



ITF Athlete Change of National Representation Policy

(For Continental & World Championship Events Only)

Approval and version control

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Purpose & Principles

This policy ensures that the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF) upholds fairness, integrity, and athlete welfare when regulating athlete representation at international events. It reflects best practices from international sport governance, while recognising real-life factors such as immigration, education, and employment mobility. It is the firm belief of the ITF that athletes should not be able to change their nationality for competitive advantage and only to reflect a long-term change in life circumstances.

Scope

This policy applies only to athletes representing a country at World and Continental Championships.

It does not apply to club-based (eg. World Cup) or open events, or to coaches, umpires, or officials.

Initial National Affiliation

An athlete's first national affiliation may be freely chosen without restrictions based on nationality, citizenship, or residency.

This is formalised when the athlete is registered to compete internationally (as a national representative) by their National Association (NA) in the ITF online database.

Change of National Representation

4.1 First-Time Change

A first change in national affiliation can be made by mutual agreement between the two relevant NAs.

The athlete must submit a Notification of Intent to Transfer to the ITF Office, e-signed by:

- The athlete
- The original NA
- The new NA

This process includes a three-month review period but no waiting period before eligibility is restored.

4.2 Subsequent Changes

A second or further change is subject to a 36-month blocking period from the date of previous national representation, unless:

- The athlete is under 18 years of age
- There are valid mitigating circumstances such as:
 - Conflict, war, or political asylum
 - Long-term relocation for education or work (>12 months)
 - Family reunification or other exceptional life events

Mitigating circumstances must be supported by documentation and justification from the new NA.

Appeals & Governance

Disputes or exceptional cases are first reviewed by the ITF Tournament, Umpire, and IT Committees.

A final appeal may be made to the ITF Board of Directors, whose decision is binding.

Documentation Requirements

A change of representation request must include:

- A signed Notification of Intent to Transfer
- This includes a declaration from the new NA that they performed due diligence and reviewed evidence confirming the move is part of a long-term change in residential status and not solely for competitive gain
- Relevant supporting documents (e.g., visa, university registration, proof of residence)

Additional Notes

Athletes may continue to reside abroad and represent their original country without changing affiliation.

Coaches may be registered under another country for event purposes without requiring a change in association.



Appendix: Notification of Intent to Transfer

International Taekwon-Do Federation

For Athletes Seeking to Change National Representation for Continental or World Championship Events

SECTION A: Athlete Details

Full Name	
ITF Database Number	
ITF Black Belt Certificate No.	
Date of Birth	
Nationality (as per Passport)	
Current Country of Residence	

SECTION B: National Association Transfer Request

I, the undersigned, formally request a change of representation from:

Current National Association (NA): _____

to New National Association (NA): _____

I understand that this change:

1. Governs all aspects of my Taekwon-Do participation including gradings, certificate applications, plaque fees and registration for all ITF events.
2. Will take effect following a three-month processing period unless otherwise notified

SECTION C: Athlete Declaration

I confirm that:

1. This transfer request is made voluntarily and in good faith.
2. I intend to train, reside, or represent the new nation as part of a genuine long-term relocation (for reasons including education, employment, or family circumstances).
3. I understand that further transfers may be subject to a 36-month waiting period, unless exempted.

Date

Athlete Signature



SECTION D: Endorsements

Endorsement of Current National Association (NA)

We confirm that we have reviewed this request and consent to the release of the member named above.

Authorized Representative:

Name & Position: _____

Date

Signature

Endorsement of New National Association (NA)

We confirm that we accept the member named above into our National Association and that we have reviewed appropriate documentation supporting this change as part of a long-term relocation.

Authorized Representative:

Name & Position: _____

Date

Signature

SECTION E: Supporting Documents Checklist

Please confirm the following have been reviewed and are retained by the new NA (tick all that apply):

- Proof of Residence / Long-Term Stay
- Study or Employment Documentation
- National ID or Passport
- Parent/Guardian Statement (if under 18)
- Any other relevant justification documents

Submission

This completed form should be submitted to the ITF Office itfoffice@itfkd.sport