

REGULATION 8. ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

- 8.1** Subject to Regulation 8.2, a Player may only play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union of the country in which:
- (a) he was born; or
 - (b) one parent or grandparent was born; or
 - (c) he has completed thirty six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing.
- 8.2** A Player who has played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union is not eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union.
- 8.3** For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union if:
- (a) He is selected for such team to play in an International Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of another Union (or in a fifteen-a-side international Match against another Union's senior or next senior Touring Squad during an IRB approved International Tour) and is present at the Match played by that team either as a replacement, substitute or a playing member of that team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or
 - (b) He is selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad on an International Tour which includes an International Match or Matches approved by the IRB and is present at any fifteen-a-side Match played on that International Tour either as a replacement, substitute or a playing member of a team selected from the Union's senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority; or

- (c) He is selected to represent a Union's next senior Touring Squad on an IRB approved International Tour and during that International Tour he is present at a Match against the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of another Union either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of a team selected from the Union's next senior Touring Squad and has, at the time of the Match reached the age of majority.

8.4 For the purposes of this Regulation, a Player is deemed to have played for the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union if he is selected to represent a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens Team of another Union and is present at the Match played by that Team either as a replacement, substitute or playing member of that Team and has, at the time of the Match, reached the age of majority.

Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8

8.5 Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of Regulation 8. For the avoidance of any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 are as follows:

- (a) For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling;
- (b) For all other IRB Member Unions £25,000 sterling.

Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation 18.6 may also be imposed on the Union concerned.

- 8.6** In exceptional circumstances, a Union in breach of Regulation 8 may make submissions to the relevant disciplinary body appointed under Regulation 18 to adjudicate on the case as to why the Union should not be subject to the applicable minimum fixed fine. For the avoidance of any doubt, however, the relevant disciplinary body shall only be entitled to reduce the applicable minimum fixed fine set out in this Regulation where the Union is able to provide clear and indisputable evidence that truly exceptional circumstances exist and that the Union concerned had taken all necessary steps to comply with Regulation 8.



EXPLANATORY GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATION 8 ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

Following its deliberations on the question of Player eligibility, the Working Party has produced these Explanatory Guidelines on the implementation of Regulation 8. These Explanatory Guidelines must be read in conjunction with the terms of Regulation 8.

1. What is the Rationale/Philosophy of Regulation 8?

The rationale/philosophy of Regulation 8 is to ensure that Players selected to represent either the senior and next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Teams of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team have a genuine, close, credible and established national link with the country of the Union for which they have been selected. Such a national link is essential to maintain the unique characteristics and culture of elite international sporting competition between Unions. The integrity of International Matches between Unions depends upon strict adherence to the eligibility criteria set out in the Regulations.

2. Who establishes the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?

The IRB will continue to establish the criteria by reference to which a Player's eligibility to play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team will be determined. Citizenship of a country and/or whether a Player holds a passport of a particular country are not, of themselves, determinative in identifying which Union a Player is eligible to represent. This will be determined solely in accordance with the IRB's eligibility criteria.

3. What is the eligibility criteria in Rugby Union?

The existing IRB eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 will be maintained. This is based on the following:

- (a) The country in which the Player was born; or
- (b) The country in which one parent or grandparent of the Player was born; or



- (c) The country in which the Player has completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing. Residence means the place or location in which a Player has his primary and permanent home and Resident shall be construed accordingly.

4. If a Player has dual eligibility, can he play for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of more than one Union?

No, save for those Players that, before 1 January 2000, allowed a period of 36 consecutive months to elapse after they had played for another Union and who played for the second Union before 1 January 2000. The one Union only rule, introduced by the IRB from 1st January 2000 (as set out in Regulation 8.2), will be maintained. A Player is only entitled to play Rugby Union for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of one Union. Accordingly, if a Player is deemed to have played for such a team, even if he is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1, he will not be able to play for any other Union. Consistent with the overall rationale underlying the eligibility Regulations, the one Union only rule is designed to maintain the integrity of the international Game. Once a Player has committed himself to a particular Union, through participation in one of the Matches or Tours identified in Regulations 8.3 or 8.4, he is unable to change his “Rugby Nationality” which becomes fixed.

5. When is a Player deemed to have played for the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union’s senior National Representative Sevens Team?

