

International Ruling for Athletes Choosing Representation of Countries:

The exact regulations on this one which are:

Book 3

Article 18. Any player having played in a main official competition of FIBA for a national team for which he is eligible is considered as having chosen the national team of that country, with the exception of cases provided for under articles 3-23 and 3-33.

Article 22: A player who has played in a main official competition (see article 2-2) before reaching his seventeenth birthday may play for a national team of another country if both national member federations agree; in the absence of an agreement the Secretary General decides

Article 23: A player who has played in a main official competition of FIBA (see article 2-2) after having reached his seventeenth birthday may not play for a national team of another country. However, in exceptional circumstances the Secretary General may authorize such a player to play for the national team of his country of origin if he is ineligible to play for such a country according to this article 3-23 and if this is in the interest of the development of basketball in this country. An administrative fee as stipulated in article 3-339 and decided by the Secretary General is payable to FIBA

Basically, if they play before the age of 17, and then you and the other NF agree to allow the change, it can happen. Once they reach 17 and play it is a lot harder and would require a case as to why the switch takes place. Every case is treated individually though – so no criteria as such on what would be required to allow the change to occur post age 17.
