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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the eligibility criteria for athletes to participate in IQA tournaments and the steps to take when applying for regional teams.

POLICY STATEMENT

The IQA is committed to providing a healthy and safe space for members, volunteers, and athletes to take part in the Sport. With inclusivity as one of our core values, it is important that quidditch events are inclusive and safe for all parties involved. The IQA is also committed to supporting global sport and athlete development.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all National Governing Bodies, teams and athletes participating at IQA tournaments.

PROCEDURE

This policy covers the following sections:

1. National Teams
 - 1.1. Multiple National Teams under an NGB
 - 1.2. National Team eligibility criteria
2. Regional Teams
 - 2.1. Regional Teams eligibility criteria
3. Application processes and waivers
 - 3.1. Multiple National Teams application process
 - 3.2. Regional Teams application process
 - 3.3. National and Regional Team eligibility criteria waivers
 - 3.3.1. National Teams
 - 3.3.2. Regional Teams
4. Policy enforcement

1. National Teams

A National Team is defined as a team that represents a National Governing Body (NGB), Country, or Nation AND MAY NOT represent a Club or Region.

1.1. Multiple National Teams under an NGB

In order to apply for multiple National Teams, an NGB must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Have been a full member NGB for at least the last 3 years AND
- Be in good standing with the IQA AND
- Have at least 250 registered athletes per National Team requested AND
- Have at least five teams in each National Team Geographical Region AND
- Have at least 25% of all registered athletes Assistant Referee certified with the IQA AND
- Have at least 20% of all registered athletes Snitch Referee certified with the IQA AND
- Have at least 5% of all registered athletes Head Referee certified with the IQA AND
- Have at least 10 volunteers or staff within the NGB (not including National Team Staff) AND
- Have at least one coach AND one team manager per National Team requested AND
- Have a geopolitical reason for multiple National Teams AND/OR precedent in other nationally recognized sports for multiple National Teams

1.2. National Team eligibility criteria

All qualifying applicants for positions on a National Team should be considered and have an equal chance under a fair and transparent method of selection, free of any Conflict of Interest. An NGB is free to set more restrictive guidelines for selecting their National Team than those outlined below.

An athlete is eligible for any National Team if, at a minimum, they satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Are at least 18 years of age on the first day of the event AND
- Are not a current member of another National Team squad (including team staff, training, expansion, and National B teams) in the current IQA event-year AND
- Are in good standing with the IQA and are not currently being investigated by an NGB, Quidditch Europe, or the IQA AND
- Are not currently serving a tournament or season ban from either an NGB, Quidditch Europe, or the IQA

They must also satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- Hold citizenship OR
- Have permanent legal residency OR
- Have lived in the country for at least the last 3 years leading up to the event OR
- Have played quidditch only in the nation OR
- Have played quidditch in the nation for at least the 10 months prior to the first day of the event AND do not reside in an NGB attending the same event

An athlete may additionally be eligible for a team representing an Associate, Emerging Area or Area of Interest if they satisfy all of the minimum criteria, any of the above criteria, AND/OR one of the following criteria:

- Have at least one parent or grandparent who holds citizenship OR
- Have at least one parent who was born in the nation

2. Regional Teams

A Regional Team is defined as a team that represents one or more of the following:

- A Region within an NGB, Country, or Nation AND/OR
- A collection of multiple regions or NGBs representing up to a maximum of 150 registered athletes

All Regional Team applications must be supported by an existing full member NGB in good standing with the IQA, unless a waiver has been submitted. A waiver can be submitted in the case of a region not falling under any geographical full member NGBs AND not having the support of another full member NGB. In this case they must be able to prove they have an established administration and structure. If a region covers multiple NGB geographical areas, all contained NGBs must approve of the submission.

NGBs sending Regional Teams must ensure that all athletes eligible for their National Team are eligible for at least one Regional Team attending the event and Regional Teams may not overlap with other teams geographically.

Full member NGBs may choose to send either

- *a National Team and no Regional Teams OR*
- *Regional Teams and no National Team.*

Full member NGBs supporting additional Regional Team applications outside of their geographical jurisdiction will not be impacted in their ability to send National or Regional Teams to an event.

Regional Team applications are open for the IQA Continental Games and will not be accepted for the IQA World Cup. All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. They will either be accepted, declined, or further information/qualifying next steps will be requested. Regional Teams that are accepted are only accepted for the upcoming Continental Games and must resubmit their application in future years. This will be treated as a new application and teams will not be automatically eligible to attend future events. All applications must be submitted at least three months before the registration deadline for the event in question.

2.1 Regional Team eligibility criteria

All qualifying applicants for positions on a Regional Team should be considered and have an equal chance under a fair and transparent method of selection, free of any Conflict of Interest. An NGB is free to set more restrictive guidelines for selecting their Regional Teams than those outlined below.

