

## Eligibility Regulations for World Championships

Following meetings held at Montreal, the question of eligibility for World Championships was considered in detail. It was agreed that the General Conditions of Contest, which in principle apply to all World Championship events, should be amended to state that the Supplemental Conditions of Contest may have over-riding requirements of eligibility which permit, for example, residential qualification as has been the case in the past. In addition a new section defining the term 'residency' will be added to the Supplemental Conditions of Contest. These regulations will be in place for the 2003 Bermuda Bowl and Venice Cup.

The purpose of this change is to permit bona fide residents of a country, other than the country of the player's citizenship, who is not ineligible by virtue of having represented another country in the past three years in a world championship or zonal championship, to represent the country of their bona fide residence in WBF and Zonal events. The criteria for establishing bona fide residence is to prevent players from playing for countries merely because it is advantageous for them to do so. A non-citizen may be required to submit appropriate documentation to prove that they are truly bona fide residents and failing to so establish that fact, they will be denied entry by the WBF Credentials Committee. This new regulation does not affect citizens / nationals / passport holders / players with dual citizenship.

The relevant sections from the General and Supplemental Conditions of Contest are as follows:

### **Item 4.3 from the General Conditions of Contest**

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

The Credentials Committee must ensure that each nominated contestant satisfies the birth and residence requirements of the Zone to which the NBO nominating him belongs and also satisfies the eligibility requirements of WBF By-Law 8.9 (c) as follows:

*Except for those players being nominated for participation in any WBF Junior Championship or Transnational Event (as defined by the Executive), to determine that any competitor in a WBF Tournament must be a national of the country of the NBO entering him for participation, subject to the following:*

- i) If a competitor is a national of two or more countries at the same time, he may represent either one of them, as he may elect.*
- ii) If a competitor has represented one country in a WBF Tournament or a zonal tournament and has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality, he shall not participate in a WBF Tournament to represent his new country until three years of such change or acquisition. This period may be reduced or even cancelled upon the request of the NBO with the approval of the WBF Executive Council*

- iii) *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 new NBO is affiliated as a member of WBF, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, chose to represent his country or be entered in a WBF Tournament by his new NBO if one exists. This particular choice may be made only once.*

Entries may be rejected if any NBO whose nominated contestants are submitted for invitation is in arrears in the payment of monies due to the WBF for annual dues or for entry fees to any WBF event (including non-championship events such as the Worldwide Bridge Contest). No male shall be a playing member of or a substitute player in a team or pair competing in a women's event.

#### **Section 4.4 of the General Conditions of Contest:**

The Supplemental Conditions for a specific event may specify over-riding Eligibility Regulations based on residency qualifications which prevail for that particular championship. In this event players should be fully aware that by competing for a country other than that of their nationality (i.e. for which they hold a passport), they may jeopardize their eligibility to participate in a subsequent Olympic Bridge Event or Olympic Qualifier.

#### **Revised Section regarding eligibility for the Supplemental Conditions of Contest:**

The Credentials Committee must be satisfied that each nominated contestant satisfies the birth and residency requirements of the Zone to which the NBO nominating him belongs and was either:

- (i) nominated by the NBO (or the Zonal Conference of the Zone to which that NBO belongs) of the country of his birth, or by the NBO of which such nominated contestant first became a member; and that such nominated contestant has not, during the current or immediately preceding calendar year (having regard to the year in which the relevant World Bridge Championship is to be held) represented a different NBO (or different Zone, while representing a different NBO) in a World Bridge Championship; or
- (ii) was nominated by the NBO (or the Zonal Conference of the Zone to which that NBO belongs) of the country of his citizenship or bona fide residence; and that such nominated contestant has not, during the current or immediately preceding two calendar years (having regard to the year in which the relevant World Bridge Championship is to be held) represented a different NBO (or different Zone, while representing a different NBO) in a World Bridge Championship:

**PROVIDED THAT** those contestants nominated for participation in any World Junior Championship shall not be subject to the conditions of this Section.

All players should be aware of Section 4 of the General Conditions of Contest, with particular reference to Section 4.4 since competing for a country other than that of which they are a national (i.e. a passport holder) may jeopardize their right to compete in a subsequent Olympic Event or Olympic Qualifier.

Entries may be rejected if any NBO whose nominated contestants are submitted for invitation is in arrears in the payment of monies due to the WBF for annual dues or for entry fees to any WBF event (including non-championship events such as the Worldwide Bridge Contest).  
No male shall be a playing member of or a substitute player in a team or pair competing in a women's event.