

EBL Eligibility Code

(approved by the EBL Executive Council in Lausanne, Switzerland on 23rd March 2018)

1. General Principles

1.1 To be eligible for participation in the European Championships a player, non-playing captain, coach, trainer and other team official must comply with the EBL Statutes, By-Laws and Conditions of Contest. In addition the players and non-playing captains must comply with the conditions of eligibility set forth in this Code. No coach, trainer and/or other team official shall act for more than one Federation in any EBL Championship.

1.2 The above-noted persons must respect the spirit of fair play and nonviolence, and behave accordingly. The players must respect and comply with all aspects of the World Anti-Doping Code.

1.3 Compliance with the EBL Eligibility Code is mandatory for any qualifying event leading up to any of the EBL Championships and for any event for which EBL Master Points are awarded.

1.4 Any player and non-playing captain must be a National or a Bona Fide Resident (as set forth in section 3 below) of the country of the NBO that they will represent as player or non-playing captain.

1.5 No player may represent another country in an EBL championship, any international, regional or national championship recognized by the WBF or EBL, as such by the awarding of WBF or EBL Master Points, until at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since they have represented a different country in such events, without the specific permission of the EBL Credentials Committee based on an extraordinary situation.

1.6 All matters relating to the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in the above mentioned events shall be resolved by the EBL Credentials Committee, in accordance with article G.6 of the EBL By-Laws.

1.7 For avoidance of doubt, the participation in and accreditation to any EBL Championship has to be by strict personal invitation.

1.8 Any player with pending ethical violation charges is not eligible for invitation to play in an EBL event.

1.9 Any player who has been convicted of collusive cheating is not eligible to play as the partner or teammate of another player who has been convicted of collusive cheating.

2. Dual or More Nationality

2.1 A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as they may elect. However, after having represented one country in an EBL Championships or in World, Continental, Regional or National championships recognized by the WBF or EBL, they may not represent another country unless they meet the conditions set forth in section 2.2 below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

2.2 A competitor who has represented one country in EBL Championships or in World, Continental, Regional or National championships recognized by the WBF or EBL, and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the European Championships, or in any event set forth in section 1.3 above, to represent their new country provided that at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented their former country.

2.3 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 NBO is recognized by the EBL, a player may continue to represent the country to which they belong or belonged. However, they may, if they prefer, elect to represent their country or be entered in the European Championship by their new NBO if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once in any 10-year period.

2.4 The periods specified in sections 2 above may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the two NBOs involved and by the EBL Credentials Committee, which takes into account the special circumstances of each case.

3. Bona Fide Residents

3.1 To be considered Bona Fide Resident, a non-citizen is required to submit appropriate documentation to prove that they are bona fide residents. Failing to so establish that fact will result in a denial of an invitation by the EBL Credentials Committee.

3.2 The requirements to prove that a player is bona fide resident of the country of the NBO approved by the EBL Executive Committee are an integral part of this Code.

3.3 The choice to represent a country as a bona fide resident may be made only once in any 10-year period except as approved by the EBL Executive Committee and is subject to the limitations of section 2.2 above.

3.4 A player having represented one country in a European Championship, or in any event above mentioned at section 1.3, can represent their new country provided that at least two subsequent calendar years have passed since the competitor last represented their former country.

3.5 A player who has represented a country as a bona fide resident will be eligible to play for the country of their birth provided that at least three subsequent calendar years have passed since last representing that new country.

4. Age Restrictions

4.1 There may be no age limit for players in a European Championship in the Open and Women categories.

4.2 Players competing in Under 26 and Under 26 Women events must not have achieved their 25th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place. In the case of special events (e.g. for younger players or University events) the Supplementary Conditions of Contest shall detail the age requirements.

Players competing in Under 21 events must not have achieved their 20th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place.

Players in the Under 16 events must not have achieved their 15th birthday by 31st December of the year prior to the year in which the competition is to take place.

4.3 Senior events: The age requirement for Senior players is in accordance with the following schedule:

From 1st January 2018, a Senior player must be aged 61 in the year of the Championship in which they are going to play

On 1st January 2020 this will be raised to 62 years of age

On 1st January 2022 it will be raised to 63 years of age

On 1st January 2024 it will be raised to 64 years of age

On 1st January 2026 it will be raised to 65 years of age

5. Invitations and Entries

5.1 The invitations to take part in the European Championships shall be sent out by the EBL.

5.2 Only NBOs recognized by the EBL and in good standing may submit entries for competitors in the European Championships. Players will only be permitted to compete after receipt of the appropriate entry fees.

6. Youth and Transnational Championships

Players nominated for participation in Youth (see section 4.2 above) or Transnational (so designated in the relevant Supplemental Conditions of Contest) shall not be subject to the eligibility conditions set forth in sections 1.4, 1.5, 2 and 3 above.

7. Violations

Any violations are subject to the EBL Disciplinary Code. In the event that one or more members of a team or pair are deemed to have been ineligible as provided in this Code (including any qualifying event), the entire team or pair shall be disqualified for the balance of event by the EBL Eligibility Committee which may refer the matter to the Championship Committee for possible further action.

8. Effective Date

The EBL Eligibility Code as amended is effective from 31st March 2018