

The Application of IOC, IPC, and Panam Sports Nationality Rules & U.S. Citizenship Requirements *A Guide for Olympic and Paralympic Community Athletes and Stakeholders*

OVERVIEW

This document clarifies the nationality rules of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and Pan American Sports Organization (Panam Sports) applicable for eligibility of athletes to represent a country in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games¹ (collectively referred to as “Delegation Events,” as defined in the United States Olympic & Paralympic (USOPC) Bylaws).² Further, as citizenship is the fundamental prerequisite to representing a country in a Delegation Event, this document outlines the U.S. Citizenship requirements. The IOC, IPC, and Panam Sports’ nationality rules are attached as an appendix (Appendix B). Additionally, a Frequently Asked Questions page is attached (Appendix A) to better assist athletes and stakeholders in understanding the requirements when seeking information related to changing nationality.

The spirit and intent of the IOC, IPC, and Panam Sports’ nationality rules preserves the notion that citizens of a country, with genuine and significant ties to that country, are eligible to represent that country in those international competitions under their purview, and to allow a competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time to represent the country they elect.

The USOPC will provide assistance to the athletes, where necessary, in understanding and navigating this process.

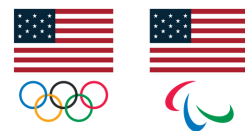
APPLICATION OF NATIONALITY RULES

1. Nationality Rules - Fundamental Requirements

Pursuant to Rule 41 of the IOC Olympic Charter, to be eligible to represent a country at the Olympic Games, an athlete must meet two fundamental requirements: (i) be a “national” of the country they represent and (ii) not have represented another country in international competition within the previous 3 years. The IPC and Panam Sports have enacted substantively identical provisions for participation at the Paralympic Games, Pan American Games and Parapan American Games. Collectively, these nationality requirements for participation at the Delegation Events shall be referred to as “Rule 41” herein.

¹ The Parapan American Games are governed under the IPC, along with the Americas Paralympic Committee (APC). The IPC will be considered the ultimate governing body for the Parapan American Games in this document since the IPC rules apply to that competition.

² This document only outlines nationality rules applying to Delegation Events which are under the jurisdiction of the IOC, IPC, and Panam Sports and does not apply to other international or domestic events. International Federations (IFs) have the authority to develop nationality rules for events sanctioned by the IF, which may differ from Rule 41. In order to determine the eligibility standards for other international competitions, individuals must refer directly to the IF rules. Additionally, any domestic event sanctioned by a National Governing Body (NGB) adheres to the rules as established by the NGB.



First, as to the nationality requirement, the IOC has clarified that “nationality” specifically means citizenship. Thus, an athlete must be a citizen of and hold a passport of the country which they would like to compete for. Each country has their unique requirements to become a citizen of that country and obtain a passport. There are no exceptions to this first requirement.

Second, a national of a country can only represent that country if they have not represented another country in specific international competitions³ within the previous 3 years (either from being a national of one or more countries or acquisition of a new nationality). This is commonly referred to as the “3-year waiting period.” If 3 or more years have passed since an athlete has represented their former country, they are eligible to represent a new country without restriction.⁴ When an athlete has represented another country within those 3 years, they are not eligible to represent the new country. However, the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports may grant exceptions to the 3-year waiting period if certain conditions are met, as outlined in the waiver process below.

2. Rule 41 Waiver Requirements

In order to apply for a waiver from the 3-year waiting period under Rule 41, an athlete must obtain (i) approval of the relevant International Federation (IF) and (ii) agreement of the relevant National Olympic Committees (NOCs), which requires a release from their former NOC and acceptance from their new NOC. Only the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports may grant exceptions to the 3-year waiting period.

Additionally, athletes should comply with the spirit of Rule 41 and have genuine ties to their new country, rather than obtaining citizenship of a new country simply as a way to circumvent the requirements of the rules.

3. Rule 41 Waiver Process

a. When Changing Nationality from the U.S. to a New Country (Seeking USOPC Release)

When an athlete seeks to be released from the U.S. to compete for another country, the athlete must contact the NOC of their new country for their support. Then, the new NOC must formally request a release from the USOPC. This satisfies the requirement that the new NOC agrees with and supports the request for change of nationality. The USOPC will not act upon any release unless or until the new NOC is actively involved and engaged in seeking an exception and approves the request at the outset.