An athlete is eligible for any Regional Team if, at a minimum, they satisfy all of the following criteria:

- Are at least 18 years of age on the first day of the event AND
- Are not a current member of another National or Regional Team squad (including team staff, training, expansion, and National or Regional B teams) in the current IQA event-year AND
- Are in good standing with the IQA, and are not currently being investigated by an NGB, Quidditch Europe, or the IQA AND
- Are not currently serving a tournament or season ban from either an NGB, Quidditch Europe, or the IQA

They must also satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- Hold citizenship OR
- Have permanent legal residency OR
- Have lived in the country for at least the last 3 years leading up to the event OR
- Have played quidditch only in the nation OR
- Have played quidditch in the nation for at least 10 months prior to the first day of the event AND do not reside in an NGB attending the same event OR
- Have at least one parent or grandparent who holds citizenship OR
- Have at least one parent who was born in the nation

3. Application processes and waivers

3.1. Multiple National Teams application process

The National Governing Body must send an email to events@iqasport.org with the following information:

- Which National Teams the application is for
- A map clearly indicating the different geographical regions
- The number of teams in each National Team Geographical Region
- An overview of the administrative structure of the NGB
- An overview of the National Team structure and volunteer and/or staff positions for all National Teams requested
- The reason for applying for multiple National Teams
- An explanation of the nature of the National Team Geographic Regions
- An explanation of the non-quidditch sporting precedent and/or geopolitical and/or historic reason that multiple National Teams should exist
- The specific eligibility criteria per team by which team selection will be done (note that these must fall within the criteria outlined by the IQA in this policy)
- The latest figure of registered athletes within the NGB

All applications must be submitted at least three months before the registration deadline for the event in question.

3.2. Regional Teams application process

The main point of contact for the application must send an email to events@iqasport.org with the following information:

- Which Continental Games this application is for (please note that NGBs must ensure they are sending all Regional and National Teams to the same Continental Games)
- Which full member NGB is either making or supporting the application
- Which region(s) the application is for
- A map clearly indicating the different geographical regions (if applicable)
- The reasoning behind the application for the Regional Team(s)
- An explanation of the nature of the region(s) and geopolitical and/or historic and/or quidditch-related reason that the region(s) should exist
- The specific eligibility criteria per team by which the team will be selected (note that these must fall within the criteria outlined by the IQA in this policy)

All Regional Teams applications must be submitted at least three months before the registration deadline for the event in question.

3.3. National and Regional Team eligibility criteria waivers

3.3.1. National Teams

In the case that an athlete is unable to satisfy the National Team eligibility requirements AND is unable to gain citizenship due to extenuating circumstances, their NGB may apply to the IQA for an exemption. This will be looked into on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the citizenship application process of their National Team's country. This applies to NGBs of all membership levels.

The National Governing Body must send an email to events@iqasport.org with the following information:

- The name of the athlete
- Any links they have to the NGB or country the NGB covers
- The reason they are unable to fulfill the eligibility requirements
- Any other countries where the athlete has played quidditch and the time period this covers

3.3.2. Regional Teams

In the case that an athlete is unable to satisfy the eligibility requirements, their NGB may apply to the IQA for an exemption. This will be looked into on a case-by-case basis. This applies to all Regional Teams.

The National Governing Body must send an email to events@iqasport.org with the following information:

- The name of the athlete
- Any links they have to the Regional Team or region the team covers
- The reason they are unable to fulfill the eligibility requirements
- Any other countries where the athlete has played quidditch and the time period this covers

4. Policy enforcement

All participating NGBs and teams must submit rosters to the IQA Events and Membership Services Department. The rosters must include the athlete eligibility to the team.

Athletes not eligible to the team under the abovementioned criteria will be excluded from participating at the event.

Teams, athletes, team management or NGB management found to be manipulating the eligibility of athletes or breaching this will be sanctioned. Sanctions may include but are not limited to game bans or tournament exclusion(s) for the Athlete or Team. This will be enforced by the IQA Events and Membership Services Department.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director and Deputy Director, Events and Membership Services have operational oversight over this policy and its implementation. They may delegate this authority as they deem fit. Oversight may include:

1. Management of files related to waiver applications
2. Management of the waiver approval process
3. Overview of IQA Event rosters
4. Evaluation of IQA Event rosters submitted
5. Implementation of this policy
6. Implementation of sanctions on policy breaches

The Director, Events and Membership Services (pauline.raes@iqasport.org) and Deputy Director, Events and Membership Services (luke.zak@iqasport.org) are responsible for accepting and reviewing waiver applications on this policy and reviewing the submitted event rosters.

DEFINITIONS

National Governing Body (NGB): Any recognized organization that oversees the development and implementation of quidditch within their respective country.

Director/Deputy Director: Any person or persons at the senior-most position of a department. They have the final say within their respective departments.