

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to formally propose changes to the nationality change process in order to provide athletes and national federations with greater clarity and certainty. The proposed process involves establishing an Independent Review Panel to oversee the approval process for sporting nationality changes. I have outlined the process and expected outcomes below and believe that establishing this Independent Review Panel will greatly improve the transparency and efficiency of the process. Additionally, I would expect the panel to conduct a full review of the current regulations and propose any necessary updates to be presented at the 2024 ICF Congress.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

Proposal for an Independent Review Panel for Sporting Nationality Change Process

Objective: To improve the process of sporting nationality changes and provide athletes and national federations with greater clarity and certainty.

Process:

1. The ICF will set up an Independent Review Panel, confirmed at the ICF Executive Board. Both genders must be represented on the panel.
2. Sporting nationality change requests will be sent to this panel until 30 November each year.
3. The panel will hold annual meetings to discuss each sporting nationality change request and will be responsible for validating or refusing requests.
4. The ICF will create a Sporting Nationality Change Request form and a Confirmation Letter (NF) template.
5. These documents will provide clear guidance on what information is required for a successful sporting nationality change request, and will streamline the process for athletes seeking to change their nationality and provide clarity for their respective and prospective national federation.
6. Once decisions have been made by the independent review panel, the ICF will publish these in the first week of each calendar year, with each decision signed off by the panel.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Improved transparency and accountability in the nationality change process.
2. Clear process and guidance for athletes through a streamlined sporting nationality change process.
3. Greater efficiency in the handling of nationality changes.
4. The panel to conduct a wider review of the regulations and propose their recommendations for any changes in the sporting nationality change process at the 2024 ICF Congress.

Actions and Support:

- Independent Review Panel meetings will be conducted online so there are no budgetary requirements
- The process will be supported by the ICF International Events Department
- An Event Operations Manager will be allocated to support the panels administration requirements such as the creation of the Sporting Nationality Change Request form and Confirmation Letter (NF) template, and publishing decisions annually.

Conclusion:

We believe that the proposed changes would greatly improve the way the ICF handles sporting nationality changes and provide athletes with a more efficient and transparent process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Pettit
ICF Secretary General