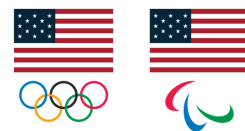
After obtaining receipt of a request from the new NOC, or concurrently, the USOPC requests the additional information from the athlete directly:

- Release from the relevant International Federation
- Agreement from the relevant U.S. NGB for the release
- National Federation (of the new country) support
- Copy of valid U.S. passport
- Copy of valid new country passport

³ The IOC, IPC, and Panam Sports nationality rules outline the specific international competitions and athletes may need to seek clarification and confirmation of those particular qualifying events from the IF of their sport and/or IOC/IPC/Panam Sports.

⁴ Although the IOC has no restrictions after this waiting period has passed, athletes must still comply with their respective IF eligibility requirements, which may differ and contain additional restrictions.

RULE 41 GUIDELINES & U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS



- Name and date of last competition representing the U.S.
- Personal statement regarding the fundamental reasons why they desire to compete for the new country, including the requisite elements of explaining: their personal situation and demonstrating personal ties to that country.

The USOPC will not unreasonably deny an athlete from a release and competing for another country so long as the above requirements are met, along with complying with the spirit and intent of the rule, which incorporates truly having ties to their new country. Rule 41 is not meant as a way for athletes to get around the eligibility requirements of the Delegation Events when they happen to be a national of two or more countries. For athletes meeting all those requirements, the USOPC will support the request to the fullest extent possible, understanding that exceptions are only granted by the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports so no guarantees can be made.

Once the USOPC is satisfied that an athlete has met the requirements, the USOPC will send a formal release letter to the new NOC. The new NOC is then responsible for seeking any exception from the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports.

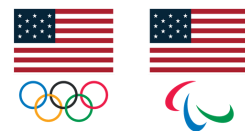
b. When Changing Nationality from a Former Country to the U.S. (Seeking Former Country Release)

When an athlete seeks to be released from a former country to represent the U.S., the athlete needs to contact his/her U.S. NGB and the USOPC and provide the following information:

- Release from the relevant International Federation
- Support from the NGB
- National Federation (of previous country) support
- Copy of valid U.S. passport
- Copy of valid previous country passport
- Name and date of last competition when representing the former country
- Personal statement regarding the fundamental reasons why they desire to compete for the U.S, including the requisite elements of explaining: their personal situation and demonstrating personal ties to the U.S.

If any of the above information is missing, the NGB and/or USOPC will provide assistance to help the athlete in obtaining the requisite information.

Upon receipt of the above listed information and satisfaction from the USOPC, or concurrently, the USOPC will send a formal request to the former NOC requesting the athlete release. The USOPC will collaborate with the former NOC in good faith throughout the process to obtain the release. If the former NOC does not provide a release, the USOPC cannot submit a request for exemption. If the former NOC does provide an approval and release, along with receipt of all other information, the USOPC will make a formal request for the exception to the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports.



4. Granting Exceptions to the 3-year Waiting Period

Only when an athlete has met all the requirements under Rule 41 and has satisfied requests for additional information from the NOC they are seeking to represent, will the NOC submit a formal request to the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports seeking this exception.

Upon receipt of a request for an exception, the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports Executive board will consider the request and may reduce or cancel the 3-year waiting period so long as the athlete is a citizen of the country they would like to represent and has the agreement of the NOCs and IF concerned. Generally, if those requirements are met, the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports will not unreasonably deny the waiver.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

1. Overview

To address Rule 41's fundamental requirement that citizenship of the country an athlete desires to represent, this section outlines U.S. citizenship requirements.

