

# European Dodgeball Federation

## Eligibility Regulations

*Version 3.1*

*Date: January 20th, 2026*



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

## **Document History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Change Notes</b>
2.1.5	September 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Shun Wong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Added Document History</li><li>▪ Updated Rule 4.1 from 'switch nations a maximum of 2 times' to 'switch nations a maximum of 1 time'</li><li>▪ Updated 'he' to 'he/she' &amp; 'him' to 'him/her'</li></ul>
3.0	March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Pierre Corvellec Max Golda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1.2 Gender Identity inclusion</li><li>▪ 1.3 added</li><li>▪ Point 2 remodeled</li><li>▪ 3.2 ages adapted</li><li>▪ 3.4 repositioned to point 4</li><li>▪ 3.5 added</li><li>▪ 4.2 and 4.3 adapted</li><li>▪ 5.1 adapted</li><li>▪ point 6 added (already confirmed in 2022)</li><li>▪ point 8 re-written</li></ul>
3.1	January 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Max Golda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 2.3 adapted</li></ul>

## **1. General Principles**

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

**1.2** These regulations apply to all current and future players in sanctioned EDF events.

**1.3** EDF reserves the right to lift, alter, or revise eligibility rules for any sanctioned event to ensure fair competition, promote athlete development, and foster a growing and inclusive environment within the sport.

## **2. Eligibility and Nationality**

### National Team Eligibility

#### **2.1 National Status**

To be eligible to play for a country's national team, players must obtain national status by meeting one of the following criteria:

1. Have legal nationality of that country.
2. Be an "eligible non-national" as defined in Section 2.2.

##### **2.1.1 Legal Nationality:**

For EDF purposes, legal nationality is defined as possessing one of the following documents:

- Passport
- Birth certificate
- Proof of immigrant status
- Permanent residency documents
- Other equivalent documentation obtained by birth or naturalization

#### **2.2 Eligible Non-National Criteria**

Players who are not citizens of the country they wish to represent can be considered eligible non-nationals and obtain national status if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

##### **2.2.1 Family Connection:**

One or both biological or adoptive parents hold legal nationality of the country.

One or both biological or adoptive grandparents hold legal nationality of the country.

**2.2.1.1 Guidance:** Players qualifying through family relations must provide valid birth certificates of their qualifying relative(s). Step-parents or step-grandparents are not considered.

##### **2.2.2 Marriage:**

Be married or partnered (legally sanctioned by the country) to someone who holds a passport in the country they wish to represent.

#### **2.2.2.1 Guidance:**

- The couple must be residents of the country they wish to represent.
- In case of death, the surviving partner remains eligible to represent the country of residence even if they move away.
- Eligibility through marriage/partnership is only valid for relationships recognized by the country's laws.

#### **2.2.3 Residency:**

Have resided in the country for a minimum of three consecutive years before applying to play.

#### **2.2.3.1 Guidance:**

- Studying in another country does not qualify for residency eligibility unless other criteria in this document are met.
- A student maintaining a home address in their country of birth while studying elsewhere is not considered resident in the country of study. However, a student with a permanent address in the country of study is considered resident.
- Players who move away after qualifying through residency remain eligible to play for that country.

### **2.3 Documentation and Deadlines**

All documentation supporting a player's eligibility must be submitted to the EDF Legal Department or, if unavailable, to the EDF Executive Council at least two months before an official EDF event.

## **3. Age Requirements**

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

### **3.2 Junior competitions**

#### **3.2.1 Under-18 Competition**

Eligible Players: Any player who will turn 15, 16, 17, or 18 years old during the calendar year of the competition.

#### **3.2.2 Under-15 Competition**

Eligible Players: Any player who will turn 12, 13, 14, or 15 years old during the calendar year of the competition.

