



Legal Department Procedure

Change of Sport Nationality

The following procedure applies to all cases falling under Articles 105.2 and 123 of the FEI General Regulations (22nd edition, effective 1 June 2007) and is subject to any other applicable FEI Rules and Regulations.

A. Adults (Age 18 and over)

1 – An athlete may compete in international events only under the jurisdiction of his/her own National Federation (“NF”), which is the NF of the country where an athlete has his/her nationality/citizenship.

2 – An athlete who has a valid passport for more than one nationality must choose as of the age of 18 years which country to represent and must thereafter compete under the jurisdiction of the NF of this same country.

Examples: Michael is born on 3 August 1991. He has a double nationality, from the country X and from the country Y.

a) When he turns 18 years of age, on 3 August 2009, he informs the X–NF that he wants to compete for X and that he will represent the country X thereafter.

b) On 12 October 2009, he competes for the first time of the year for the Y–NF, without having elected any NF to represent. He will thereafter automatically represent the country Y (see point B.3).

3 – An athlete who is a national/citizen of more than one country must decide which NF he represents. He/she may compete for that NF, provided he/she had citizenship/nationality of that country on 31st December of the preceding year.

Example: Sabrina, citizen of X, marries Philip, citizen of Y, in June 2007. She becomes a national of X and Y. She will however be allowed to represent the Y country with effect from 1 January 2008, provided she fulfils the additional requirements applicable.

4 - An application for an athlete’s change of sport nationality must be filed with the FEI Secretary General, through his/her new NF giving its approval, stating the reason of the change and supported by the athlete’s passport (or equivalent document) for the new country that he/she wishes to represent. The FEI must inform the current NF that a request for change of sport nationality has been filed.

5 – In addition, the following conditions apply prior to participation in FEI Championships, FEI World Cup™ Series, FEI Super League Series, and FEI Nations Cup Series:



- (I) The athlete must have had legal residence in his/her new country for
 - (a) a minimum of two (2) years uninterrupted residence in the new country immediately prior to the competition or,
 - (b) a total of five (5) years of non consecutive periods.
- (II) In the event of a change of sport nationality, an athlete shall not have taken part in the competitions mentioned above for his/her previous NF in the two (2) years prior to the first competition he/she wishes to compete in under his/her new sport nationality.

6 - The FEI has the discretion to request any document in order to review an application for a change of sport nationality.

7 – An athlete shall only be entitled to compete for his/her new NF, provided the FEI has given its prior written approval.

8 – An athlete is considered to be living abroad if he/she spends more than six (6) months per year in one foreign country (= host country).

9 - An athlete living abroad can take part regularly in CNs, CIMs of and in his/her host country if he/she is given permission from the NF of his/her host country. The athlete, while keeping his/her own NF, comes under the jurisdiction of the host NF for the above mentioned Events and must take part according to the relevant Sport Rules.

Example: An athlete aged 30 and registered under the X-NF, living 7 months a year in the country Y, can compete for the Y-NF at Y national events with the approval of the Y-NF and under the Y-NF jurisdiction. He nevertheless remains a representative of the X-NF for international events.

10 – Individual foreign athletes, other than “Athletes Living Abroad”, may take part in National Events (“CNs”) provided they have obtained written permission from their own NF and from the NF of the Organising Committee (“OC”) concerned. Permission must state the exact period for which it has been granted and the home NF of individual foreign athletes shall indicate their level in writing so that they are entered in Events of appropriate level.

Example: An athlete from the X-NF, without Y nationality, and not living in Y Country for more than 6 months a year, may take part in Y national championships with the approval of the X and Y NFs in writing, stating for how long and at which level.

11 – In order to be eligible to represent the new NF at the Olympic Games, a change of sport nationality must be made and completed, and the athlete must have stopped representing his/her previous NF three (3) years before the next Olympic Games. This period may be reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the FEI, by the IOC Executive Board, which takes into account the circumstances of each case.



12 – If an associate state, province or overseas department, a country or a colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NF is recognized by the FEI, an athlete may continue to represent the country to which he/she belongs or belonged if that country continues to have a NF or choose to represent his/her new NF. This particular choice must receive the approval of the FEI and may be made only once.

B. Minors (Age 17 and under)

1 - Minor athletes who hold more than one nationality may change their NF only once per calendar year. They may not compete for more than one NF in the same calendar year.

Example: An athlete born in X country and holding Y nationality from his father and Z nationality from his mother, may compete in 2007 for the X-NF, in 2008 for the Y-NF and in 2009 for the Z-NF, provided he is still minor and has not participated in an international event for one of the other NF since 1 January of that year.

2 – If a minor athlete wants to represent a new NF and has already participated in an international event for another NF since 1 January of that year, the change of NF is subject to the previous NF's, the new NF's and the FEI's approvals.

Example: An athlete representing the X-NF competes under this nationality on 4 February 2007 and wants to compete for the Y-NF since April 2007. To do so, he must obtain approval from the X and Y-NFs and also from the FEI.

3 – As of the age of 18, athletes must represent their country of citizenship. In the event they hold more than one nationality, they must elect which one to represent at that time. If they participate in an international event under a nationality they are presumed to have elected to represent that nationality.

Example: see point A.2

4 - Minors may compete at national and international levels (CIs for Juniors, Young Riders and Pony Riders) for the country in which they reside with the permission of the host NF, except for Championships. Any Sport Rule stating otherwise shall prevail (see Statutes Art. 43.2)

Example: An athlete with the Y nationality, residing in the country X can represent the country X, while keeping his/her jurisdiction under the Y nationality, with the approval of the X-NF.