

SECTION 4: POLICIES

4.3 ATHLETE NATIONALITY POLICY



1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Any competitor participating in Virtus competition (World, Regional Championships and the Global Games) must be a legal national of the country of the member organisation which is entering such competitor.
- 1.2 The term 'country' shall mean any country, state, territory or part of a territory which in its absolute discretion is accepted by Virtus as constituting the area of jurisdiction of a recognised Virtus member organisation. 'Parts of territory' currently includes Hong Kong, Macao, Chinese Taipei, Palestine, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, and the Faroe Islands.
- 1.3 To be eligible for competition, Member Organisations must present evidence that a competitor is a national of the respective country. This will be an official passport or national identity card issued by the respective country. The concepts of 'nationality' and 'residence' or 'domicile' are separate and distinct. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of 'nationality' unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy.
- 1.4 Virtus will have regard to the plight of stateless persons (as that phrase is understood in international law and more specifically defined in the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees). Virtus will determine the eligibility requirements of any athlete deemed to be a stateless person.
- 1.5 Exceptional circumstances: where a competitor objects to the nationality attributed to him or her under the above rules and only where genuine exceptional circumstances exist, or in circumstances not fully covered by the above rules, a competitor may apply to Virtus for a ruling on his or her nationality. On such an application Virtus may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any competitor, including the duration of any waiting period or any other requirements or conditions. Any such decision may be made in consultation with the respective International Federation governing the sport and will not form any precedence for a subsequent athlete or application, however similar the circumstances.

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2 FIRST APPEARANCE IN COMPETITION

- 2.1 An athlete who competes in their first Virtus competition may not subsequently represent another country unless they meet the criteria detailed in (4) below.

3 ATHLETES WITH TWO OR MORE NATIONALITIES

- 3.1 An athlete who is a national of two (2) or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them as he or she may elect and is subject to the provisions that apply to athletes competing for the first time.

4 ATHLETES CHANGING OR ACQUIRING A NEW NATIONALITY

- 4.1 An athlete who has represented one country/territory and who has changed his/her nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not represent his/her new country/territory until a minimum waiting period has passed since the competitor last represented his/her former country.
 - a) In the case of the Global Games, this period is defined as three years
 - b) In the case of World Championships and other events, this period is defined as one year.

5 INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION RULES

- 5.1 Where a competition is run under the specific sanction or 'approval' of an International Federation of Sport, then the rules of the International Federation will take precedence over the Virtus rules.