

WPF Participant Eligibility Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy governs who may represent a country in competitions organised under the auspices of the World Puzzle Federation (WPF). This policy is intended to balance three goals:
- fair access for genuine citizens of a member country or unfederated country
 - administrative clarity for organisers and prospective participants
 - clarity around exceptional circumstances.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 The following terms used in this document have the meanings set out below:

citizen: a legally recognised member of a country or region, conferring full civil and social rights (for example, the right to vote)

WPF member: an organisation or association recognised by the WPF as the governing body within a specific country [or region – see clause 4.3]

unfederated country: a country where no recognised WPF member exists

individual member: a person from an unfederated country who is recognised by the WPF as representing a specific country [or region]

suspended member: a member organisation or association for a specific country [or region] where the WPF Board has suspended national representation

individual neutral participant: a person from a country where the WPF Board has suspended national representation

WPF invitee: a participant directly invited by the WPF Board

participant: a generic term for a person participating in a competition, including country representatives selected by WPF members, individual members, individual neutral participants and WPF invitees

3. General eligibility

- 3.1 Participants must not be serving a suspension or ban imposed by the WPF.

4. Eligibility for country representation

- 4.1 Eligibility to represent a country is tied to citizenship of that country, mirroring Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter.

- 4.2 A person representing a country at events organised under the auspices of the WPF must be a citizen of that country, whether by birth or through naturalisation. Residents of a country who are not citizens but only hold residency status (whether temporary or permanent) are not eligible to represent that country.

For clarity: this clause confirms that residency is not sufficient for representation.

- 4.3 Where a region is separately recognised by the WPF as distinct from its sovereign state, a person who holds the relevant nationality or status for that region may represent it on the same basis as citizenship set out in 4.2.

For example: Hong Kong (China), Chinese Taipei, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda are all eligible for recognition as distinct members under International Olympic Committee regulations and by the WPF as well.

- 4.4 Host organisations are responsible for checking participant eligibility before (or at the time of) registration for competitions. Verification of eligibility is generally satisfied through the participant holding a passport issued by the country they are representing.
- 4.5 Registration information provided by host organisations must provide a link to WPF eligibility rules and a short summary of these rules. Registration forms must also require participants (directly, for individual members, or through their WPF member for participants selected by a WPF member) to declare they are eligible, including a declaration they agree to a passport check if the host or WPF Board deems it necessary.
- 4.6 A person who meets eligibility requirements for more than one country may choose which country they represent, subject to selection processes of WPF members.

A person can say "I want to represent Country X", but if that country is a WPF member the person must still satisfy national selection requirements.

- 4.7 Disputes on participant eligibility will be resolved by the WPF Board. The Board may ask a member or individual member for information that may help resolve eligibility issues.

5. Exceptional circumstances

- 5.1 Participants from countries where national representation is suspended by the WPF Board must not compete under their country name or flag. Registration lists, results, and all other communication published by host organisations must list any participants from these countries as individual neutral participants with country UN.
- 5.2 The WPF Board may, in exceptional circumstances, invite an individual to participate at a specific competition without national affiliation. Situations where this may occur include statelessness, suspension of a member federation, or where a person was unable to participate in national selection processes due to exceptional circumstances.

This is intended to be applied only in truly exceptional circumstances. The WPF Board will discuss with a WPF member before making a decision on eligibility for any person who would normally be required to meet national selection processes.

- 5.3 WPF invitees may be asked by the WPF Board to pay a participation fee in addition to any competition fees set by host organisations.
- 5.4 Registration and results published by host organisations must list any people participating by direct invitation from the WPF Board as participants with country UN.
- 5.5 Requests for consideration under clause 5.2 must be emailed to the WPF Board for consideration.
- 5.6 Members may request the reason for the WPF Board's decision to invite participants under 5.2, noting that the WPF Board may choose not to release the full details behind a decision if there are privacy or other concerns.

For example, if the reason a person was unable to participate in national selection was due to medical treatment or legal matters, the Board may not release these details due to privacy requirements.