2. U.S. Citizenship Requirements

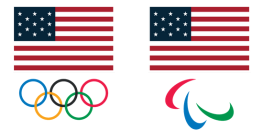
According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), before a foreign national applies for naturalization (the manner in which a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen) he or she must meet a few requirements. Depending on the individual's situation, there are different requirements that may apply. General requirements for naturalization are below:

- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- Be a permanent resident (have a "Green Card") for at least 5 years.
- Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you apply.
- Demonstrate continuous residence in the United States for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Show that you have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

For foreign nationals applying for naturalization through marriage, the following general requirements apply:

- Have been a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or Green Card holder for at least 3 years
- Have been living in marital union with the same U.S. citizen spouse during such time
- Meet all other eligibility requirements under this section⁵

⁵ The full list of eligibility requirements for foreign nationals applying for naturalization through marriage (Section 319(a)) can be found at <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/citizenship-and-naturalization/i-am-married-to-a-us-citizen>.



3. Private Immigration Bill

A private bill is one that provides benefits to specified individuals (including corporate bodies). The intent of the private immigration bill is to allow a foreign national to become a citizen without meeting the 5 year physically present test or the 3 year test (for naturalization through marriage). Immigration and claims matters have long been the most common subjects of private bills.⁶ Congress has made it clear that a private immigration bill is not meant as a way for athletes to obtain citizenship. The Subcommittee's rules of procedure specify a prohibition of consideration of private bills relating to expediting naturalization on behalf of athletes.

*The Subcommittee is extremely concerned by requests to expedite citizenship on behalf of athletes seeking to compete in national, international, or Olympic games. The Subcommittee does not believe U.S. citizenship should be provided because of a person's Athletic ability. There are few instances of favorable action on behalf of individuals who renounce U.S. citizenship. The Subcommittee will adhere to precedents in such cases.*⁷

Under this rule, the committee's intent is to prohibit the use of private bills for athletes. Additionally, bipartisan committee staff have also said that they do not allow for private bills for athletes.

The USOPC has engaged Congress on behalf of athletes and it was made clear that there should be no immigration relief provided because of a person's athletic ability.⁸

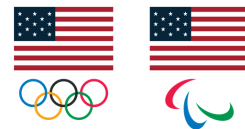
4. Presidential Power

Constitutionally, the President cannot provide relief. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution only grants to Congress the exclusive power to naturalize a foreign national. The President does not have the power to expedite citizenship through an Executive Order. Thus, the only path is a private immigration bill, which as discussed is not appropriate in the case of athletes.

⁶ The House Committee on the Judiciary refers these to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, which handles them routinely under established committee rules. Individuals sometimes request relief through private law when administrative or legal remedies are exhausted, but Congress seems more often to view private legislation as appropriate when no other remedy is available and when enactment would, in a broad sense, afford equity.

⁷ See page 6, in Section G. Naturalization in the Rules of Procedure for the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship in the 116th Congress

⁸ While the Senate Judiciary Committee rules do not necessarily prohibit the use of private bills for athletes, they do not take them up as the House Judiciary Committee will not take action on those bills.



APPENDIX A

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *To Rule 41 and U.S. Citizenship Requirements*

Who does Rule 41 apply to?

Rule 41 applies to athletes who would like to change their sporting nationality. The athlete making the request must already be a citizen of the country they would like to represent.

What are U.S. citizenship requirements?

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) before an individual applies for naturalization (the manner in which a person not born in the United States voluntarily becomes a U.S. citizen) he or she must meet a few requirements. Depending on the individual's situation, there are different requirements that may apply. General requirements for naturalization are below:

- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- Be a permanent resident (have a "Green Card") for at least 5 years.
- Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you apply.
- Demonstrate continuous residence in the United States for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Show that you have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

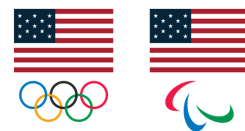
What is the definition of 'national' as used in Rule 41?

To be a 'national' is to be a citizen of the given country that the athlete will represent. In practice, the athlete must possess a valid passport of the country of the NOC that the athlete will represent during the Olympic/Paralympic/Pan Am/Parapan American Games and must present this passport during the accreditation process for the Games.

At what point does the athlete have to become a citizen of the U.S. in order to qualify for consideration of this exception?

An athlete must be a citizen of the U.S. at the time outlined in the NGB's selection procedures. The USOPC may initiate the process in advance if there is a guarantee that the athlete becomes a citizen in advance of the selection deadlines.

