

### **2.1 Biological Mother or Father**

The reference to "biological mother or biological father", as opposed to simply "mother or father" is a protective measure against abusive 'nationality shopping', preventing an adult or talented teenage player being legally adopted by an individual in a new country or territory to facilitate a change in 'sporting nationality'.

Where a player wishes to rely on the location of birth of their adoptive parent/s, a request for eligibility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Factors such as (but not limited by): the age when the player was adopted; the age when the player moved countries (if applicable); whether the player's biological parents are still alive; and whether the player has a 'genuine link' to the relevant Member Association.

## 2.2 Lived on the territory of the relevant association

The five year period does not need to be the last five years, it can be earlier years but no more than five years may have passed since the last date that the player lived on the territory. In that case the time requirement resets.

Notwithstanding the permitted absences, the "physical presence" of a player is required in the country or territory of an MA for at least 183 days during a 12-month period for the player to have "lived on the territory" of the MA for that year of the "defined period".

The period of 183 days reflects the definition of residence found in several national immigration (or similar) laws.

The only permitted deviation from the 183-day period is where "exceptional circumstances" exist. These are situations which do not depend on the will of the player (e.g. natural disasters, a global pandemic, matters of force majeure). This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- a) The period of physical presence is not interrupted by:
  - short absences abroad for personal reasons;
  - holidays abroad (during the off-season);
  - medical treatment or rehabilitation abroad following injury or illness; or
  - travel abroad as a result of (floorball) employment
- b) The period of physical presence is interrupted (and time requirement resets) where:
  - a player is transferred to a club affiliated to a different association; or
  - a player is absent from a territory for any reason other those set out in par. a) above

### **Proof of living on a territory:**

- a valid **registration certificate** issued when you arrived in the country
- evidence that you've been living in the country, such as **utility bills and rental contracts**
- evidence such as **payslips, bank statements, tax returns** that you've been working, studying, self-employed, self-sufficient or looking for work

### 3. STATELESS INDIVIDUALS

A player that:

- does not hold any nationality; and
- due to the national law of the country of their domicile, will never be granted the nationality of such country

may be declared eligible to play for the representative teams of the association concerned provided that:

- they have lived on the territory of the relevant association for at least five years; and
- they can demonstrate that the move to the territory of the association was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams.

This rule provides stateless persons the opportunity to participate in a representative team. The concept of statelessness is long recognised in public international law. A “stateless person” is someone who is “not recognised as a national by any state under the operation of its law”. It is the only exception to the general principle of “no nationality; no eligibility”, and corrects an excessive hardship without compromising the sporting integrity of international competition.

#### **Proof of being stateless:**

To be declared eligible to participate for the representative team/s of an MA, a stateless person must demonstrate that:

- they do not “hold any nationality”;
- they will never be eligible to acquire the “nationality” of the “country of their domicile” on the basis of the relevant national law;
- they “lived on the territory of the relevant association” for at least five years;
- their move to the territory of the MA was not for the purpose of participating for its representative teams.

### 4. REPRESENTING TWO NATIONS

A player may represent one nation in a recognised junior (U16, U19) international match and another in a recognised adult (U23, adult) international. Once a player has represented a nation in a recognised adult international match this rules out the possibility to play for another nation at any international level (junior or adult).

## 5. CHANGING NATIONALITY

A player may, only once, request to change the association for which they are eligible to play at adult level, to the association of another country of which they hold the nationality. A request to change association may be granted only in the following circumstances:

- The player wishes to represent an association that was admitted to federation membership after they were already assigned sporting nationality by way of participation in an international event;
- The player never represented their current association in any international event after the association which they wish to represent was admitted to membership;
- The player, at the time of playing their first match in an international competition (at any level) for their current association:
  - held the nationality of the association which they wish to represent; or
  - in the case of a newly recognised country, obtained the nationality of the association which they wish to represent as soon as reasonably practicable after the country was recognised by the majority of the members of the United Nations;

### **Proof required to change nationality:**

- Birth certificate showing the player's first name (s) and surname (s), date of birth, and place of birth; OR
- Proof of holding nationality of the new country to be represented according to the requirements above