



FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL  
**LACROSSE**

# Men's Player Eligibility Criteria

March 2017

## Federation of International Lacrosse Player Eligibility Criteria (Men)

### 1. Player Eligibility – Passport

The prime criterion for player eligibility is to be an actual passport holder of the country being represented. The passport being obtained by birth, by right or by naturalisation.

### 2. Non – 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 Nation concerned. Qualification by other than possessing a passport for the country concerned will be limited to 15% (in all cases rounded upwards).

For current squad sizes 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.

All non-passport players must meet at least one of the requirements listed in Section 4.

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

### 3. 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 the outside. Such cases this would be considered by the Chairs of both the Competition and Development Committees 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.

### 4. Eligibility Requirements for “Non- Passport” Holders

Any player wishing to qualify for one of the “non-passport” holder position (up to 4) must meet at least one (1) of the conditions below:

#### 4.1 Parents

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

#### 4.2 Grandparents

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

#### 4.3 Marriage

Partner / spouse being a passport holder the country, with the qualification that the partner/spouse, and husband, 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 these criteria.

Note 3: This criterion relates to accepted marriage in the context of a civil or religious ceremony. “Common –law “ situations and /or partnerships without such formal acceptance (and hence supporting documentation) will not be accepted.

#### **4.4 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.

### **5. Dual / Multiple Passport Holders**

Any player, who holds valid passports of two or more countries, may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in a recognised FIL event, he may not represent another country unless he meets eligibility conditions set out in Section 4 and the time limitation set out in Section 6.

### **6. 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 last represented his 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 sanction 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.

### **7. Permitted Exceptions related to Change of Country**

#### **a) 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 Championships 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 Championship for one country and then play (assuming age criteria met) in the next U19 for a different country).

#### **b) 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 Chairs of both the Competition and Development Committees 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.

## **8. Age Limitations**

### **8.1 Lower (Minimum) Age.**

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

### **8.2 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 Championships take place.

Reflecting the different start dates of events the Competition Committee may change this date (making it earlier) by up to 10 (ten) weeks and will notify members when Championship dates are confirmed. The 10-week period generally covers the expected time period within which Championships take place.

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

## **9. Age Limitation Dispensations**

### **9.1 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 Chair of the Competition Committee who will consult with the Federation Board and as appropriate (decided by Competition Chair and the President) with the full membership or other Nations entered into a specific Under 19 Event.

### **9.2 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 4 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.

## **10. Prior Qualification**

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 Competition Committee.

*(Note : it was agreed in July 2004 that notification of names was required by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004)*

## 11. Documentation Checks

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 being debarred from participating in the tournament in question and if discovered after a tournament has begun, may affect the results and standings of the team.

**Note : This document was agreed at the ILF meeting held in Lahti, Finland on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2008.  
On 7th August 2008 the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) was set up uniting the ILF and the IFWLA (International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations).**

**There have been no changes of substance since that time and this update simply covers some terminology clarifications and update of the Appendix to reflect the 2020 Under 19 World Championship (rather than 2016 which has taken place).**

Ron Balls

Chair Competition Committee  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Updated for WC2020 Age ranges

Appendix

## **Player Eligibility - Under 19 World Championships 2016**

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 2020 Under 19 World Championship. This is currently scheduled to take place over the period 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

### **Lower Age**

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.

Consequently with the 2020 Championships starting on July 9th then players must be born on or prior to 8th July 2004

### **Upper Age**

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

For 2020 this means that players must be born after 31<sup>st</sup> August 2000).

### **Over Age**

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, players must be born after 31<sup>st</sup> August 1998.