



FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL
LACROSSE

Player Eligibility Criteria

(This document covering both Men and Women was agreed at the FIL General Assembly on July 10th 2018. This replaces the existing separate documents).

Federation of International Lacrosse Player Eligibility Criteria

1. General Principles

The eligibility criteria apply to both men and women when playing for their national team.

2. Player Eligibility – Passport

The prime criteria for player eligibility is a passport being held for the country being represented and fulfilling the eligibility conditions of that country. The passport being obtained by birth, by right or by naturalisation.

3. Non (national) – Passport Holders – Limitation of Numbers

Any squad for any FIL event shall have at least 85% (in all cases rounded downwards) of the playing squad qualifying by holding a passport of the country concerned. Qualification by other than possessing a passport for the country concerned will be limited to 15% of the playing squad (in all cases rounded upwards).

For current squad sizes for men this would be 85% of 23, which is 19.55 rounded down to 19. Consequently the maximum number of Non-Passport Holders would be 4. For Women 85% of 18 is 15.33 rounded down to 15 and consequently the maximum number of Non-Passport Holders is 3.

All non-passport players must meet at least one of the requirements listed in Section 5.

Non-passport in this context means not holding a passport of the country being represented.

4. Exceptions for Emerging Nations

A further exception to this will be where an emerging nation needs support and this is undertaken through being actively sought or offered from outside. Such cases this would be considered by the Directors of both Competition and Development with a recommendation made to the FIL Board. The decision of the Board shall be binding and final.

In World Championship play (either field or indoor) this exception will only apply to the teams who are not in active contention for the Championship i.e. **Associate Members**.

5. Eligibility Requirements for “Non (national) - Passport” Holders

Any player wishing to qualify for one of the “non-passport” holder positions must meet the internal qualifications set by the member and at least one (1) of the conditions below:

5.1 Parents

One or both birth parents, adoptive parents or step-parents born in the country

5.2 Grandparents

One or more birth or adoptive grandparents born in the country
Step-Grand Parents are not acceptable

5.3 Marriage / Civil Partnership

Partner / spouse being a passport holder of the country, with the qualification that the couple must be resident in the country being represented

Note 1: In the event of death of the partner /spouse this would not prevent the individual from qualifying by these criteria.

Note 2: Divorce from the partner /spouse would disqualify the individual from qualifying by this criterion.

Note 3: This criterion relates to accepted marriage in the context of a civil or religious ceremony which has been validated by the jurisdiction in that country. "Common-law" situations and /or partnerships without such formal acceptance (and hence supporting documentation) will not be accepted.

5.4 Residence

Minimum of a two-year residency period in the playing country within the last five (5) years.

This does not necessarily have to be a continuous period but a cumulative total period of two (2) years over the previous five (5) years.

For clarity the 5 year time period is that immediately preceding the championship for which eligibility is being sought.

Acceptable types of documentation to confirm residency are listed at Appendix A

5.5 UK Passports

A UK passport is allowed for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland players but documentation confirming that they also fulfil the country eligibility criteria will also be required.

6. Dual / Multiple Passport Holders

Any player, who holds valid passports of two or more countries, may represent either one of them, as he / she may elect. However, after having represented one country in a recognised FIL event, he /she may not represent another country unless he /she meets eligibility conditions and the time limitation set out in Section 7.

7. Change of Country

Any player who has represented one country in a recognised event and who elects to represent a different country must wait a minimum of three (3) years from the end of the event where he / she last represented his / her former country.

Transfer will be permitted if and when the :

- The three-year period has elapsed between playing for one country and then playing for another
- FIL agreement has been sought / given
- Eligibility criteria have been met and documentation to confirm provided.

Note that this does exclude a player from playing for one country in one form of Lacrosse (e.g. Field) and then playing for another country in another form (e.g. Indoor) within the three-year period.

The procedure for seeking agreement to a change is set out at Appendix B

8. Permitted Exceptions related to Change of Country

8.1 Age considerations

Player movement between countries (assuming eligibility criteria is met) will be permitted, without the three-year gap, in the case of players at the Under 19 age moving from the lower age group to senior lacrosse.

Note : the reverse, from senior to junior, does not apply.

Implications :

An 18 year old could play in the U19 World Event for one country and then for another at Senior level without the three year qualifying period.

