



IGF Nationality Policy

Policy Title		16. IGF NATIONALITY POLICY	
Lead Functional Area		EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OFFICE	
Policy Number	ED16	Last update	January 2020

POLICY OBJECTIVE

To establish a process for the determination of the country which a competitor may represent in an *International Golf Competition*

POLICY DESCRIPTION

I. General

Any Athlete in an International Golf Competition (Section II) must be a national of the country which the Athlete is representing or under which the Athlete is eligible for the competition.

The IGF publishes this policy (“Nationality Policy”) as it pertains to matters relating to the determination of the country which an Athlete may represent in an *International Golf Competition* listed below, and from time-to-time will advise sanctioning organizations of *International Golf Competitions* as to guidelines and standards on making determinations on an Athlete’s nationality.

Each sanctioning organization has adopted the Nationality Policy and shares decisions based on nationality with the IGF and other sanctioning organizations. All matters relating to the determination of the country which an Athlete may represent in an *International Golf Competition* listed below shall be resolved by the sanctioning organization for that event, in its sole discretion.

II. International Golf Competitions

For the purposes of this policy, International Golf Competitions are as follows:

Women’s Competitions

Espirito Santo Trophy
 Solheim Cup
 International Crown
 Olympic Games
 Youth Olympic Games

Sanctioning Organization

International Golf Federation
 LPGA & Ladies European Tour
 LPGA
 International Golf Federation
 International Golf Federation

Men’s Competitions

Eisenhower Trophy
 Ryder Cup
 Presidents Cup
 Olympic Games
 Youth Olympic Games
 World Cup

Sanctioning Organization

International Golf Federation
 European Tour & PGA of America
 PGA TOUR
 International Golf Federation
 International Golf Federation
 International Federation of PGA Tours

III. Nationality

An Athlete will be considered a national of a country if the Athlete is a citizen of the country, as defined by the laws of such country.

An Athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as the Athlete may elect. However, after having represented one country in an International Golf Competition, the Athlete may not represent another country unless first meeting the conditions set forth below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

An Athlete who has represented one country in an International Golf Competition, and who has changed nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in another International Golf Competition representing the new

country provided that, as of the start of the qualification period for such event, at least four years have passed since the Athlete last represented his/her former country. This period may be extended, reduced or even cancelled, with the agreement of the sanctioning organization, which takes into account the circumstances of each case and any applicable guidelines and standards provided by the IGF.

If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a country merges with another country, an Athlete may continue to represent the country to which the Athlete belongs or belonged. However, if the Athlete prefers, the Athlete may elect to represent the new country. This particular choice may be made only once for any other International Golf Event including future Olympic Games.

Furthermore, in all cases in which an Athlete would be eligible to participate in an International Golf Competition, either by representing another country than his/hers or by having the choice as to the country which such Athlete intends to represent, the sanctioning organization may take all decisions of a general or individual nature with regard to issues resulting from nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of any Athlete, including the duration of any waiting period, taking into account the circumstances of each case and any applicable guidelines and standards provided by the IGF.

IV. Countries and Continents

For the purposes of defining a country (or territory, if applicable) of which an Athlete is a national, the current list of National Olympic Committees as recognized by the International Olympic Committee will be used. For International Golf Competitions other than the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, England, Scotland and Wales will be considered to be separate countries.

For the purposes of defining the continent of Europe as it relates only to certain International Golf Competitions which either include all countries within Europe as a team or exclude all countries within Europe from a team, the following countries will be considered to be within Europe and not part of regions other than Europe:

Albania	Estonia	Liechtenstein	Russian Federation
Andorra	Finland	Lithuania	San Marino
Armenia	France	Luxembourg	Serbia
Austria	Georgia	North Macedonia	Slovak Republic
Azerbaijan	Germany	Malta	Slovenia
Belarus	Greece	Republic of Moldova	Spain
Belgium	Hungary	Monaco	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iceland	Montenegro	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Ireland	Netherlands	Turkey
Croatia	Israel	Norway	Ukraine
Cyprus	Italy	Poland	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Portugal	
Denmark	Latvia	Romania	

V. Rankings

An Athlete should ensure that his/her nationality is correctly listed on the appropriate world golf ranking system. For women's International Golf Competitions, this shall be the Rolex Women's World Rankings. For men's International Golf Competitions, this shall be the Official World Golf Rankings. For the purposes of applying this policy, the Athlete will be presumed to be a national of the country listed on the appropriate world rankings system, subject to verification in accordance with this policy. Any decisions taken related to an Athlete's nationality in accordance with this policy shall be referred by the IGF to the appropriate ranking system, who shall display the correct nationality of each Athlete within the rankings.

An Athlete eligible to participate in an International Golf Competition by representing another country to the one previously represented (by either changing nationality or acquiring a new nationality) in accordance with this policy will only be eligible for International Golf Competitions for which the qualification period has not yet started, unless otherwise allowed by the sanctioning organization.

An Athlete eligible to participate in an International Golf Competition by having the choice as to the country which such Athlete intends to represent in accordance with this policy will only be eligible for International Golf Competitions for which the qualification period has not yet started, unless otherwise allowed by the sanctioning organization.

An Athlete who changes his/her nationality for an International Golf Competition prior to the qualifications and eligibility period beginning for such event, yet subsequently fails to qualify for the competition, is subject to the provisions of this policy including the time periods prescribed herein.

Other Functions impacted by policy	ALL
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POLICY APPROVED

Date: 8 April 2015