

SPORT NATIONALITY

This document briefly explains the FEI's sport nationality rules and the requirements for sport nationality changes. It is updated from time to time as necessary (*last update: 19 September 2024*). For additional information, please [contact the FEI](#).

The sport nationality regulatory framework

1. The FEI sport nationality rules are set out in Article 119, [FEI General Regulations \(GRs\)](#).
2. Discipline-specific considerations may also exist in the relevant sports rules.
3. In addition to the requirements outlined in this document:
 - Additional eligibility requirements may be imposed by the applicable FEI Regulations for the Olympic Games.
 - Participation in the Olympic and Paralympic Games is also subject to the provisions on sport nationality in the Olympic and Paralympic regulations.
 - Participation in Regional and Continental Games is also subject to the provisions on sport nationality in the regulations of the relevant governing body.

Key sport nationality principles

1. Adult athletes (= aged above 18) must hold the corresponding nationality in order to compete for a country. This rule applies for all levels of international competition. The only exceptions to this principle are the following:
 - 1.1 Specific situations listed in article 119 paragraphs 4, 5, 6.2, and 6.3, GRs; and,
 - 1.2 In Vaulting and at CVIs only (not at CVIOs and FEI Championships), Squads & Pas-de Deux may be composed of vaulters of differing sport nationality.
2. Minor athletes (= aged under 18) may compete for their country of residence (NB: participation in CIOs and FEI Championships will require the agreement of the National Federation ("NF") of nationality). Once the athlete reaches 18, they must hold the nationality of the country they compete for.
3. Sport nationality changes must be approved by the FEI in order to be valid.
4. Applications for sport nationality changes can only be submitted by National Federations ("NFs"). The applying NF is the one the athlete wants to compete for.

Sport nationality change requirements – Adult athletes

1. Basic requirement: in order to be eligible for a sport nationality change, an athlete must hold the nationality of the country of the desired sport nationality.
2. Additional requirements for athletes who aim to compete in Senior categories at FEI Championships (FEI Championships for Young Horses excepted) and/or CIO team competitions¹:

¹ In case the athlete cannot document compliance with the additional requirements, the sport nationality change can be approved but a restriction will apply (no participations in Senior categories at FEI Championships - FEI Championships for Young Horses excepted - and CIO team competitions).

2.1 Document their residency in the country for two (2) uninterrupted years or a total of five (5) years of non-consecutive periods (article 119.2.2.2(i), GRs). Alternatively, the athlete can document that their situation falls under either of the circumstances listed in article 119.2.2.3 (ii), GRs:

- the athlete's entitlement to their new nationality was established by their birth in that country; or
- the athlete's entitlement to their new nationality was acquired by virtue of descent or through other means related to family heritage; or
- the naturalized athlete was a former national whose loss of nationality was neither voluntary or due to criminal acts; or
- the naturalized athlete had to renounce their former nationality as a condition of acquiring a new one.

2.2 Comply with the two years "waiting period" of article 119.2.2.2(ii), GRs. The starting date of the waiting period is the last participation under the former sport nationality in Senior categories at a FEI Championship or CIO team competition.

Sport nationality change requirements – Minor athletes

Minors who hold two or more nationalities can choose each calendar year which of their countries they want to compete for during that year. No residency/waiting period requirement apply.

The athlete may subsequently change their NF, but only once per calendar year (and subject to the agreement of both NFs and the FEI if the Athlete has already participated in an international Event for the other NF since the beginning of that year).

Permission to compete for the country of residence – Minor athletes

Athletes aged under 18 may compete for their country of residence (CIOs and FEI Championships participations are subject to the agreement of the NF of nationality).