



**FIBA**

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## **BOOK 3 – PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS**

### **CHAPTER I. - ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL STATUS OF PLAYERS**

#### **ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS**

1. To be entitled to participate in FIBA competitions, a player must observe the General Statutes and Internal Regulations of FIBA.
2. The national member federation is responsible for the eligibility of its players at all times and will bear the consequences of any infractions of the Regulations governing Eligibility, National Status, International Transfer, and Age of Players.
3. All players who participate in Competitions of FIBA and/or those of its national member federations must:
  - a. Respect the Code of Conduct and Fair Play and act accordingly at all times on and off the court;
  - b. Refrain from using substances and methods prohibited by the regulations of FIBA and those of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
  - c. Agree to submit at any time to medical tests and controls, particularly doping controls, carried out in compliance with the regulations of FIBA, the International Olympic Committee, and WADA.
4. A national member federation or FIBA is authorised to deny participation in Competitions of FIBA to players who do not respect the provisions provided for in article **3-3** above. Permission to play may be refused also to any player who does not provide the entry form, as required for Competitions of FIBA, in which he agrees to accept inter alia:
  - a. The conditions in force for doping control.
  - b. The jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, to the exclusion of any recourse to ordinary courts, in the event of a dispute with FIBA which cannot be settled within FIBA.
5. Players in breach of the principles set out in article **3-3** may not be eligible to participate in the Competitions of FIBA – see articles 1-142 to 1-151.
6. Player contracts shall have a maximum duration of four (4) years. It is recommended that the parties to a player contract state their agreement in writing.
7. Players who participate in professional leagues must be registered with organisations which are affiliated to a national member federation; otherwise they will not be able to participate in the Competitions of FIBA.



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8. No financial remuneration for the performance of a player or a team is permitted during the Olympic Games.
9. It is within the spirit of all FIBA Regulations that players make themselves available for competitions of both their club and their national team. The national member federations are encouraged to enact regulations securing the participation of all players under their jurisdiction in their respective national teams. (see articles 3-78 to 3-96)

## **NATIONAL STATUS OF PLAYERS**

### **General Principles**

10. These regulations apply to all Competitions of FIBA. They apply at national team level and at international club level.
11. These Regulations apply to both genders.
12. If necessary for reasons of mandatory international law, the Zones are authorised to draw up specific regulations applicable to club competitions within the Zone in question. Such regulations are subject to the prior approval of the FIBA Central Board prior to their implementation.

### **Proof of Legal Nationality**

13. FIBA may ask that evidence be provided to verify the legal nationality (or nationalities) of any player by requesting any documents it deems appropriate.
14. Proof of legal nationality of a country by itself does not constitute sufficient evidence to guarantee a player's right to play as a national for the national team of that country – see article 3-15.

### **National Teams**

15. In order to play for the national team of a country, a player must hold the legal nationality of that country, and have fulfilled also the conditions of eligibility according to the FIBA Internal Regulations.

### **Players with Two or More Nationalities**

16. Any player with two legal nationalities or more, by birth or by naturalisation, may choose at any age the national team for which he wishes to play. Any such choice must be made in a written declaration to FIBA. This provision applies also to any player having acquired legal nationality by birth, or having the right to acquire a second nationality at birth, but who does not lay claim to this right until a given time in the future.  
[Note: for exceptions see articles 3-20 and 3-21].



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17. However, if a player having two (2) or more nationalities is summoned by a national member federation after reaching the age of eighteen (18), he is obliged to choose for which national team he wishes to play. If he has declined the summons, the player may choose only the national team of the other country/one of the other countries, unless he declares, in writing, within fifteen (15) days of receiving the summons that he has chosen the country that summoned him first.  
[Note: for exception see article **3-23**].
18. Any player having played in a main official competition of FIBA for a national team for which he is eligible is considered as having chosen the national team of that country, with the exception of cases provided for under articles **3-23** and **3-34**.
19. Choices made under articles **3-16**, **3-17**, and **3-18** are irrevocable.
20. A player who has transferred as a young player according to article **3-52** may not choose until he has reached the age of twenty-one (21) the national team of any country other than the country from which he transferred.
21.
  - a. A national team participating in a Competition of FIBA may have only one player on its team who has acquired the legal nationality of that country by naturalisation or by any other means after having reached the age of sixteen (16). This provision applies also to any player having the right to acquire a second nationality at birth but who did not lay claim to this right until after having reached the age of sixteen (16).
  - b. For purposes of letter (a) above and in the event of doubts, any player claiming to have acquired a legal nationality before having reached the age of sixteen (16), without presenting the respective passport with a date of issue before the player's sixteenth birthday, requires a decision by the Secretary General confirming that he does not fall under the restriction of letter (a) above. In taking this decision the Secretary General shall take into account the following criteria:
    - the number of years during which the player has lived in the country, for the national team of which he wishes to play;
    - the number of seasons during which the player has participated in domestic competitions in the country of the national team for which he wishes to play;
    - any other criteria capable of establishing a significant link between the player and the country, for the national team of which he wishes to play.
22. A player who has played in a main official competition (see article **2-1**) of FIBA before reaching his seventeenth (17) birthday may play for a national team of another country if both national member federations agree; in the absence of an agreement the Secretary General decides.
23. A player who has played in a main official competition of FIBA (see article **2-1**) after having reached his seventeenth (17) birthday may not play for a national team of another country.  
However, in exceptional circumstances the Secretary General may authorise such a player to play for the national team of his country of origin if he is ineligible to play for such country according to this article **3-23** and if this is in the interest of the development