An Under 19 could not play in the Senior Event for one country and then play (assuming age criteria met) in the next U19 for a different country).

8.2 Emerging Nations

A further exception to this will be where an emerging nation needs support and this is undertaken through being actively sought or offered from the outside. In such cases this would be considered by the Directors of both Competition and Development with a recommendation made to the FIL Board. The decision of the Board shall be binding and final.

In World Event play (either field or indoor) this exception will only apply to the teams who are not in active contention for the Championship i.e. Associate Members.

Teams who have previously participated in two Senior World Events, for the specific gender, may not be eligible for further Emerging Nations status.

8.3 Under 19 World Events – School

a) Students who attend school in a country other than their home country may apply for a School Waiver from the FIL Board to be able to represent the country in which they attend school at a FIL World Event. The decision to represent this nation is binding for all future FIL U19 World Events. Criteria to be considered in granting a waiver includes, but is not limited to: endorsement from home country and length of time of attendance at school.

b) A player applying for this waiver must choose which national governing body (country) they will represent prior to team trials/selection; she may not stand for selection from two different countries. Once a waiver is granted, it is binding for all FIL U19 World Event representation.

c) The School Waiver form must be submitted to the Competition Director or nominee by 1st January of the year of competition. FIL will respond within 4 weeks of submission.

9. Age Limitations

9.1 Lower (Minimum) Age.

The lower limit age that applies to all World Championships and FIL events is 16 years of age for men and 15 years of age for women as of the day prior to Championship / Event commencement.

9.2 Upper Age for Under 19 Championships

The upper age limit is that all players must be under 19 as at 31st August of the year before the Championship takes place.

Any consideration outside of this range will be a matter for the FIL Board, or its successor body, to consider.

The detail of birth dates related to FIL events is shown at Appendix C.

10. Age Limitation Dispensations

10.1 Dispensation at U19 (over age)

A member may apply to the FIL to be allowed to field over-age players (up to U21) in an U19 Championship. This is generally granted to those teams competing in such an event for the first time.

If a team is granted this dispensation then any player who is over-age must be resident and play Lacrosse in the country concerned, in the accepted form of competition, for a minimum of 12 of the previous 18 months (not necessarily consecutive periods).

The spirit of this is to ensure that any “over age players” are playing and supporting lacrosse development in the country that they represent and not simply strengthening a team by bringing in overseas players.

Requests for dispensation should in the first instance be addressed to the Competition Director or nominee who will consult with the Federation Board and as appropriate (decided by Competition Director and the President) with the full membership or other Nations entered into a specific Under 19 Event.

The number of overage players will be limited to 50% of the Squad size rounded up and so for Men’s events this will be 12 and for Women’s 9.

A team using over-age players will not be in active contention for the championship.

10.2 Dispensation at U19 (over age) – On a second or subsequent occasion

If a Member requests dispensation on a second, or more, occasion then in addition to the residency requirement, above, there will be an added requirement that those over age must all be passport holders of the country.

Specifically if the allowance of up to 3 (for Women) and 4 (for Men) non-passport holders is taken up then these must all be within the U19 members of the squad. Over-age players may not take any of the non-passport slots.

Note: The spirit of this is to ensure that any “over-age” players are playing and supporting development of lacrosse in the country that they are representing and not simply strengthening a team.

11. Prior Qualification Men)

Individuals who qualified for, and played for, a country under the eligibility criteria operative before the July 2004 changes remain qualified to play for that country in perpetuity and will be treated as a passport holder (i.e. will not be subject to the Limitation on Non-Passport holders. Countries have submitted the names within this group and these are held within the FIL.

(Note: it was agreed in July 2004 that notification of names was required by 31st December 2004)

12. Documentation Checks / Proof of Eligibility

The Competition Committee shall have the power to call upon the National Governing Body of member countries to provide documentary evidence as needed to support the eligibility status of players within their squads. Failure to provide satisfactory documentation may result in the player(s) being debarred from

participating in the event in question and if discovered after an event has begun, may affect the results and standings of the team.

Documentation will generally be asked to be provided in March of the year of the event.

Failure to abide by the FIL Player Eligibility Criteria may result in a financial penalty being imposed on the National Governing Body of the team concerned and may result in that member being ineligible to participate in future World Events.

