

ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

(i) Definitions

“Authorising Officers” means any person mandated by the IRL to validate a Player’s eligibility to play international rugby league.

“Junior International Match” means any match in which a Player represents an IRL Member Nation such match being sanctioned and recognised by the IRL and the Member Nations as a match between international teams having an age restriction of 18 years or older i.e. Under 19, Under 20, Under 21, Under 22, Under 23 etc regardless of the age of each Player;

Once a player completes the ‘junior age group competitions’ he/she must re-establish his/her eligibility election for senior international matches. For the avoidance of doubt these rules are mirrored for the junior and senior international matches however a player must establish his/her eligibility separately across junior and senior matches, i.e. a player may play for one Tier One nation in juniors and is allowed to re- elect a senior nation which may be a different Tier One nation. This is the only time a change to Tier One nations is permitted.

“Parent” means either a biological/blood parent of the Player or a person who has adopted the Player in accordance with the legal requirements of the country concerned. For the avoidance of doubt, it is possible for a Player to establish eligibility pursuant to Rule (ii) through a parent of an adopted parent.

“Residence” means the place or location in which a Player has his/her primary home for each of the preceding sixty (60) months immediately prior to playing an international match. Subsequent to establishing his/her initial residency eligibility the Player must in each year prior to the year of his/her selection for such country be resident in the country for a minimum of 210 days in the preceding 12 months to maintain his/her residency eligibility. For full time students who are resident in another country, the period spent studying abroad can be considered temporary absence(s) that will not affect the consecutive sixty month period of residence.

For the avoidance of doubt the calculation of the sixty (60) months respectively shall commence from the day on which the player’s eligibility becomes active and cannot include any period forward of such eligibility date;

“Tier One Nation” means Australia, England or New Zealand;

“Tier Two Nation” means a Full Member of the IRL with the exception of Australia, England and New Zealand duly approved and recognised by the IRL;

“Tier Three Nation” means a Nation which is a Member of the IRL duly approved and recognized which is not a Tier One Nation or a Tier Two Nation;

(ii) A Player is eligible to play an International Match for:



- a) the Nation in which he/she was born;
 - b) the Nation in which either of his/her Parents was born;
 - c) the Nation in which either of his/her grandparents was born;
 - d) the Nation which is his/her principal place of Residence;
- (iii) A Player eligible under Residence in accordance with Rule (ii)(d) above may only represent Nations pursuant to Rule (iv) below and must maintain the right to be employed in the Nation/Nations for which he/she claims eligibility.
- (iv) A Player who is eligible to play for more than one Nation shall be entitled to elect:
- a) One Tier 1 Nation he/she wishes to represent based upon satisfying the eligibility criteria under Rule (ii); and
 - b) One Tier 2 or Tier 3 Nation he/she wishes to represent based upon satisfying the eligibility criteria under Rule (ii).
- (v) A Player can only ever elect to represent one (1) Tier One Nation. A Player cannot change eligibility from one Tier One Nation to another Tier One Nation. In addition:
- a) a Player who has elected to represent Great Britain cannot ever then elect to represent Australia or New Zealand; and
 - b) a Player who has elected to represent Australia or New Zealand cannot ever then elect to represent Great Britain.
- (vi) A Player who maintains eligibility for both a Tier One Nation and a Tier Two Nation/Tier Three Nation must nominate which Nation he/she elects to play for in an IRL Global Event three calendar weeks prior to the Opening Match of the IRL Global Event or the date required for final nominations in the Tournament Manual whichever is the earlier.
- Tier One Nations are required to declare which dual qualified Players have been selected for their IRL Global Event final squads a minimum of three calendar weeks prior to the Opening Match of the IRL Global Event or the date specified in the Tournament Manual whichever is the earlier.
- Should such selection not be notified by the Tier One Nation three calendar weeks prior to the IRL Global Event or the date required for final nominations in the Tournament Manual whichever is the earlier then the Player may only represent his/her elected Tier Two Nation/Tier Three Nation in such IRL Global Event.
- (vii) When a Player is named in a 19-player squad for a Nation (or is named in the final tournament squad for a 9s Competition) according to the Eligibility Rules, he/she is deemed to have elected to play for that Nation. For the avoidance of doubt selection for a domestic representative match or student international does not constitute a commitment to senior international rugby league for such Nation.
- (viii) A Player who has elected to represent a Nation cannot then elect to represent another Nation in the same calendar year.
- (ix) Pursuant to Rules (ii) and (viii) a Player may change from one Tier Two/Tier Three Nation to another for which he/she is eligible, with the approval of the IRL and subject to the condition that a Player may only make one such change in a four year period. The four year period shall commence from the date of any previous election.
- (x) Pursuant to Rule (viii), a Player is entitled to move between a Tier One and a Tier Two or Tier Three Nation freely save that a Player may not change their National





- Team during any IRL Global Event (including any qualification matches played as part of that IRL Global Event, including Continental Qualification Matches) in which that Player is participating and may only represent one Nation during each IRL Global Event.
- (xi) The burden of proof in establishing eligibility is on the Player and the National Team that they wish to represent. If a Player plays an International Match for a National Team which he/she is not eligible to represent, both the Player and the National Team which selected him/her may be guilty of misconduct.
 - (xii) Where a Player considers that he/she is eligible to join a National Team squad on the basis of Rule (ii) above, before he/she first joins that squad, he/she shall provide proof of his/her eligibility to the National Team wishing to select him/her and to the IRL. In the case of eligibility under Rule (ii)(a), (b), (c) and (d) the Player shall provide the National Team and the IRL with a copy of the relevant birth certificate and/or passport stating place of birth.
 - (xiii) Where a Player is not able to provide a copy of the relevant birth certificate and/or passport, the matter shall be referred to the IRL and the Player shall only be entitled to represent the National Team if he/she can provide satisfactory evidence to the IRL Authorising Officers that the Player is eligible to do so. Save in extreme circumstances affidavits by a Player will not be considered as satisfactory evidence.
 - (xiv) National Teams shall, promptly upon request, provide the IRL with a copy of any evidence they have relied on pursuant to Rule (ii) and (iii). Where a National Team fails to do so, or the IRL does not consider the evidence satisfactory, the relevant Player shall not be entitled to represent the National Team.
 - (xv) In the circumstances set out in Rule (xiii) above or in the event of the eligibility of a Player to play for a National Team being uncertain or in dispute, upon the written request of any Member to the IRL it shall be referred to the IRL Executive for determination. The decision of the IRL Executive shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
 - (xvi) A Player will be considered eligible under Rule (ii) (a), (b) and (c) if the relevant qualifying country no longer exists as a sovereign state or political entity (the "State"). Where a qualifying birth certificate refers to a former State a Player may nominate the Nation he/she wishes to represent from the federated entities that constituted that former State.
- Once a nomination of a Nation under Rule (xvi) is made, a Player may not change the nomination to another entity of the State. A Player eligible to play for more than one Nation is still entitled to change his/her Nation in accordance with this Rule but their new Nation cannot be a former entity of the State.

