

6th NBO Officers' Seminar



ELIGIBILITY FOR EBL EVENTS



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THE PRESENT SITUATION:

“Eligibility to Represent a Country in EBL Championships”

Gianariggo Rona & David Harris – 25th June 2010

2 categories of people are allowed to represent a country :

- * individuals who were born in a country
- * individuals who have relocated in a new country
conditional to : a waiting period & compliance with the Bona Fide Residence Requirements





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NEED FOR CHANGE


- * The present EBL rules need clarification (interpretation by the EBL Credentials Committee has not always been easy)
- * A new WBF policy is underway

In November 2011 the EBL Executive Committee has addressed this matter, accepting the following **objectives** for the rules:

- * Create **clarity** for all officials and players concerned, avoiding doubt and confusion
- * Leaving some room for **flexibility**, our society being subject to constant changes. The eligibility rules should not be anchored in the Statutes. A separate Regulation, under the authority of the Executive Committee seems the most appropriate way.



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- * The situation of the different **age categories** of players needs to be addressed, taking into account the particularities of each category of players.
 - * Compliance with the **IOC** rules
 - * **Rigidity** in the application of the eligibility rules
 - * Preventing frequent “country-hopping” by introducing appropriate time constraints
 - * Putting in charge a **Credentials Committee** whose judgments and decisions should have a final character. No possibility of appeal against the CC decisions
 - * Harmonizing the EBL rules with those of the WBF.



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WBF ELIGIBILITY CODE

(Approved by the WBF Exec.Council – Veldhoven, 17.10.2011)

(The new WBF Eligibility Code becomes effective on 1.1.2013)

In summary:

1. General principles

To be eligible for participation in World Championships, a player, non playing captain, trainer or other team official must comply with the WBF Laws and Rules & Regulations, including the rules of eligibility.

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



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General principles (continued)

Any player and non playing captain must be a National or a Bona Fide Resident of the country of the NBO that he will represent.

No player may represent another country in a WBF Championship (or any other event awarding WBF Master Points) until at least **two subsequent calendar years** have passed since he/she has represented a different country in such events (except specific permission given by the Credentials Committee, based on extraordinary circumstances).



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2. Dual or More Nationality

*A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time, may represent any one of them, as he/she may elect.

*Changing nationality allows the player to participate in WBF Championships, provided that **two subsequent calendar years** have passed since the competitor last represented his country. This waiting period may be reduced or cancelled with the agreement of the two NBO involved and of the Credentials Committee.

* Particular case: “new countries” (independence – change of border - ...): the player has the choice to play for his old or for the new country. This choice may be made only once in a 10-year period.



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3. Bona Fide Residents

To be considered a “bona fide resident”, a **non-citizen** is required to submit appropriate documentation to prove that he/she is a bona fide resident. The specific requirements are an integral part of the Code.

The choice to represent a Country as a bona fide resident may be made only once in a 10-year period and is subject to the “at least two subsequent calendar years” condition.



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4. Age restrictions

- * No age limits for players in the Open and Women categories
- * Players competing in **Junior** and **Girls** 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 **Youngster** events, the players 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.
- * In case of special events (e.g. University events) the age requirements will be detailed in the Supplementary Conditions of Contest.
- * Players competing in **Senior** events shall be aged 60 years or older in the year of the competition.



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SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY EBL

- * Remarks / suggestions towards the new WBF Code ?
- * The WBF Code becoming mandatory for EBL Championships – Qualifying events for WBF Championships (EBL Teams Championships), do we generalize the WBF rules for all other EBL Championships (Open, Youth) ?
- * Procedural matters: adopt an EBL Regulation (being part of the General Conditions of Contest) – informing the NBO
- * Specific details for the “Bona Fide Residence Requirements”
- * Time frame for the application



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EBL BONA FIDE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Players who are not citizens of the country they wish to represent in international bridge championships, may be allowed to rely on “Bona Fide Residence Requirements” if they are able to prove the legitimacy of their residence.

Bona Fide Residence is one’s actual or true residence, maintained in good faith, and does not include a temporary or superficial residence established for convenience or for the purpose of circumventing the conditions of representative participation. It is for the player who seeks to rely upon this requirement to satisfy the EBL and demonstrate the genuineness of their residence.



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BFR criteria:

1. The player must establish bona fide residence in the country that they seek to represent **for at least two years prior to the start of the year within they wish to participate**; and
2. the player must have a visa or permit that allows them to remain in that country for a period of at least one year; or
3. the laws of that country allow the player to remain in that country for a period of at least one year.

Residence may be established and supported by the production of documents from at least three of the following categories: voter's registration, driver's licence, local or national tax records, homeowner or tenants records, medical records, utility bills, financial records, welfare records, welfare records, etc...



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SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BFR:

- * Need to harmonize with the WBF rules
- * If accepting the WBF rules: the choice to represent a country as a Bona Fide Resident may be made only once in a 10-year period and is subject to the “at least two subsequent calendar years” condition (leaving the “2 year before the start of the year of the competition” clause aside)

But proposal to add a another specific clause:

- * When a competitor wants to make use of the BFR, this request has to be made at least 6 months before the start of the Championships for which the demand is made.



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QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION