



## INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION

### FIH REGULATIONS Governing the Eligibility of a Player to Play International Hockey for a Country / National Association

#### 1. General Principles

- 1.1 To be eligible to represent a country in an inter-nations event, a player must be a national of that country.
- 1.2 Nationality is determined by the holding of a valid passport of the country the player is selected to represent.
- 1.3 The rules for the eligibility of players to compete in Olympic Games are governed by the IOC Olympic Charter.
- 1.4 The Executive Board is empowered to recognize suspensions or disqualifications of players declared by the National Association to which they belong and, if so, to see to it that these decisions are applied by all National Associations.
- 1.5 The Executive Board may authorise National Associations to play against non-affiliated associations but only when the non-affiliated association has shown interest in seeking affiliation to the FIH.

#### 2. Junior Players

- 2.1 A junior player is any player under twenty-one (21) years of age at the relevant date as specified in the regulations or entry application for a tournament.
- 2.2 A junior player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent only one of them but while a junior he may, with the approval of the Executive Board, elect to represent the other of which the player is a national.
- 2.3 A junior player who, having represented a country while he is a junior, obtains a second or other nationality may, with the approval of the Executive Board, represent that second or other country.
- 2.4 On a junior player who has represented a country at junior level becoming a senior player, he may make a new choice but, having made that choice and having represented a country at senior level, he cannot then represent another country at senior level for three years from the date he last represented the original country without the prior written approval of the Executive Board and the National Association for whom he has previously represented.
- 2.5 Any junior player who has represented his country at a senior level ceases to be a junior player for the purposes of this Eligibility Regulation and his eligibility is governed by the provisions of paragraph 3 (below) of these Regulations.

#### 3. Senior Players

- 3.1 Senior players are all players selected to represent a country in an FIH sanctioned match or tournament which has no restrictions on age.



- 3.2 A senior player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may elect to represent only one of them.
- 3.3 Having represented a country at senior level and/or been on the final entry team list as presented at the pre-tournament briefing, the player cannot then represent another country (including the other country of which he is a national) for three years from the date he last represented the original country and without the prior written approval of the Executive Board.
- 3.4 A senior player who, having represented a country at senior level, changes nationality or acquires a new nationality, may not represent the new country for three years after the date the he last represented the original country without the written approval of the Executive Board and the previous NA. Unless the player elects to represent the new country in accordance with this paragraph the player may continue to represent the original country assuming he has retained that country's passport.
- 3.5 If an associated State, a province or overseas department of a country or a colony, acquires its independence, or if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of borders, or if a new National Association is recognized by the FIH, a player may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, elect to represent his new country. This choice may only be made once.
- 3.6 In all cases not expressly addressed in the Statutes or Regulations, in particular in those cases in which a player would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he is a national or to have a choice as to the country which he intends to represent, the Executive Board may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and in particular issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of players, including the length of any waiting period.

Approved by EB  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2012