RULE 41 GUIDELINES & U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS



Does the 3-year waiting rule apply to the date of the start of the Games (i.e. opening ceremony) or the date of the competition?

The 3-year time period applies to the actual date the athlete last competed and the date of competition in the Olympic/Paralympic/Pan Am/Parapan American Games.

How long will it take to obtain an exception?

First, the timeframe depends on the length of time it takes the athlete to obtain all the minimum Rule 41 and NOC requirements. Once all the Rule 41 requirements are met, and in the case where the athlete is seeking to represent the U.S., the USOPC will make all reasonable efforts to act in a prompt manner to send the formal request to the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports (generally within a week after all requirements are satisfied). The IOC will consider the request at the next IOC Executive Board meeting, which take place every three months. The IPC/Panam Sports act in a comparable manner upon the receipt of requests for a waiver. The athlete should receive a decision immediately thereafter.

What are the nationality rules for international competition outside of Delegation Events?

The nationality rules follow the relevant IF rules, which can vary from sport to sport. Athletes need to consult the IF rules directly.

What are the standards the USOPC looks at when granting a release for an athlete to compete for another country?

The USOPC's minimum requirements when granting a release to an athlete include: a valid U.S. passport, a passport for the other country, NGB release, IF approval, NOC approval or NOC request for the country which the athlete would like to compete for, the name and date of last competition, and a personal statement.

Does receiving an exception guarantee that an athlete can compete in the Delegation Event?

No. An athlete must still qualify for selection under the relevant NGB's selection procedures, along with meeting any other eligibility rules. This may include meeting the relevant IF sport rules, along with ensuring compliance with anti-doping and SafeSport rules and requirements, and remaining in good standing with the NGB, among other requirements as detailed in the selection procedures.

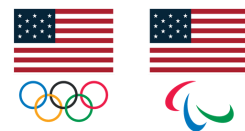
How does an athlete know if they competed in a "continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant IF" in the past 3 years as referenced in Rule 41?

Athletes may need to seek clarification and confirmation of those particular events from the IF of their sport and/or the IOC/IPC/Panam Sports. The USOPC will provide assistance to the athletes, where necessary, to help determine if a certain competition falls under the rules.

What happens if the athlete's former country/NOC or IF won't provide a release?

A release is required from the former country/NOC and the IF to change an athlete's nationality. It is recommended that an athlete try to resolve any issue regarding release with the NOC and/or IF directly. If an athlete cannot resolve any dispute with their former NOC and/or IF for obtaining a release, the athlete may attempt to utilize the dispute

RULE 41 GUIDELINES & U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS



resolution processes outlined in the NOCs, IF or IOC/IPC/Panam Sports rules, which may include an avenue to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. An athlete may consult an attorney or representative to pursue avenues to challenge any denials.

If an athlete doesn't meet the requirements, can they qualify for refugee status?

An athlete only qualifies for refugee status in accordance with the requirements for refugees as stated by the IOC and will not circumvent any of the changing of nationality sporting rules.

How does an athlete qualify for refugee status?

The following requirements must be met for an athlete to qualify for refugee status:

- Be a recognised refugee or beneficiary of international protection according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) agency.
- Have proven high-level competition results in an individual sport.

All potential candidates will be asked to contact the NOC of their host country for a first analysis to be conducted at the national level based on the two above-mentioned criteria.

What is the purpose of the refugee program?

The aim of this programme is to allow refugee athletes to continue their sporting career, but it is not a guarantee that they will be selected as members of the Refugee Olympic Team. The selection of the team members will be made by the IOC Executive Board at a later stage.

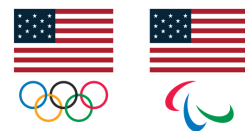
Who can an athlete contact for additional resources about their rights?

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds is available to provide independent and confidential advice to athletes regarding their rights, including these nationality requirements, and to assist in the resolution of athlete disputes. Athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds at ombudsman@usathlete.org or 719-866-5000. Athletes can also find additional resources at www.usathlete.org.

Athletes may qualify to access the legal aid program and information about that program can be found [here](#). Additionally, athletes seeking legal representation in these matters can access a list of attorneys [here](#).

Who can an athlete contact at the USOPC for more information on Rule 41?

