



# RUGBY LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

---

## 3. Eligibility for International Rugby League

### 3.1 Definitions

**“International Match”** means any match in which a Player represents an RLIF Member Nation such match being sanctioned and recognised by the RLIF and the Member Nation as a match played as a Senior or Junior International Match;

**“Junior International Match”** means any match in which a Player represents an RLIF Member Nation such match being sanctioned and recognised by the RLIF 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, ie 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.

**“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 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.

**“RLIF Global Event”** means any event deemed from time to time by the RLIF Board to be a RLIF Global Event;

**“Senior International Match”** means any match in which a Player represents an RLIF Member Nation such match being sanctioned and recognised by the RLIF and the Member Nation as a match played between Senior International teams;

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

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

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

3.2 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 ;

3.3 A Player eligible under Residence in accordance with Rule 3.2(d) above may only represent Nations pursuant to Rule 3.4 below and must maintain the right to be employed in the Nation/Nations for which he/she claims eligibility .

3.4 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 3.2; and
- b) One Tier 2 or Tier 3 Nation he/she wishes to represent based upon satisfying the eligibility criteria under Rule 3.2.

3.4.1 A Player can only ever represent one (1) Tier One Nation. A Player cannot change eligibility from one Tier One Nation to another Tier One Nation.

3.4.2 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 RLIF Global Event three calendar weeks prior to the Opening Match of the RLIF 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 RLIF Global Event final squads a minimum of three calendar weeks prior to the Opening Match of the RLIF Global Event or the date specified in the Tournament Manual whichever is the earlier.

3.4.3 Should such selection not be notified by the Tier One Nation three calendar weeks prior to the RLIF 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 RLIF Global Event.

3.4.4 When a Player plays an International Match for a Nation, he/she is deemed to have elected to play for that Nation. For the avoidance of doubt selection for a domestic representative match does not constitute a commitment to International Rugby League for such Nation.

- 3.5 A Player may change from one Tier Two/Tier Three Nation to another for which he/she is eligible pursuant to Rule 3.2, with the approval of the RLIF 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 .
- 3.6 A Player is entitled to move between a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 or Tier 3 Nation freely save that a Player may not change their National Team during any RLIF Global Event (including any qualification matches played as part of that RLIF Global Event including Continental Qualification Matches) in which that Player is participating and may only represent one Nation during each RLIF Global Event .
- 3.7 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 shall be guilty of misconduct.

- 3.8 Where a Player considers that he/she is eligible to join a National Team squad on the basis of Rule 3.2 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 RLIF. In the case of eligibility under Rule 3.2(a), (b), (c) and (d) the Player shall provide the National Team and the RLIF with a copy of the relevant birth certificate and/or passport stating place of birth.
- 3.9 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 RLIF Chief Executive and the Player shall only be entitled to represent the National Team if he/she can provide satisfactory evidence to the RLIF Chief Executive that the Player is eligible to do so. Save in extreme circumstances affidavits by a Player will not be considered as satisfactory evidence.
- 3.10 National Teams shall, promptly upon request, provide the RLIF with a copy of any evidence they have relied on pursuant to Rule 3.2 to 3.3. Where a National Team fails to do so, or the RLIF does not consider the evidence satisfactory, the relevant Player shall not be entitled to represent the National Team.
- 3.11 In the circumstances set out in Rule 3.10 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, Affiliate or Associate Member to the Chairman it shall be referred to the RLIF Chief Executive for determination.
- 3.12 The National Team which wished to select the Player in question may appeal the decision of the RLIF Chief Executive to the RLIF Board. The decision of the RLIF Board shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.
- 3.13 A Player will be considered eligible under Rule 3.2 (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 3.13 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 Rule 3.4 but his/her new Nation cannot be a former entity of the State.