As a result of the one Union only rule, in particular, it is essential that Players and Unions understand the situations in which Players will be deemed to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union’s senior National Representative Sevens Team. These situations are set out in Regulations 8.3 and 8.4. Players and Unions shall, at all times, have regard to the full terms of Regulations 8.3 and 8.4, however, by way of a summary only, the situations set out below are covered:



Fifteen-a-side

- (a) Players who participate in International Matches for the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union against the senior or next senior National Representative Team of another Union.
- (b) Players selected to represent a Union's senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by the IRB.
- (c) Players who participate in a Match for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of Players from a Union's senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by the IRB.
- (d) Players, representing a Union's next senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by the IRB against the senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of another Union.
- (e) Players who play for the senior or next senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by the IRB.

Seven-a-side

- (a) Players who play for a Union's senior National Representative Sevens team in an International Match against the senior National Representative Sevens team of another Union.

6. How do I know which team is a Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team?

There should be no uncertainty over which team constitutes a Union's next fifteen-a-side senior National Representative Team since, as from January 1 2000, Unions are required to notify the IRB of the name of its nominated next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team. The team nominated remains the Union's next fifteen-a-side senior National Representative Team for a period of 4 years. The identity of a Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team can be verified with the Union concerned and/or the IRB.

7. What is the age of majority?

For the purposes of the Regulations (including, but not limited to Regulation 8), the age of majority is deemed to be acquired on a Player's 18th birthday.

8. Does the eligibility criteria apply to all forms of Rugby?

The eligibility criteria applies to the fifteen-a-side Game at senior and next senior National Representative level and in respect of a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team.

9. Does the eligibility criteria apply to all Unions in membership of the IRB?

Yes, all Unions in membership of the IRB are obliged to comply with the eligibility Regulation

10. How will the eligibility criteria be assessed?

Ordinarily, the task of assessing whether a Player satisfies any of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 is straightforward. However, as a result of professionalism, greater mobility and societal family change this is not always the case. Difficult cases have arisen and may continue to emerge. The responses to the questions set out below are intended to provide further clarification as to how each eligibility criterion in Regulation 8.1 will be applied.

The questions and answers should be regarded as guidelines. They have been prepared on the basis of operational experience to date. It is not possible to anticipate all scenarios that may arise and a degree of flexibility in the application of the Regulations will be maintained. Moving forward, in the event that there is any uncertainty or the need for clarification in relation to the application of the eligibility criteria in particular circumstances, then the Regulations Committee may be asked by the IRB to make a ruling on a Player's eligibility. In relation to any such adjudication, the Regulations Committee will always have in mind the rationale behind Regulation 8. The aim of the Regulations Committee in each case where clarification may be required, is to establish whether, in all the circumstances, a Player has, by reference to the eligibility criteria in Regulation 8.1, been able to demonstrate a genuine, close and credible national link with the country that the Player wishes to represent. It is anticipated that over time a body of rulings by the Regulations Committee may develop which may, in turn, assist in providing further guidance to Unions in relation to eligibility matters.

11. When should any uncertainty over a Player's eligibility be clarified?

It is essential that eligibility issues are clarified before a Player represents the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of a Union or a Union's senior National Representative Sevens Team. This is particularly important in light of the one Union only rule. Accordingly, if a Union has any doubt over a Player's eligibility status it must take all steps necessary to clarify the position before selecting the Player to play for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team.

12. What does place of birth mean?

This should be the most straightforward criterion to apply. A Player's place of birth shall be the country within whose geographical borders he was born. However, difficult scenarios can arise even in relation to this criterion. For example, where a Player was born within the geographical borders of one country, but in a part of that country deemed by the law of the country concerned, to be the sovereign territory of another, or where a Player was born in a military hospital. In such circumstances the matter should be referred to the Regulations Committee for a ruling. The Regulations Committee would need to establish the legal position together with other relevant facts and circumstances. In exceptional circumstances it may be possible for a Player to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Regulations Committee, that he is eligible to play for the Union within whose sovereign territory he was born, even though that sovereign territory may be within the geographical borders of another country.

13. What does Parent mean?

The term "parent" in the Regulations is limited to either a blood parent or a parent that has formally adopted a Player in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned. Unless a Player has been adopted in accordance with the formal, legal requirements of the country concerned, the application of this criterion will be based on a Player's blood parent. When a Player has been formally adopted in accordance with the applicable legal requirements of the country concerned, the birth place of the Player's blood parent will no longer be relevant for the purposes of establishing the Player's eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b). The relevant parent will be the parent that has formally and legally adopted the Player. However in such circumstances, the relevant grandparents for the purposes of establishing a Player's eligibility pursuant to Regulation 8.1(b) will be the Player's blood grandparents. It is not possible under Regulation 8.1(b) to assume eligibility via non-blood grandparents even if a Player has been formally and legally adopted.

