

## WMA Championship Rules 2016-2018: Rule 8 Country Designation for Competition

- 8.1 *An individual shall compete in WMA or Regional championships only for a Country or Territory of which he is a citizen or permanent resident (3 years) unless permitted under Rule 8.3.*
- 8.2 *An individual who is a citizen of two Countries or Territories or who has a permanent place of residence (3 years or more) in a Country or Territory of which he is not a citizen, and having not previously competed as a Master Athlete may first compete for the Country or Territory of his choice and shall thereafter compete only for that Country or Territory unless otherwise allowed under Rule 8.3.*
- 8.3 *An individual who is a citizen or permanent resident of two Countries or Territories and who has competed for one of those Countries or Territories may thereafter compete for the other Country or Territory, only when changing their citizenship or permanently residing (3 years or more in either case) in the new Country or Territory, and an official written request from the individual to the two Members has been agreed and confirmed in writing by the WMA Secretary.*

The following proposals were agreed at the meeting of the BMAF Executive on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### Proposal 1: Validation of Nationality/Age

- The nationality and age of masters athletes will be checked for new members when they first join the BMAF as an area club or Open competitor. They will be done for existing members for whom the validation has not been logged in OpenTrack, either when they set a British record or enter as a GBR athlete in an EMA or WMA championships or if any doubt on their age is raised.
- The checks will consist of the following:
  - 1) a copy of their passport details, supported by their marriage certificate or equivalent official document for change of name)
  - 2) a copy of their birth certificate (or equivalent official document) if not born in the UK or Crown Territories. If they do not have a passport and were born in the UK or Crown Territories, then the birth certificate will suffice.
- If the athlete who was born abroad cannot provide proof of his date of birth via a birth certificate or equivalent, he will still be eligible to compete in the age category indicated by his passport or as otherwise decided by the BMAF, and set British records for this age category. Any European or World record-beating performances may however not be ratified by EMA/WMA, depending on their judgement of the evidence provided.

### Proposal 2: Impact of Nationality on British Masters Athletics Records

- Only British citizens or those who have proven the eligibility to be considered as British (see Proposal 4 below) will be able to set British masters athletics records

### Proposal 3: Impact of Nationality on Awards of Medals in BMAF Championships

- Non-British competitors will win medals In the British Masters Open Track & Field Championships if they finish in the first three for their event. The first three British competitors in each event will also win medals, even if there are better performing foreign competitors
- BMAF individual and team medals in the BMAF road, trail and cross-country championships will be awarded without regard to the nationality of the competitors.

## Proposal 4: Eligibility to compete in GBR team in EMA and WMA competitions

- The wording in Opentrack will be changed to flag when an athlete is eligible to represent GBR in EMA or WMA events. This will be done automatically for anyone who is a British citizen and was born in Britain. Any athletes wishing to compete in these international competitions must declare if they have dual nationality or have previously competed for another country.
- Any athlete with dual nationality or is a “foreign” athlete (i.e. with non-UK passport) who is a permanent resident (3 years) of the UK or one of the crown territories, may declare their wish to compete in a GBR team in the EMA or WMA competitions. If they also declare that they have not previously represented any other country and there is satisfactory evidence of British nationality or permanent residence in the UK, this will be accepted by the International Entries Coordinator. The WMA and the athlete’s other country of citizenship will be notified of this, even though this is not required under rule 8.2.
- If the athlete has previously represented another country, the BMAF Secretary will with the athlete’s agreement write to that country requesting their agreement to the change. The BMAF will then lodge the agreed change of allegiance with the WMA secretariat, effective once confirmed by the WMA secretariat, in accordance with rules 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5