of basketball in this country. An administrative fee as stipulated in article 3-305 and decided by the Secretary General is payable to FIBA.

24. For any player who has two or more legal nationalities by birth or by naturalisation, the national member federation for which the player wishes to play must obtain written certification from the national member federation of the country(-ies) corresponding to the player's other nationality(-ies), in which it is stated that he has not taken part in a main official competition of FIBA as a member of its national team. If the request for this certification remains unanswered, FIBA may issue provisional authorisation to the national member federation making the request. After a period of one year, this authorisation shall be considered final.

### **Special Provisions for Players from Dependent Territories**

25. In order to represent the territory in the Competitions of FIBA or in other international competitions organised within their Zones, subject to other following provisions, a player must fulfill the following conditions:
- a. Have the legal nationality of the country on which the territory is dependent (the "main territory"); and
  - b. Have:
    - i. been born in the dependent territory; or
    - ii. been born in the main territory of at least one parent born in the dependent territory; or
    - iii. been born of parents both of whom were born in the dependent territory, regardless of the place of birth of the player; or
    - iv. at least one grandparent who was born in the dependent territory, regardless of the place of birth of the player.
  - c. Be able to demonstrate traditional or customary residency in the territory.
26. A player who does not satisfy the provisions of article 3-25 but obtains the legal nationality of the main territory and can demonstrate permanent residency of the dependent territory for at least four (4) years is eligible to represent the dependent territory, subject to the following:
- a. If the player obtains the legal nationality of the main territory before reaching the age of sixteen (16) years, he will be eligible to represent the dependent territory without restriction (see article 3-21).
  - b. If the player obtains the legal nationality of the main territory after the age of sixteen (16) years, then he will be considered in the same way as a naturalised player and the provisions of article 3-21 are in effect.
27. Articles 3-21, 3-22, and 3-23 apply mutatis mutandis.

### **Club Teams**

28. For the international club competitions of FIBA, the composition of the teams is not subject to any limitation concerning the legal nationality of the players. However, each national member federation and FIBA Zone may establish more restrictive regulations. Where the

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duration of a tournament does not exceed fifteen (15) days, the governing body of that competition may establish more restrictive regulations also.

## DECISIONS

29. Unless provided otherwise, all decisions regarding the eligibility and the national status of players are taken by the FIBA Legal Commission acting through the Secretary General. With respect to Zone championships, the respective FIBA Zone Secretary General will decide, with the exception of articles 3-23 and 3-34. Any such decision by a FIBA Zone shall be communicated immediately to FIBA but at the latest fourteen (14) days before the beginning of the competition in which the player is supposed to play.
30. The Secretary General of FIBA shall be authorised to review and set aside any such decision if he believes that the decision is contrary to the spirit and intent of the FIBA Internal Regulations and the established general policy of FIBA. Any decision by the Secretary General of FIBA to set aside a decision of a Zone must be made within seven (7) days of the communication as per article 3-29 above.

## SANCTIONS

31. Where there are violations of the provisions contained in these articles and, in particular, where national member federations, clubs, or other organisations are involved in the manipulation, no matter whether legal or not under the domestic legislation, of the legal status of players, administrative and disciplinary penalties shall be imposed in the first instance by the Secretary General of FIBA.
32. Such penalties shall have immediate effect and be in accordance with the Basic Principles of Sanctions provided for in Book 1, Chapter VI of these Internal Regulations.
33. Appeals are governed according to these Internal Regulations (see Book 1, Chapter VII).

## MARGINAL CASES

34. Decisions on marginal cases are the responsibility of the Secretary General following consultation with the Chairman of the FIBA Legal Commission.  
The same shall apply with respect to refugees enjoying asylum rights and displaced persons (UN Conventions).  
In certain cases, FIBA nationality may be granted to a player.

## APPEALS

35. An appeal against decisions made under the foregoing provisions shall be submitted to the FIBA Appeals' Panel in accordance with the Regulations governing Appeals (see Book 1, Chapter VII).
36. If and when an appeal hearing is organised under these Regulations involving member federations, clubs or players, FIBA shall be authorised to make the organisation of such hearing dependent upon the parties paying to FIBA reasonable administrative costs.