For the avoidance of any doubt, stepparents and fostering parents will not be considered to constitute a Player's parent for the purposes of Regulation 8.1(b).

14. How is the Residence criteria satisfied?

Regulation 8.1(c) requires a Player to complete 36 consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing. Residence is defined as "the place or location in which the Player has his primary and permanent home" and Resident shall be construed accordingly. In essence, Regulation 8.1(c) constitutes a sporting naturalization procedure, based on a geographical/presence test. As in any naturalisation process, a number of factors will influence the determination of what constitutes a Player's permanent and primary home. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the actual time spent in a country and the purpose of any absences during the qualification period. By being Resident in a country for a period of 36 consecutive months immediately preceding the time of playing for a Union, a Player is deemed to acquire a credible, close and established national link with a country/Union that entitles him to participate in sporting competitions for that Union. Based on the overriding rationale of the eligibility Regulations, in cases where a Player's eligibility is uncertain the Regulations Committee will consider that Player's eligibility by reference to the particular facts and circumstances of his case to establish if the Residency test, in the context of the overall rationale of the eligibility Regulations, has been satisfied. The principles set out in responses to the questions below will act as guidelines to the Regulations Committee when it is asked to consider any cases pursuant to this criterion.

15. Whose burden of proof?

In all cases where a Player is seeking to establish eligibility by reference to the Residency criteria in Regulation 8.1(c) (and, indeed, in relation to Regulation (or 8.1(a) and (b)), the burden of proof is on the Player and the Union that he wishes to represent to prove that Player's eligibility. Under Regulation 8.1(c), the Player and his Union must be able to demonstrate that, during the relevant period, the country in which he claims he has been Resident was, genuinely, the country that the Player treated as his home and is clearly the country in which the Player has his primary and permanent home. If a Player has moved from one country to another, and is seeking to establish Residence in that new country, then he must also be able to demonstrate that he is clearly no longer Resident in the country in which he lived previously and that he no longer treats that country as his

home. For the avoidance of any doubt, a Player cannot nominate a country as his home without demonstrating that he has satisfied the geographical commitment/presence test enshrined in Regulation 8.1(c). The geographical commitment/presence test will be vigorously upheld and applied to avoid abuse of the Residency criteria. For example, a Player that acquired/leased property in a country and who nominated that property as his permanent and primary home (even though he may only be present at that property and in that Union on a short term/temporary basis) would not satisfy the Residency test.

16. Will short breaks interrupt a period of Residence?

Short breaks in Residence, for example, for holidays, attending family/friends in other countries who may be ill etc, are unlikely to change the place/location of a Player's primary and permanent home and are, therefore, unlikely to interrupt a Player's period of Residence. By way of a guideline, however, as a minimum requirement, it is likely that, save in exceptional circumstances, at least 10 months actual physical presence of the Player in the country concerned throughout any qualifying year of the Residency period, will be required to demonstrate that the country is the place where the Player has his primary and permanent home.

17. Does the 36 month period of Residence have to immediately precede playing for a Union?

Save in exceptional circumstances, the 36 months Residence will be expected to have been completed consecutively and be achieved immediately before the Player represents a Union. This is designed to create a contemporary national link with the country of the Union concerned. This factor will be particularly significant if a Player has moved to make a "new" country his Residence having been Resident in another country previously. In essence, in such circumstances, the Player, as well as demonstrating his commitment to a new country, must also be (and seen to be) relinquishing his ties with the country in which he lived previously. For the avoidance of any doubt, seeking to rely on short periods of Residence as a child in a particular country, combined with a short period of Residence in that same country prior to playing for a Union, is likely to create a link that would be too tenuous to satisfy the underlying intentions of establishing a contemporary, permanent, national link with a Union. However, each case will be assessed on its overall merits to establish if a Player is able to demonstrate a genuine, close, credible and established national link by reference to the amount of time the Player can demonstrate that he has treated the "new" country as his home and other relevant factors.

