



## RULE 5

### Eligibility to represent a Member

*The amended passages are in bold.*

*The amended Rule came into force as from 12 March 2012.*

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.
2. An athlete who has never competed in an International Competition under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g) shall be eligible to represent a Member in an International Competition under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g) if he is:
  - (a) a Citizen of the Country (or Territory) by virtue of having been born or by virtue of having a parent or grandparent born in the Country (or Territory); or
  - (b) a Citizen of the Country (or Territory) through the acquisition of a new Citizenship but, in such a case, he may represent his new Member no earlier than one year following the date of acquisition of new Citizenship pursuant to the athlete's application. This period of one year may be reduced or cancelled as set out below:**
    - (i) the period shall be cancelled if the athlete has completed one continuous year of Residence in the Country (or Territory) immediately preceding the International Competition in question;**
    - (ii) the period may be reduced or cancelled in exceptional cases by the Council. An application for a reduction or cancellation must be submitted by the relevant Member in writing to the IAAF Office at least 30 days before the International Competition in question.**
3. Subject to Rule 5.4 below, an athlete who has represented a Member in an International Competition held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g) shall not be eligible to represent another Member in an International Competition held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g).

4. An athlete who has represented a Member in an International Competition under Rules 1.1(a), (b) (c), (f) or (g) shall be eligible to represent another Member in an International Competition under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g) (with immediate effect unless otherwise stated) in the following circumstances only:
- (a) if the Country (or Territory) of the Member is subsequently incorporated in another Country that is or subsequently becomes a Member;
  - (b) if the Country (or Territory) of the Member ceases to exist and the athlete becomes a Citizen as of right of a newly formed Country ratified by Treaty or otherwise recognized at international level that subsequently becomes a Member;
  - (c) if the Territory of the Member does not have a National Olympic Committee and an athlete qualifies to compete at the Olympic Games for the Territory's parent Country. In such a case, the athlete's representation of the Territory's parent Country at the Olympic Games shall not affect his eligibility to continue to compete for the relevant Member Territory in other International Competitions under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g);
  - (d) Acquisition of new Citizenship: if the athlete acquires a new Citizenship, he may represent his new Member in an International Competition under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g), but no earlier than three years following the date of acquisition of new Citizenship pursuant to the athlete's application. This period of three years may be reduced or cancelled as set out below:
    - (i) the period may be reduced to 12 months with the agreement of the Members concerned. The reduction shall be effective upon receipt by the IAAF Office of a written notification of the Members' agreement;
    - (ii) **the period shall be cancelled if the athlete has completed three continuous years of Residence in the Country (or Territory) of his new membership immediately preceding the International Competition in question;**
    - (iii) the period may be reduced or cancelled in exceptional cases by the Council. An application for a reduction or cancellation must be submitted by the relevant Member in writing to the IAAF Office at least 30 days before the International Competition in question.
  - (e) Dual Citizenship: if an athlete holds Citizenship of two (or more) Countries (or Territories), he may represent the Member of either (or any) of them, as he may elect. However, having once represented his elected Member in an International Competition under Rule 1.1(a), (b), (c), (f) or (g), he shall not represent another Member of which he is a Citizen for a period of three years from the date that he last represented the first elected Member. This period may be reduced or cancelled as set out below:

- (i) the period may be reduced to 12 months with the agreement of the Members concerned. The reduction shall be effective upon receipt by the IAAF Office of a written notification of the Members' agreement;
- (ii) the period may be reduced or cancelled in exceptional cases by the Council. An application for a reduction or cancellation must be submitted by the relevant Member in writing to the IAAF Office at least 30 days before the International Competition in question.

The application of this sub-paragraph is limited to athletes who were born with dual citizenship. An athlete who holds Citizenship of two or more Countries (or Territories) by virtue of the fact that he has acquired a new Citizenship (for example, through marriage) without relinquishing his Citizenship of birth is subject to the provisions of Rule 5.4(d) above.

5. In accordance with Rule 21.2, the eligibility of an athlete competing under these Rules shall at all times be guaranteed by the Member to which the athlete is affiliated. The burden of proof in establishing whether an athlete is eligible in accordance with this Rule 5 rests with the Member and the athlete concerned. The Member must provide the IAAF with valid/authentic documentation demonstrating the athlete's eligibility and such other evidence as may be necessary to prove the athlete's eligibility on a definitive basis. If required by the IAAF, Members shall provide a certified copy of all documentation on which it seeks to rely in demonstrating the athlete's eligibility under this Rule.

#### Note

"Residence" for the purposes of Rule 5 means the place or location in which the athlete is registered with relevant authorities as having his primary and permanent home.