



INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION
Headquarters, Operations and Olympic/Paralympic Games

Ref. 2019_rc_0057_ALL
By email only

Monday 1st April 2019

To: ITTF Member Associations

Re: Eligibility regulations in place effective from 3rd May 2018 – practical implementation.

Dear Presidents, Dear Secretary Generals,

At the last ITTF Board of Directors meeting held in Halmstad, Sweden, a proposition to align the eligibility requirements for Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and all World Title events was passed. This proposition, effective immediately (i.e. 3rd May 2018), amends a few sections of Chapter 4.

During the past few months, we have received a number of queries, particularly in regard to how this new rule affects players who acquired a new nationality or moved (obtained legal residence) prior to the date of implementation of the rule.

Several identical queries were received on how to register those players who moved or were identified by the respective national associations after they became 21 years old, as in the past there was no reason to register them, due to the fact they were not eligible to compete at World Title events under the previous eligibility rules.

For this reason, together with the Rules Committee Chair and the Technical Commissioner, we agreed to produce this letter, with the intent of providing a clear interpretation.

We do recommend that, in general, you consult first the ITTF Handbook, and if you have any questions, you send them through the official email address of your national association to:

players-eligibility@ittf.com

Main changes since 3rd May 2018:

The main changes, which apply to World Title events, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, are as follows:

In addition to the provisions of 3.8 (the general eligibility rule), players who have acquired a new nationality and wish to represent the association corresponding to the new nationality, shall register with the ITTF, through this new association. A player is considered as registered either from the date of ITTF player registration confirmation or from the date the player is granted his or her new nationality, whichever is earlier.



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Such players shall not represent the new association before:

- *1 year after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 15 when registered and has never represented another association;*
- *3 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 15 when registered and has already represented another association;*
- *5 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 18 but at least 15 years of age when registered;*
- *7 years after the date of registration, if the player is under the age of 21 but at least 18 years of age when registered;*
- *9 years after the date of registration, if the player is at least 21 years old when registered*

Note: A player already having been eligible at the respective event shall retain his or her eligibility.

With the introduction of this new regulation, players who were registered after the age of 21 years, or those not registered, who acquired a new nationality being already 21 years old, in future will be able to represent the new association not only at Olympic and Paralympic Games, but also at ITTF World Title events.

At the same time, with this new regulation, and as mentioned at the beginning, the eligibility regulations will converge progressively, and in a few years' time, all players will be consistently eligible for all three streams (World Title, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games).

Transition period:

Associations have asked how to register those players who either obtained citizenship or were already residents in the new country prior to the implementation of the new rule (3rd May 2018), or even for those did so after 3rd May 2018, during the period where an on-line platform for registration was not available. Please see below some examples:

- Players who already acquired nationality, but never registered
- Players who were already registered (for world title events), but didn't acquire nationality yet
- Players who weren't registered, who haven't yet acquired nationality, but who moved before 3rd May 2018 (they have proof of valid residence in the new country)

The general principle is that the proposition passed in Halmstad does not have a retrospective effect, and those players, in any of the previous scenarios, are eligible for the respective streams (World Title, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games), according to the rules existing at that time.

For this reason, it is necessary to establish a "transition" or "regularisation" period, in which national associations may register those players who have acquired new nationality, or have registered for world title events, or have not yet registered, but are already residents in the new



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country, providing the necessary documentation, so their eligibility for the different events can be clarified.

Associations wishing to register players in the above-mentioned circumstances, can do so until Friday 31st May 2019, which will be the deadline for the regularisation period.

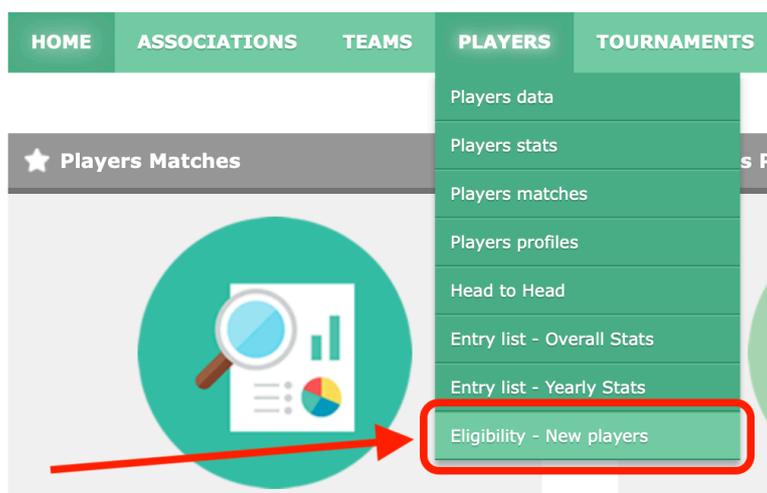
During this period, the earliest date between the traditional e-mail registration, the date of acquisition of the new nationality, the date of residence on the new country or the on-line registration, will be considered.

After Friday 31st May 2019, the registration date will be based exclusively in the date of registration or the date of acquisition of the nationality, whichever is earlier, as per the proposition accepted at the 2018 ITTF Board of Directors.

In order to register, the Association representative should login with their Association Username and Password at:

<http://results.ittf.link>

and then, go to the top (drop-down) menu **PLAYERS -> Eligibility – New players** to register these players (please note the visual aspect of the link may change in the future):



Note that this link is only visible for national associations if you have previously logged in with your credentials.



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To complete the registration, you have to fill all the necessary fields in the form, uploading also:

1. An official letter on the letterhead of the ITTF Member Association signed by the President or Secretary General of the Association (or equivalent) requesting the registration of the player.
2. A scanned copy of the current passport and/or citizenship certificate and/or proof of original date of residence in the new country.

Please remind the deadline for the transition period is Friday 31st May 2019

Important note:

Registration can be made without having yet acquired the new citizenship, and, in this case, the registration period will count from the moment you present the requested information/documentation, provided that the player does not compete again with the association of origin. The new passport and/or citizenship certificate should be provided as soon as the player gets it and, in any case, before the end of the waiting period. Players cannot represent the new association at listed events until they obtain it. In that case, the waiting period will be extended until obtaining such citizenship.

We do encourage national associations to review the status of any of their players who may fall under these regulations.

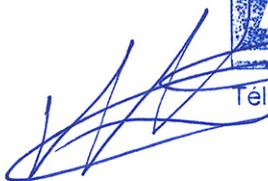
A list of all players registered with a new association is available on the ITTF website on this link:

http://results.ittf.link/index.php?option=com_fabrik&view=list&listid=113&Itemid=288

We thank you for the time taken to read this letter and, as mentioned at the beginning of this letter, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

players-eligibility@ittf.com

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Raul Calin', is written over a blue ITTF logo stamp. The stamp is square and contains the ITTF logo and the text 'I. T. T. F.' and '1007 Lausanne Switzerland'.

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