18. What is the position of students?

As far as students are concerned, particularly those that are not financially independent, being resident, as a full time student, in another country, is likely to be considered as a series of temporary absences from the parental home. It is anticipated that in the majority of cases involving students the parental home is likely to continue to constitute the student's permanent and primary home. Accordingly, attendance at college/university in such circumstances is unlikely to break a Player's consecutive period of Residence. However, as in all matters of eligibility, the overriding concern of the Regulations Committee in assessing any such case will be to ensure that there remains a close, credible and established link with the country in which the Player claims to have retained his primary and permanent home. There could be circumstances in which a student living in another country may be deemed to have interrupted his Residency period.

19. Who is responsible for compliance with the eligibility criteria?

In accordance with Regulation 2.1.2, each Union is responsible for ensuring compliance with all Regulations Relating to the Game This includes, but is obviously not limited to, Regulation 8. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of each Union to ensure that all Players it selects are properly eligible within the provisions of Regulation 8 and, in the event of any uncertainty, to ensure that the position is clarified before the Player is selected. Unions must have in place all necessary procedures and internal controls to ensure compliance with the eligibility Regulations.

20. What must Unions do to ensure (and demonstrate) compliance with the eligibility Regulations?

Unions must ensure that before a Player is selected for the first time for its senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or its senior National Representative Sevens Team the Player completes the standard form declaration attached to these Explanatory Guidelines at Schedule 1. In addition, before selecting a Player, Unions must ensure that they obtain valid/authentic documentation and such other evidence that may be necessary to prove, definitively, a Player's eligibility to play for that Union. Each Union must notify the IRB of the names of all Player's selected for its senior and next senior National Representative Team and its senior National Representative Sevens Team on an annual basis. The IRB shall maintain a database of all such Players. If requested, by the Chairman, or his designee, Unions must supply copies of the completed declaration forms of a Player(s) together with supporting

documentation relied on to demonstrate the Player's eligibility. On 1 December each year, each Union must certify to the IRB that each Player selected to represent the senior or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team of the Union or its National Representative Sevens Team during the past year has completed, in full, the declaration form and that each Player was eligible to represent the Union in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 8.

The IRB may, through the Chairman, or his designee, of his own motion or on receipt of a complaint undertake an investigation into a Union's compliance with Regulation 8. Unions, Players and officials must provide assistance with any such investigation and disclose such information and documents deemed necessary by the Chairman, or his designee, for the purposes of that investigation.

21. What are the consequences of a breach of the eligibility Regulations?

Compliance with Regulation 8 is of fundamental importance in maintaining the integrity of international Rugby Union at senior National Representative level. Any breach of such a fundamental Regulation, howsoever arising, has a detrimental impact on the image and reputation of the sport. Unions must, therefore take all necessary steps to put in place comprehensive review/compliance procedures to ensure that a breach of the eligibility provision does not occur whether negligently or otherwise. Alleged breaches of Regulation 8 may be investigated and handled in accordance with Regulation 17 (Disciplinary and Judicial Matters). However, a breach of the eligibility Regulations constitutes a strict liability offence. This means that a failure by a Union to fulfill its obligations and to comply with the eligibility Regulations will be regarded as a serious breach of the Regulations, howsoever such breach may have occurred. As a reflection of the seriousness with which any breach of the eligibility Regulations will be treated by the IRB, it has been agreed by Council to establish a minimum fixed penalty to be imposed on a Union that has breached Regulation 8. These minimum fixed penalties will appear in Regulation 8 and, for ease of reference, are also set out below.

8.5 Responsibility, breach and penalties for a breach of Regulation 8

Regulation 8 is a strict liability offence and shall be construed in accordance with the principles of strict liability under English law. It is not, therefore, necessary that fault or intent on the part of a Union be shown in order for a breach of Regulation 8 to be established. Nor is lack of fault or intent on the part of a Union a defence to a breach of

Regulation 8. For the avoidance of any doubt (and without limiting a Union's other obligations and responsibilities for the conduct, acts or omissions of its members and Persons under its jurisdiction pursuant to any other Regulation) Unions are responsible and accountable for the conduct of their Players and all Persons under its jurisdiction in relation to compliance with the provisions of Regulation 8 and any breach of Regulation 8 by such Player(s) or Person(s) shall be deemed to be a breach of Regulation 8 by the Union concerned. Each breach of Regulation 8 by a Union, howsoever arising, will result in a minimum fixed fine being imposed on the Union concerned. The minimum fixed fines for each breach of Regulation 8 are as follows:

- (a) For a Union that is represented on the Council £100,000 sterling;
- (b) For all other IRB Member Unions £25,000 sterling.