**3.2.3 Important Note:** The player's birth date within the calendar year is irrelevant for determining eligibility.

**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.

### **3.5 Parental Consent:**

**3.5.1** For players under the age of 18, written permission from a parent or legal guardian is mandatory before participating in any EDF sanctioned events. This consent must acknowledge and grant permission for the following:

- Athlete's participation: The parent or legal guardian acknowledges and consents to the athlete's participation in the specific EDF event.
- Commercial use: The parent or legal guardian agrees that the athlete's image and likeness may be used in accordance with EDF Media Regulations. This may include, but is not limited to, photographs, videos, and other visual representations used for promotional purposes, news coverage, and official event publications.
- Risk of Injury and Assumption of Risk: The parent or legal guardian acknowledges and understands the inherent risks associated with participating in sporting competitions, including the possibility of physical injury. By signing the consent form, the parent or legal guardian assumes full responsibility for any such risks on behalf of the athlete.
- Adherence to Rules and Regulations: The parent or legal guardian acknowledges and agrees that the athlete is subject to all EDF rules and regulations, as well as any additional rules and guidelines specific to the event.

### **3.5.2 Form and Submission:**

- Form Provision: EDF will provide a standardized Parental Consent Form template to all National Federations (NFs).
- NF Responsibility: Each NF is responsible for:
  - Obtaining Consent: Ensuring that all athletes under 18, and their parents or legal guardians, complete and sign the Parental Consent Form.
  - Submission to EDF: Submitting the completed and signed Parental Consent Forms to EDF Legal Department no later than one month prior to the event.
  - Record Retention: Maintaining copies of all completed Parental Consent Forms on file for the duration of the event and for a period of 1 year after the event.

## **4. *Changing National Eligibility***

**4.1** A competitor who may have national status of two or more countries at the same time may choose to represent either one of them. After representing one country in an EDF competition, in continental or regional games or in world or regional championships recognized by the relevant international federation, they are allowed to switch nations a maximum of 1 time, if all eligibility criteria is met for the new nation.

**4.1.1** A competitor may continue to represent the country to which they belong 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 EDF.

However, they may choose to represent their country or be entered into international competitions by their new NF if one exists. This particular choice is also considered as 1 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. National status occurs at first participation.

**4.1.3** Athletes changing nationality may begin representing their new country in international competitions immediately upon receiving approval from EDF for their change in national status.

**4.2** Nation Switch requests have to be submitted through "Changing National Status Form" to the EDF Legal Department at least 2 months prior to an upcoming official EDF event. If the EDF Legal Department is unavailable, the request must be reported to the EDF 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.

**4.3** EDF does not impose limitations on changing national status for athletes competing in youth competitions. This exemption allows flexibility for young athletes to develop and explore their options before transitioning to representing a nation in adult competitions.

## **5. Proof of Eligibility**

**5.1** All NFs are responsible to demonstrate proof of national status along with age of all players. National status and age need to be provided for all players before every EDF sanctioned event.

**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 they are legally not obligated to register where they live, 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 EDF will prove all presented documents in detail if eligibility is requested by residency. This means that further documents can be requested and the EDF 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** Team Eligibility:

EDF uses gender identity to determine which team a player can participate in within our competitions. This policy acknowledges and includes all players, regardless of their assigned sex at birth or intersex variations.

**6.2** Specific Eligibility:

- Players who identify as men are eligible to compete in the men's and/or mixed teams in all EDF competitions.
- Players who identify as women are eligible to compete in the women's and/or mixed teams in all EDF competitions.
- Players who identify with a non-binary gender identity may choose to compete in the men's, women's, or mixed teams based on their individual comfort level and preferences.

### **6.3 Youth Competitions (Up to Age 19):**

For youth competitions up to the age of 19, teams are permitted to select players based on their gender identity as stated above. This ensures all players have fair and inclusive opportunities to participate within their identified gender category.

## **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 EDF 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 EDF tournaments.

**7.2** Not providing eligibility for a player in an EDF 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 EDF 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 (British Dodgeball) 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 EDF deals with NFs, meaning that punishments will always be considered for the whole organization. In matters regarding eligibility, the EDF does not deal with single players. It is the duty of the NFs to deal with the eligibility of their players; therefore, the NFs 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 Federations**

**8.1** Eligibility Verification: Only National Federations (NFs) are authorized to submit the eligibility of players for participation in EDF sanctioned events. Players cannot determine their own eligibility and must rely on their NF to submit the necessary documentation and receive official confirmation from EDF.