An athlete can contact the International Relations department or Legal (generalcounseloffice@usopc.org)



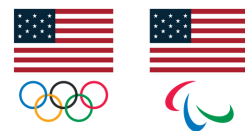
APPENDIX B

Olympic Charter Rule 41: Nationality of Competitors

1. Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the NOC which is entering such competitor.
2. All matters relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in the Olympic Games shall be resolved by the IOC Executive Board.

Bye-law to Rule 41

- 1. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognised by the relevant IF, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 2 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.*
- 2. A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognised by the relevant IF, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Olympic Games to represent his new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NOCs and IF concerned, by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.*
- 3. If an associated State, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, if a country merges with another country, or if a new NOC is recognised by the IOC, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, elect to represent his country or be entered in the Olympic Games by his new NOC if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.*
- 4. Furthermore, in all cases in which a competitor would be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games, either by representing another country than his or by having the choice as to the country which such competitor intends to represent, the IOC Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period.*



Chapter 3.1 – IPC Policy on the nationality of competitors

1. Policy statement

Any competitor participating in the Paralympic Games in any Paralympic sport, or in competitions for those sports that are governed by the IPC as International Federation (IF) (referred to as ‘IPC Competitions’ in this policy), must be a national of the country of the NPC which is entering such competitor. In specific and/or exceptional circumstances this rule may be interpreted or reconsidered by the IPC as outlined in section 3 below.

2. Application

This IPC Policy applies to the athletes participating in Paralympic Games or IPC Competitions as well as to any athlete competition partner (e.g. guides, pilots, coxswains) for those sports where such assistance is allowed and where the partner also receives a medal (all being referred to as ‘competitors’).

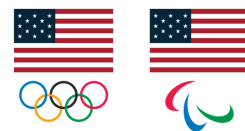
The term ‘country’ wherever used in these rules shall mean any country, state, territory or part of a territory which in its absolute discretion is accepted by the IPC as constituting the area of jurisdiction of a recognised IPC member organisation, the respective National Paralympic Committee (section 6 below provides additional information). The appropriate evidence that a competitor is a national of any country will generally be that he or she holds an official passport issued by the respective country. The concepts of ‘nationality’ and ‘residence’ or ‘domicile’ are separate and distinct. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of ‘nationality’ unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy.

3. Principles and definitions

3.1 Specific and exceptional circumstances for participation in Paralympic Games and IPC competitions. Where applicable the IPC shall have regard to the specific circumstances described at 3.1.1 – 3.1.3 below.

3.1.1 Competitors with two or more nationalities: a competitor who under this policy is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he/she may elect. However, after having represented one of the countries that he/she would be eligible for under this policy in either IPC Competitions or in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognised by the relevant IF he/she may not represent another country (unless he/she meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 3.1.2 below).

3.1.2 Competitors changing or acquiring a new nationality: this section applies to a competitor who has represented one country in the Paralympic Games or in IPC Competitions, in continental or regional games, or in world or regional championships recognised by the relevant IF (being a country for which that competitor is deemed eligible under this policy) and who subsequently changes his/her nationality or acquires a new nationality, or who holds two or more IPC recognised nationalities at the same time and wishes to change the country he/she represents to one of his/her other existing nationalities. In such circumstances the competitor may participate in the Paralympic Games representing his/her new country provided that a waiting period of at least three (3) years has passed since the competitor last represented his/her former country. For participation in IPC competitions (other than the Paralympic Games) the waiting period is one (1) year. These waiting periods may be reduced or eliminated by the IPC, with the agreement of the respective NPCs of the competitor’s former country and his new country and the IF concerned.



The IPC will take a decision to reduce the 'waiting period' based on the merits of each application, on a case-by-case basis.

3.1.3 Statelessness: the IPC will have regard to the plight of stateless persons (as that phrase is understood in international law and more specifically defined in the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees). The IPC will determine the eligibility requirements of any athlete deemed to be a stateless person.

3.1.4 Exceptional circumstances: where a competitor objects to the nationality attributed to him or her under the above rules and only where genuine exceptional circumstances exist, or in circumstances not fully covered by the above rules, a competitor may apply to the IPC for a ruling on his or her nationality. On such an application the IPC may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period or any other requirements or conditions. Any such decision shall be made in consultation with the respective IF governing the sport.