Based on the facts and circumstances of any breach of Regulation 8 the applicable minimum fixed fine as set out above may be increased. In addition, other penalties as set out in Regulation 17.6 may also be imposed on the Union concerned.





SCHEDULE 1. EXPLANATORY NOTE

As from 1 January 2000 a player is only entitled to play Rugby Union for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of one Union. This means that if- a player is deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union that player will be unable to play for any other Union. This is the position even- if that player is able to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1. It is important that players and Unions understand the situations in which players will be deemed to have played for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union. These situations are set out in Regulation 8.3.

Regulation 8.3 is based on a “selection and participation” test for players who have reached the age of majority [18 or over]. Players and Unions must familiarize themselves with Regulation 8.3. Players should be made aware by Unions of what constitutes that Union's Senior National Representative Team, its next Senior National Representative Team, its Senior Touring Squad and its next Senior Touring Squad and the Matches that will result in a player being committed to that Unions. The following situations are covered by Regulation 8.3.

1. Players who participate in International Matches for the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.
2. Players selected to represent a Union's Senior Touring Squad who participate in any Match played by members of that Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour provided such International Tour includes an International Match(es) approved by the IRB.
3. Players who participate in a Match for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team made up of players from a Union's Senior Touring Squad during an International Tour which includes International Match(es) approved by the IRB.
4. Players, representing a Union's next Senior Touring Squad who participate in a Match on an International Tour approved by the IRB against the Senior National Representative Team or the next Senior National Representative Team of another Union.



5. Players who play for the Senior or next Senior National Representative Team of a Union against a team selected from a Union's next Senior Touring Squad when such Match is played on an International Tour approved by the IRB.



SCHEDULE 1

DECLARATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF A PLAYER TO PLAY FOR THE SENIOR FIFTEEN-A-SIDE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM, THE NEXT SENIOR FIFTEEN-A-SIDE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TEAM OR THE SENIOR NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE SEVENS TEAM OF A UNION

DECLARATION OF PLAYER

I _____ (Name) of _____ (Address) confirm that, I have read and understand the criteria for eligibility set out in Regulation 8 of the IRB Regulations Relating to the Game (IRB Regulations) and I hereby declare that I am eligible to play for _____ Union because:

Tick applicable box(es)

- I was born in the country for which fifteen-a-side senior National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play; or
- One of my parents or grandparent was born in the country for which senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play; or
- I have completed thirty-six consecutive months of Residence immediately preceding the time of playing in the country for which senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the Union for which I intend to play.

AND

- I have not played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of any other Union.¹

¹*If a Player has played for another Union's senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or senior National Representative Sevens team, this must be stated on this declaration form. For the avoidance of doubt, Players would only be eligible to play for a second Union if they can demonstrate that they allowed 36 consecutive months to elapse before they played for a second Union and that they played for that second Union before 1 January 2000. Any such Players should submit in writing the circumstances of such participation on a separate sheet.*



I have attached to this declaration relevant documentation² to prove my eligibility to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of _____ Union and I understand and accept that if I am found to have played for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of a Union without satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8 of the IRB Regulations, and/or to have provided inaccurate information in this declaration then I and the Union concerned will be subject to sanctions.

Player's signature: _____

Date: _____

DECLARATION OF UNION

I _____ (Name) the _____ of _____ (Position and Union) hereby declare that the _____ Union has made all such necessary enquiries in relation to the above Player's eligibility to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior Sevens National Representative Team of the Union. I further declare that the Union is satisfied that the information provided by the Player in his declaration is correct, that the documentation in support of the Player's declaration is valid and that the Player is eligible to play for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the senior National Representative Sevens Team of _____ Union. I understand and accept that if a Player plays for the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team Union or the senior National Representative Sevens Team without satisfying the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8 of the IRB Regulations and/or the Union has provided inaccurate information in this declaration then the Union will be subject to the fixed penalty sanctions set out in Regulation 8.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

² *Players ARE expected to provide valid copy birth certificates or other relevant formal documentation in support of their declaration. Players may be requested to provide additional documentation as appropriate in support of their eligibility to play for a senior National Representative Team or the next senior National Representative Team of a Union.*