

CHAPTER 3.1 - IPC ATHLETE NATIONALITY POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Any athlete in the Paralympic Games or other competitions sanctioned by the IPC must be a national of the country/territory of the NPC entering him or her and in compliance with the provisions of the IPC Athlete Nationality Policy.

The IPC Governing Board shall resolve all disputes relating to the determination of the country/territory that a competitor may represent in the Paralympic Games or other competitions sanctioned by the IPC.

1.1 Athletes competing for the first time

An athlete who competes for the first time, thus representing his or her country in the Paralympic Games, in IPC World Championships, Regional Championships, Regional Games or other competition sanctioned by the IPC or, where relevant, the IOSD or IF, may not represent another country/territory unless he/she meets the conditions set forth in provisions that apply to athletes changing their nationality.

1.2 Athletes with two or more nationalities

An athlete who is a national of two (2) or more countries/territories at the same time may represent either one of them as he or she may elect, and is subject to the provisions that apply to athletes competing for the first time.

1.3 Athletes changing or acquiring a new nationality

1.3.1 Paralympic Games

An athlete who has represented one country/territory in the Paralympic Games, in IPC World Championships, Regional Championships, Regional Games or other competition sanctioned by the IPC or, where relevant, the IOSD or IF, and who has changed his/her nationality or acquired a new nationality, shall not participate in the Paralympic Games to represent his/her new country/territory until three years after such change or acquisition has been made.



1.3.2 Other IPC Competitions

An athlete who has represented one country/territory in a competition sanctioned by the IPC, and who has changed his/her nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in IPC World Championships, Regional Championships, Regional Games or other competition sanctioned by the IPC (excluding the Paralympic Games) to represent his/her new country/territory until one year after such change or acquisition has been made.

1.3.3 Reduction or Cancellation of Minimum Waiting Period

The minimum waiting period required for athletes who change nationality or acquire a new nationality may be reduced or even cancelled provided that the concerned NPCs and/or IOSD/IF agree, and subject to confirmation by the IPC CEO.

1.4 **Extraordinary circumstances**

In all cases not expressly addressed in the IPC Athlete Nationality Policy, in particular in those cases in which an athlete would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he or she is a national or to have a choice as to the country which he/she intends to represent, the IPC Governing Board and/or IPC Legal Committee may issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the athlete, as well as the duration of any waiting period.

1.5 **Clarification of jurisdiction**

Whereas the IPC Athlete Nationality Policy applies for all entries to the IPC Paralympic Games, the respective IF or IOSD rules apply for qualifying competitions of sports governed by an IF or IOSD. Subsequently, in the event the IF's or IOSD's eligibility rules are more stringent than IPC rules, the more stringent rules shall automatically come into effect for participation in the Paralympic Games through the qualifying process.