3.2 Nationality requirements for participation in sports governed by an IF (not the IPC).

3.2.1 IPC recognised multi-sport competitions: in regional games or in any other multisport competition recognised by the IPC, the respective IF nationality rules apply for competitors in those sports that are not governed by the IPC, unless the provisions of section 4 apply.

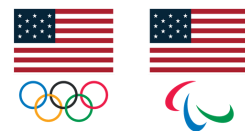
3.2.2 Qualifying tournaments for Paralympic Games: whereas the respective IF nationality rules apply for competitions in sports governed by an IF, the IPC nationality rules continue to apply for participation in the Paralympic Games. Therefore, in the event that the IF nationality rules are more stringent than the IPC rules, the more stringent rules shall automatically come into effect for participation in the Paralympic Games through the qualifying process. However, where the IF rules are less stringent it is the responsibility of the IF to communicate to the competitors and to the respective National Federations that the IPC rules apply for participation in the Paralympic Games; this to avoid misunderstandings and disappointments with respect to competitors who would meet the qualifying standards, but would not be eligible for participation in the Paralympic Games.

4. Nationality requirement for participation in certain multi-sport

4.1 Competitions

Certain multi-sport competitions that are recognised by the IPC may have specific national eligibility rules (such as for the Commonwealth Games). For these competitions, competitors may compete for countries or territories for which they are not a national under this policy but this will have no effect on the competitors' nationality eligibility for the Paralympic Games and IPC competitions.

4.2 The results of a competitor who competes for another country or territory pursuant to 4.1 above will have their results recorded for records and ranking purposes when competing in an individual event, but not when competing as part of a team.



5. Procedures

5.1 Any application for a consideration under 'specific or exceptional circumstances' shall be submitted to the IPC by the respective NPC who wishes to enter the competitor into competition. The application shall be accompanied by all relevant evidence and/or by any other documentation as required by the IPC. This may include but is not limited to the evidence of support from the NPC of the country of origin, and where relevant, by an evidence of support from the respective IF governing the sport.

5.2 The IPC Governing Board normally delegates the authority to the IPC Chief Executive Officer to decide and resolve all matters relating to the determination of the country that a competitor may represent in IPC competitions.

5.3 The IPC Chief Executive Officer may consult with the IPC Legal and Ethics Committee with regard to specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence and may issue further details of procedure and set timelines to ensure and monitor the implementation of this Policy.

6. Special Status of certain NPCs

6.1 The IPC has regard to the recognition of member states of the United Nations when admitting National Paralympic Committees to membership of the IPC. However, the Governing Board has agreed to recognise certain NPCs for territories that are not sovereign states and are not members of the UN. In these cases, the concept of 'nationality' may not follow the general principle set out above and the IPC Governing Board will have absolute discretion to determine the nationality eligibility requirements of athletes claiming to represent these NPCs.

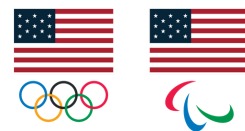
CONSTITUTION OF THE PAN AMERICAN SPORTS ORGANIZATION

34.4. Any competitor in the Pan American Games must be a national of the country of the NOC that is entering such competitor in the Games.

34.5. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, but only one of them, as he or she may elect. However, after having represented one country in the Pan American Games or Olympic Games, or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant Pan American Sport Confederation, and/or the corresponding International Federation, he or she may not represent another country unless he or she meets the conditions set forth in paragraph 34.6 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

34.6. A competitor who has represented one country in the Pan American Games or Olympic Games, or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant Pan American Sport Confederation and/or the corresponding International Federation; and who has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the Pan American Games to represent his or her new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his or her former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NOCs and the Pan American Sport Confederations concerned, by the Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

RULE 41 GUIDELINES & U.S. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS



34.7. All matters relating to the determination of the country that a competitor may represent in the Pan American Games shall be resolved by the Executive Board. In determining whether a competitor is or is not a national of a given country, the Executive Board, without limitation, may take into account the nationality, citizenship, domicile, and residency of the competitor.