

AMENDMENTS TO THE IAAF COMPETITION RULES 2016-2017

Approved by the IAAF Council on 17 June 2016, and amendments (in red) in force with immediate effect.

DEFINITIONS

Neutral Athlete (new)

As specified in Rule 22.1A, an athlete who is granted special eligibility by the Council to compete in one or more International Events in an individual capacity and who satisfies at all relevant times any conditions to such eligibility specified by the Council. All provisions in the Rules and Regulations that are applicable to athletes shall apply equally to Neutral Athletes, unless expressly stated otherwise; and any coach, trainer, manager, Athlete Representative, agent, team staff, official, medical or para-medical personnel, parent or any other Person employed by or working with a Neutral Athlete participating in an International Competition shall be an Athlete Support Personnel for purposes of these Rules.

CHAPTER ONE: INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

RULE 4

Requirements to Compete in International Competitions

1. No athlete may take part in an International Competition unless he:
 - (a) is a member of a Club affiliated to a Member; or
 - (b) is himself affiliated to a Member; or
 - (c) has otherwise agreed to abide by the rules of a Member; or
 - (d) **has been granted special eligibility by the Council to compete in that International Competition as a Neutral Athlete, and has satisfied any conditions to such eligibility specified by the Council;** and
 - (e) for international Competitions at which the IAAF is responsible for doping control (see Rule 35.7), has signed an agreement in a form set by the IAAF by which he agrees to be bound by the Rules and Regulations (as amended from time to time) and to submit all disputes he may have with the IAAF or a Member to arbitration only in accordance with these Rules, accepting not to refer any such disputes to any Court or authority which is not provided for in these Rules.
2. Members may require that no athlete or Club affiliated to the Member may take part in an international Competition in a foreign Country or territory without the Member's written approval. In such a case, no Member hosting a competition shall allow any foreign athlete or Club of the Member in question to take part without evidence of such permit certifying that the athlete or Club is eligible and permitted to compete in the Country or territory concerned. Members shall notify the IAAF of all such permit requirements. To facilitate compliance with this Rule, the IAAF shall maintain on its website a list of Members with such requirements. **This Rule does not apply to Neutral Athletes.**
3. No athlete affiliated to a National Federation may be affiliated to another Member without previous authorisation from his National Federation of origin, if the Rules of that Federation require such authorisation. Even then, the National Federation of the Country or territory in which the athlete is residing cannot enter any athlete's name for competitions in another Country or territory without previous authorisation from the National Federation of origin. In all cases under this Rule, the National Federation of the Country or territory in which the athlete is residing shall send a written request to the athlete's National Federation of origin, and the National Federation of origin shall send a written reply to that request within 30 days. Both of these communications shall be by a means that generates an acknowledgement of receipt. E-mail that includes a receipt function is acceptable for this purpose. If the response of the athlete's National

Federation of origin is not received within the 30-day period, the authorisation shall be deemed to have been given. In the event of a negative response to a request for authorisation under this Rule, which response must be supported by reasons, the athlete or the National Federation of the Country or territory in which the athlete is residing may appeal against any such decision to the IAAF. The IAAF shall publish guidelines for the filing of an appeal under this Rule and these guidelines shall be available on the IAAF website. To facilitate compliance with this Rule, the IAAF shall maintain on its website a list of National Federations with such authorisation requirements.

Note: Rule 4.3 concerns athletes aged 18 or over as at the 31st of December of the year in question. The Rule does not apply to athletes who are not Citizens of a Country or Territory or to political refugees or to Neutral Athletes.

RULE 5

Eligibility to Represent a Member

1. In international Competitions held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g), Members shall be represented only by athletes who are Citizens of the Country (or territory) which the affiliated Member represents and who comply with the eligibility requirements of this Rule 5.
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6. **This Rule 5 does not apply to Neutral Athletes.**

CHAPTER 2: ELIGIBILITY

RULE 20

Definition of Eligible Athlete

An athlete is eligible to compete if he agrees to abide by the Rules and has not been declared ineligible.

RULE 21

Restriction of Competition to Eligible Athletes

1. Competition under these Rules is restricted to (i) athletes who are under the jurisdiction of a Member and who are eligible to compete under the Rules; and (ii) **Neutral Athletes who satisfy the conditions of eligibility specified by the Council, including signing agreements on terms acceptable to the IAAF, in which they agree (among other things) to be bound by the Rules and Regulations (as amended from time to time) and to submit all disputes they may have with the IAAF or a Member to arbitration only in accordance with these Rules, accepting not to refer any such disputes to any Court or authority which is not provided for in these Rules.**
2. In any competition under the Rules, the eligibility of an athlete competing shall be guaranteed by the Member to which the athlete is affiliated. **This Rule does not apply to Neutral Athletes.**
3. The eligibility rules of Members shall be strictly in conformity with those of the IAAF and no Member may pass, promulgate or retain in its constitution or regulations any eligibility rule or regulation which is in direct conflict with a Rule or Regulation. Where there is a conflict between the eligibility rules of the IAAF and the eligibility rules of a Member, the eligibility rules of the IAAF shall apply.

RULE 22

Ineligibility for International and Domestic Competitions

1. The following persons shall be ineligible for competitions, whether held under these Rules or the rules of an Area or a Member. Any athlete, athlete support personnel or other person:
 - (a) whose National Federation is currently suspended by the IAAF. This does not apply to national competitions organised by the currently suspended Member for the Citizens of that Country or territory;
 - (b) who has been provisionally suspended or declared ineligible under the rules of his National Federation from competing in competitions under the jurisdiction of that National Federation, in so far as such suspension or ineligibility is consistent with these Rules;
 - (c) who is currently serving a period of provisional suspension from competition under these Rules;
 - (d) who does not meet the eligibility requirements set out in Rule 141 or the Regulations thereunder;
 - (e) who has been declared ineligible as a result of a breach of the Anti-Doping Rules in Chapter 3;
 - (f) who has been suspended or banned by the ethics Commission for a violation of the Code of ethics, pursuant to the Statutes of the Ethics Commission;
 - (g) who has been declared ineligible as a result of conduct specified in Rule 23.

- 1A. Notwithstanding Rule 22.1(a), upon application, the Council (or its delegate(s)) may exceptionally grant eligibility for some or all International Competitions, under conditions defined by the Council (or its delegate(s)), to an athlete whose National Federation is currently suspended by the IAAF, if (and only if) the athlete is able to demonstrate to the comfortable satisfaction of the Council that:
 - (a) the suspension of the National Federation was not due in any way to its failure to protect and promote clean athletes, fair play, and the integrity and authenticity of the sport; or
 - (b) if the suspension of the National Federation was due in any way to its failure to put in place adequate systems to protect and promote clean athletes, fair play, and the integrity and authenticity of the sport, (i) that failure does not affect or taint the athlete in any way, because he was subject to other, fully adequate, systems outside of the country of the National Federation for a sufficiently long period to provide substantial objective assurance of integrity; and (ii) in particular the athlete has for such period been subject to fully compliant drug-testing in- and out-of-competition equivalent in quality to the testing to which his competitors in the International Competition(s) in question are subject; or
 - (c) that the athlete has made a truly exceptional contribution to the protection and promotion of clean athletes, fair play, and the integrity and authenticity of the sport.

The more important the International Competition in question, the more corroborating evidence the athlete must provide in order to be granted special eligibility under this Rule 22.1A. Where such eligibility is granted, the athlete shall not represent the suspended National Federation in the International Competition(s) in question, but rather shall compete in an individual capacity, as a 'Neutral Athlete'.