

European Dodgeball Federation

Eligibility Rules

Version 2.1.3

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This document is applicable to the national associations and federations who are members of EDBF.

1. General Principles

1.1 These regulations apply to all EDBF international events and player representation for a national team.

1.2 These regulations apply to all current and future male players in male teams, all female players in female teams as well as all players of both genders in mixed teams.

2. Eligibility and Nationality

2.1 To be eligible to play for the national team of a country you must be a national or eligible non-national as defined in this document. Players must also fulfill the conditions of eligibility according to the laws and internal regulations of that country.

2.2 A National

2.2.1 Must hold the legal nationality of that country (i.e. passport, birth certificate, immigrant status, permanent citizenship, etc.) as obtained by birth or by naturalization.

2.3 A Non-national must meet at least one of the following conditions:

2.3.1 Parents: one or both birth parent/s or one or both adoptive parent/s. Step-parents born in the country which the player represents are not accepted.

2.3.2 Grandparents: one or more birth or adoptive grandparents born in the country which the player represents. Step-grandparents are not accepted for national eligibility of players. (Guidance: a player who qualifies through a family relation must be able to provide a valid birth certificate of that relation)

2.3.3 Marriage: a partner or spouse who is a passport holder in the country which the player represents, with the qualification that the couple must be resident in the country being represented. (Guidance: in the event of death of the partner or spouse, the surviving partner/spouse will still be deemed to be eligible to play for their country of residence, even if he/she moves away)

2.3.3.1 Divorce: in the event that a married couple divorces, where the husband/wife is the passport holder of the nation being represented, the qualifying player's eligibility will still be valid and they will still be able to represent that nation on completion of divorce proceedings.

2.3.3.2 Eligibility by marriage or partnership relates to a relationship which has been legally sanctioned by that country.

2.4 Residence: players who have been resident in a country for a minimum of three years prior to the application to play for that nation are eligible to represent that country.

2.4.1 If a player is studying at school, college or university in another country outside that of their birth, they are not eligible to play for that country unless they meet other eligibility criteria in this document.

2.4.2 A student in another country, other than that of their birth, is a student who has maintained a home address in the country of their birth during their studies in another country. A person who studies in a country and they have maintained a permanent address in that country are regarded as fully resident in that country.

2.4.3 Once a player moves away from the country he/she represented due to eligibility through residency, the player is still eligible to play for this country.

2.5 All documentation must be produced by a representative of the national governing body to the EDBF eligibility officer 1 month prior to an official EDBF event the latest. If there is no EDBF eligibility officer appointed or this person is unavailable, all documentation must be given to the EDBF executive council.

3. Age Requirements

3.1 To be eligible to play in an adult EDBF international competition and represent an EDBF nation, a player must have reached the age of 16 years as of the day prior to the start of that competition.

3.2 For national teams entering competitions with age restrictions, players must be eligible to participate within that age category prior to the start of that competition. E.g. for under 19 teams and events, players must be 20 years of age or younger prior to the first date of the competition.

3.3 Players that reach a birthday which precludes them from an age restricted national team, are no longer eligible to represent their country in that age restricted team. They will be released from all contracts and restrictions which apply to national eligibility.

3.4 A player who has two or more legal nationalities, by birth or naturalization, may choose each age restricted national team they wish to play for at each age category.

4. Changing National Eligibility

4.1 A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may choose to represent either one of them. After representing one country in an EDBF competition, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant international federation, he/she is allowed to switch nations a maximum of 2 times, if all eligibility criteria is met for the new nation.

4.1.1 A competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged to if one or more of the following applies: an associated state, province, 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

association or federation is recognized by the EDBF. However, he may choose to represent his country or be entered into international competitions by his new NGB if one exists. This particular choice is also considered as one nation switch.

4.1.2 If a player has not represented their country at an international competition previous to their application to change their national eligibility, no switch has occurred. Nationality first occurs at the EDBF eligibility procedure.

4.1.3 A competitor who has represented one country in a recognized international competition, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant NGB, and who has changed his/her nationality or has acquired a new nationality based on RESIDENCY, may participate in international competitions to represent his/her new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his/her former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the NGBs concerned and/or by the EDBF Executive Council, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.

4.2 Furthermore, in all cases in which a competitor would be eligible to participate in an international competition, either by representing another country other than his or by having the choice as to which country such competitor intends to represent, the EDBF Executive Council may take all decisions of a general or individual nature regarding issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period.

