



# ELIGIBILITY CODE

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## 1 INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Competitors and team officials will have *International Eligibility* if they meet the following conditions:
- A) they have agreed to be governed and bound by the *Competition Rules*, all applicable competition regulations and any other requirements issued by the IFSC,
  - B) they have been registered for an *International Licence* by a national federation and the licence is valid for the current calendar year, and
  - C) their *International Licence* has not been suspended or revoked (§5).
- 1.2 A person who does not have *International Eligibility*, or who is in breach of any condition imposed on their *International Eligibility*, shall not participate in any competition to which the *Competition Rules* or this code apply in whole or in part.
- 1.3 A team competing with, as part of the team, a competitor or team official who is in breach of this code may be disqualified from the relevant competition.

### Events Requiring International Eligibility

- 1.4 *International Eligibility* is required for the following events:
- A) the Olympic Games and other games recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
  - B) world and continental championships approved by the IFSC.
  - C) cup events approved by the IFSC or one of its continental councils.
  - D) events including “International Federation of Sport Climbing” or “IFSC” in their titles.
  - E) any event approved as an Olympic qualifying event.
  - F) any event designated by a national federation within its jurisdiction requiring participants to satisfy the requirements for *International Eligibility*.
  - G) any other event designated by the IFSC requiring participants to satisfy the requirements for *International Eligibility*.

## 2 INTERNATIONAL LICENCES

- 2.1 Each International Licence is valid for the calendar year in which it is issued. i.e. expiring on 31st of December.
- 2.2 National federations may apply for and renew International Licences by submitting a completed official application form and payment of the relevant licence fee.
- 2.3 A competitor may represent only one national federation in any given year.
- 2.4 Team officials may, with the agreement of the relevant national federations, represent more than one national federation.
- 2.5 The scale of all fees shall be decided and published annually by the IFSC.



### 3 NATIONALITY CRITERIA

- 3.1 A competitor must be a national of the country they represent and hold a passport for that country. No restrictions on nationality are applied for team officials.
- 3.2 A competitor who has represented one country and who has either (i) another nationality, (ii) changed their nationality, or (iii) acquired a new nationality; may seek a change to their country of registration under the following conditions:
  - A) they have not previously changed their country of registration within the last 4 years,
  - B) the national federation of the country they propose to represent makes a written application to the IFSC requesting the change (a **Transfer Request**).

#### Transfer Requests

- 3.3 A Transfer Request must include (i) the reasons for the proposed change and (ii) the written agreement of the national federation for the country previously represented by the competitor.
- 3.4 A Transfer Request made:
  - A) before 1st March in any year (or, if earlier, the registration deadline of the first international competition in that year), if approved, may take effect in the same year,
  - B) at any later time, if approved, will take effect only in the following year.

#### Disputes

- 3.5 In exceptional circumstances, the IFSC may make decision(s) of a general or individual nature concerning any question of nationality (including authorising a change of nationality not otherwise permitted), and may issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence, and any applicable waiting periods.
- 3.6 All applications and disputes in relation to nationality criteria shall be determined by the IFSC.
- 3.7 The penalty for a breach of the nationality criteria shall be at the discretion of the IFSC Executive Board. The IFSC Executive Board may delegate authority to make decisions in relation to any breach to the IFSC Disciplinary Commission.

### 4 COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 International competitions must be held for both men's and women's sex categories. In limited circumstances, the IFSC may approve the organization of competitions for a **mixed** category of including athletes from both men's and women's sex categories.
- 4.2 All international competitions must be organised for one or more of the age categories defined in this code.

#### Age Categories

- 4.3 International competitions may be organised for adult or youth age groups defined relative to the competitors' birth year as set out in Table 1 (**Adult**) or Table 2 (**Youth**).



- 4.4 An individual will be eligible to compete in an age group competition under this code if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification. Individuals must be able to provide proof of their age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of evidence as permitted.
- 4.5 An individual who fails or refuses to provide such proof will not be eligible to compete.

#### Sex Categories

- 4.6 An athlete will be eligible to compete in a men's (or mixed) category if they were assigned male at birth and have always been recognised as a male throughout their life.
- 4.7 An athlete will be eligible to compete in a women's (or mixed) category if they were assigned female at birth and have always been recognised as a female throughout their life.
- 4.8 Exceptions to §4.6 and §4.7 may be made as set out in the **IFSC Policy Statement on Gender Identity and Transsexuality (2018)**.
- 4.9 An athlete who fails to comply with these requirements will not be eligible to compete.

## 5 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL LICENCES

- 5.1 An *International Licence* may be suspended, revoked or made conditional by the IFSC, in each case for:
  - A) for a serious breach of the *Competition Rules* or applicable competition regulations,
  - B) following a decision of the IFSC Disciplinary Commission,
  - C) for competing, within the preceding 2 years, in an event that the competitor knew or should reasonably have known was a *Prohibited Event*.
- 5.2 An *International Licence* may also be suspended, revoked or made conditional by the IFSC where the relevant national federation:
  - A) has failed to pay the relevant licence fee,
  - B) is in default of any statute or any regulation governing financial obligations to the IFSC, or any decision, or required action, under the IFSC Disciplinary Rules.
- 5.3 The procedures for reviewing and appealing decisions of the IFSC under this code are set out within the IFSC Disciplinary Rules.
- 5.4 After a decision to suspend, revoke or impose conditions on *Competition Eligibility* and/or *International Eligibility* has become final, the IFSC Sport Director shall report the decision to all national federations and other constituent bodies, which may also suspend eligibility for events held within their own jurisdiction.

#### Reinstatement of International Eligibility

- 5.5 A competitor may apply to the IFSC Disciplinary Commission for their *International Licence* to be reinstated, or have any conditions imposed upon it removed or amended:



- A) If they establish substantial, changed circumstances justifying the change; or
- B) following the end date set for any time limited conditions or period of suspension.

Year	Age Group	
	Open	Veteran
2025	2008 or earlier	1985 or earlier
2026	2009 or earlier	1986 or earlier
2027	2010 or earlier	1987 or earlier
2028	2011 or earlier	1988 or earlier

**Table 1 – Adult Competitions**

Year	Age Group		
	U17	U19	U21
2025	2009, 2010	2007, 2008	2005, 2006
2026	2010, 2011	2008, 2009	2006, 2007
2027	2011, 2012	2009, 2010	2007, 2008
2028	2012, 2013	2010, 2011	2008, 2009

**Table 2 – Youth Competitions**



## GLOSSARY

The glossary contains words/phrases which need clarification or explanation beyond the detail in the rules and/or which are not always easily translated into other languages.

***International Eligibility*** means a general entitlement to take part in international Sport Climbing competitions.

***Prohibited Event*** means an event:

- that is described as a world championship or uses the word "world", either in the title of the event or otherwise, which is not approved by the IFSC,
- permitting or requiring advertising beyond that permitted by the IFSC, or
- has been listed on the IFSC website on a list maintained for this purpose.