

From 1st January 2009, permanent residents in the UK who don't hold a British passport and elect to represent England, but are members of EADA, will be permitted to compete in EADA National Ranking Events (NREs) in the relevant age group.

The background:

A recent communication from the international governing body advised EADA that our policy of excluding all couples that are ineligible to represent England from national ranking events is "out of step" with other countries. Previously only couples who were eligible to represent England were permitted to compete in NREs. However, the current practice in other member countries is to allow all members who have permanent residency within that country to dance in their national ranking events even though they are not able to represent that country at an international level.

The procedure & defining permanent resident:

One member of the partnership must prove permanent residency in the UK and both must be members of EADA before they are able to compete in a NRE. EADA defines permanent resident as follows:

- a) Nationals from Outside the European Economic Area (EEA)** – The applicant must hold a passport for the relevant country and be able to demonstrate that the UK Borders Agency has granted them Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) in the UK or submit evidence such as P60s, Income Tax Returns and/or NI Contributions to show they have been resident in the UK for a period of not less than 5 consecutive years.
- b) Children* of Nationals from Outside the EEA** - If both parents have been granted ILR status by the UK Borders Agency or they can provide the evidence as suggested in (a), and the child lives permanently with both parents in the UK, then the child will be deemed to have the same ILR status as the parents.
- c) EEA Nationals** – EEA Nationals can take up permanent residence in the UK without ILR status having to be granted. Those EEA Nationals that wish to participate in EADA NREs will still be required to provide proof of permanent residency in the UK by submitting evidence such as P60s, Income Tax Returns and/or NI Contributions for a period of not less than 5 consecutive years.
- d) Children* of EEA Nationals** - Providing that both parents have met the criteria as set out in sub section c and the child lives with both parents then the child will be deemed to be a UK permanent resident.

* Children are defined as Under 18 years of age.

Joining EADA for this purpose does not affect a dancer's right to represent another country. Permanent Residents looking to join EADA should contact the Membership Secretary for details on how to submit evidence of their residency requirements: membership@eada.org.uk

Who can enter NREs:

- (i) EADA members where at least one half of the couple holds a UK passport;
- (ii) EADA members where at least one half of the couple have been able to demonstrate permanent residency as defined in the above criteria;
- (iii) Scottish, Welsh & Northern Irish couples will meet the necessary qualifying criteria, but they must be registered with EADA and elect which country they want to dance for;
- (iv) UK passport holders who are EADA members, but who have elected to represent another country.

This means NREs are NOT open to couples simply visiting England on a short term basis.

Who can represent England:

To be able to represent England at least one member of the partnership must hold a current UK Passport and have elected to dance for England. If neither member of the partnership is able to meet both criteria then that partnership will not qualify to dance for England. This legislation has not changed. Please note that a dancer who has represented one country is not permitted to represent another country until 8 months have elapsed, unless permission has been obtained from both member countries' amateur associations.

Allocation of points & chart positions:

The points system will currently remain unchanged. All EADA members entering NREs, including couples of Permanent Residency, will receive points in accordance with their results and will be shown in our national ranking charts. All couples will have the country they represent included on the chart tables. Only those couples who select to represent England and are eligible to do so will be selected by EADA to represent England in World and European Championships.

Closed competitions:

The British National Championships and the Closed UK Championships have their own entry criteria and will remain closed competitions. This has not been affected by the changes in EADA legislation.

Invitations to EADA Training:

Couples with permanent residency qualify to attend open training days, which are open to all EADA members. Only those couples eligible to represent England will qualify to attend England Squad Training or Elite Training.

The future:

The EADA Council will continually assess the effects of this legislation and will report to the membership at the next AGM.