4.3 Nation Switch requests have to be reported to the EDBF eligibility officer at least 2 month prior to an upcoming official EDBF event. If there is no EDBF eligibility officer appointed or this person is unavailable, the request must be reported to the EDBF executive council. Requests must contain proof of eligibility from the current country as well as proof from the country they wish to play for in the future. EDBF eligibility officer (or EDBF executive Council) can then grant or deny the request.

5. Proof of Eligibility

5.1 All national teams must show proof of nationality and age of all players 1 month prior to an official EDBF event the latest.

5.2 Failure to provide satisfactory documentation will result in the player being disqualified from participating in the event in question. If documentation is not available and this is discovered after an event has started, this will affect the results and standing of the team in that event. Discovery of ineligibility after an event will also affect the results and standing of the team in that event.

5.3 A player who is disqualified from participating in an event after the competition has begun, due to lack of sufficient proof of nationality, will cause the offending team to forfeit all matches in which the ineligible player participated. The offending player will be ineligible to participate in any team activities or matches for the duration of that event.

5.4 Documents

5.4.1 Nationality and age have to be proven by official governmental documents, either passport, identity card, birth certificate or driving license that states a specific place of birth (city or country).

5.4.1.1 Driving licenses showing “United Kingdom”, “European Union” or similar as place of birth are not valid.

5.4.2 Residency has to be proven by:

5.4.2.1 Governmental registration forms which are currently required / available in: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Czech Republic and Hungary. Please note that all listed countries require these registration forms by law.

5.4.2.2 If a player is from a country where he/she is legally not obligated to register where he/she lives, the following documents are also allowed as proof of residency: Three consecutive bank statements or utility bills with their name and address on (one for every year). If a player is under/nearing the age of 18 or they do not have a bank account, they can show their parents’ bank statements/utility bills to prove their parents’ residency. Players would also need to prove their relationship to their parents via a birth certificate.

5.4.2.3 The EDBF will prove all presented documents in detail if eligibility is requested by residency. This means that further documents can be requested and the EDBF reserves the right to decline any eligibility request by residency if the provided documents are not specific enough.

5.4.3 Marriage has to be proven by a marriage certificate recognized by the relevant governmental institution of the country that the player wishes to play for.

5.4.4 If parents or grandparents nationality is required for a player’s eligibility, their proof of eligibility also has to be provided by passport, identity card, birth certificate or driving license that states a specific place of birth (city or country). In addition the link between parents or grandparents to the player has to be proven by birth certificates.

5.4.5 Documents that do not prove eligibility are: Student ID, driving license without a specific place of birth, lease, non-governmental photo-IDs, etc.

6. Gender Representation

6.1 Male players can represent their country in any EDBF competition in the men’s and/or mixed team.

6.2 Female players can represent their country in any EDBF competition in the women’s and/or mixed team.

6.3 In youth competitions up to age of 19, male teams are able to select female players if they wish, providing that the female players fulfill the eligibility in Section 2 above.

7. Punishments

7.1 Using ineligible players will lead to the disqualification of the whole team for the competition where this occurs and all matches will be forfeited. Further punishments will be made by EDBF Executive Council after the tournament. Due to the severity of each case, punishments can range from no action needed to an indefinite exclusion from all EDBF tournaments.

7.2 Not providing eligibility for a player in an EDBF competition will be seen as the equivalent as using an ineligible player and will lead to the same punishments.

7.3 Falsifying & forging documents will lead to an immediate exclusion from the EDBF for the national governing body and therefore all national teams of that country.

7.3.1 In the special case of the United Kingdom, punishments will affect the general association (UKDBA) as well as the specific subsidiary association of the country. Other UK subsidiary associations than the affected, will not be included in the punishment.

7.4 The EDBF deals with national governing bodies, meaning that punishments will always be considered for the whole organization. In matters regarding eligibility, the EDBF does not deal with single players. It is the duty of the national governing bodies to deal with eligibility of their players, therefore the NGBs are responsible for any misbehaving.

7.4.1 In the special case of the United Kingdom, punishments will affect the general association (British Dodgeball) as well as the specific subsidiary association of the country. Other subsidiary associations than the affected, will not be included in the punishment.

8. Player Selection by National Governing Body

8.1 The national governing bodies for Dodgeball, who are members of the EDBF, should use points 1 to 7 above as the basic standard for granting national eligibility to players. In addition, NGB's can also use their own selection rules when selecting their national teams, except where they are in direct contravention of EDBF Eligibility Rules.