Non (national) – Passport: Residency qualification

The following documents can be used for proof of residency in a country. Sufficient documents need to be provided to confirm the two year residency period within the last five years prior to the event in question. The time periods do not have to be consecutive.

- Passport with entry dates stamped (please black out passport number for security)
- Driver's license
- Property purchase/bill of sale
- Property tax card
- Marriage license
- Naturalization card/ for e.g. green card
- School record/transcription - (must include a minimum of 2 years after completing 4 year school years)
- Vehicle registration
- Social Security or document or equivalent
- Medical Insurance Card
- Utility bills with name and address (water, electricity, gas, telephone) - spanning 2 year period
- Salary / Pay document
- Tax return documents (please black out personal information)
- Working visa (please note a student visa is not acceptable)
- Bank statements (please black out any bank number/s for security reasons)
- Rental/lease agreement
- Mortgage agreement
- Mobile / Cell phone billing records
- Voters ID card
- Credit card statement

Please note that it is important to redact (black out) personal information e.g. passport number, social security number, tax ID number

For all events the requirement will be to provide a copy of the photo page of the passport and one set of documentation to confirm residency

International Transfers (between countries)

1 International Transfers

It is the responsibility of FIL to ensure the good order of the sport internationally and, in relation to player movement, to safeguard the player and his / her position with regard to player eligibility for international competitions and to uphold discipline and maintain order between countries and within the sport.

Requests for transfers must be submitted to the FIL Competition Director, or nominee, and preferably by January 1st of the year of the event for approval. The request must be forwarded by the new (for that player) FIL member NGB, be signed by the player stating the last occasion that he / she played for the previous country and confirmation from the "losing" member that there are no issues preventing the transfer.

. The transfer will become valid on the date of confirmation by FIL
It will be the intent to respond within 4 weeks of submission.

The following players need an approved transfer

1.1 Any player ('Passport' holder or 'Non-Passport' holder) who has previously played for the national team of another country, who meets all the eligibility requirements and wants to represent another country.

1.2 Any player ('Passport' holder or 'Non-Passport' holder) who has played for one national team and who elects to represent a different country, must wait a minimum of three (3) years from the date of the game where the former country was last represented.

A transfer will be permitted if and when:

- a) The three-year period has elapsed between playing for the national team of one country and then playing for the national team of another;
- b) The request has been submitted and approved; and
- c) Eligibility criteria have been met and documentation to confirm provided.

1.3 A player who has dual citizenship and has played in one national team must have an approved transfer in order to play for another national team.

1.4 Permitted Exceptions related to Change of Country

1.4.1 Age Considerations

Player movement between countries (assuming eligibility criteria is met) will be permitted, without the three-year gap, in the case of players at the Under 19 age moving from the lower age group to senior lacrosse.

Note: the reverse, from senior to U19, does not apply.

Implications:

An 18 year old could play in the FIL U19 World Event for one country and then for another at FIL Senior World Event level without the three year qualifying period. An International Transfer request must still be submitted and approved.

An Under 19 cannot play in a Senior FIL World Event for one country and then play (assuming age criteria is met) in the next FIL U19 World Event for a different country, without the three-year waiting period. An International Transfer still needs to be submitted and approved.

Player Eligibility – Age Guidance

In accordance with the eligibility criteria relating to representation of a particular country the following gives further detail of the specific age considerations applying to the FIL World Events.

	Birth dates		
	Lower Age	Upper Age (U19 events)	Over Age (U19 events)
WC2019 Women's U19	On or prior 31 st July 2004	After 31 st August 1999	After 31 st August 1997
WILC2019 Men's Indoor	On or prior 18 th September 2003	none	none
WC2020 Men's U19	On or prior 8 th July 2004	After 31 st August 2000	After 31 st August 1998
WC2021 Women's Seniors	On or prior 6 th July 2006	none	none
WC2022 Men's Seniors	On or prior 13 th July 2006	none	none

The lower limit age that applies to all World Championships and FIL recognized events is 16 years of age as of the day prior to Championship commencement for Men and 15 years of age for Women.

The upper age limit is that all players must be under 19 as at 31st August of the year before the Championships take place.

For those countries who have applied for and been granted dispensation in respect of over-age players, accepting the conditions stated earlier in the document, the date is two years earlier than the U19 upper age limit.