

## Appendix 24: Eligibility Criteria - Athletes



# Athlete Eligibility Criteria

**Athlete Eligibility Criteria – Adopted FIL GA 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018 for both Men and Women’s disciplines, replacing former separate Eligibility Policy documents.**

**Amendments included as outcomes from WL agreed decisions 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023. These are detailed at Appendix C.**

## **1. General Principles**

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

## **2. Athlete Eligibility – Passport**

The prime criteria for athlete eligibility are 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.

A copy of the photo page of the athlete's passport must be available for inspection at least 90 days prior to the commencement of a world event, if required.

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

Any squad for any WL 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's and women's field this would be 85% of 22, which is 18.7 rounded down to 18. Consequently, the maximum number of Non-Passport Holders would be 4.

For men's and women's box, 85% of 23 is 19.55 rounded down to 19 and consequently the maximum number of Non-Passport Holders is 4

For men's and women's sixes, 85% of 12 is 10.2 rounded down to 10 and consequently the maximum number of Non-Passport Holders is 2.

All non-passport holder athletes 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. In such cases this would be considered by the Competition Director, with a recommendation made to the WL Board. The decision of the Board shall be binding and final.

In u20 World Championship play this exception will only apply to the teams who are not in active contention for the Championship i.e., Provisional Members.

Effective 1 January 2022 no dispensations shall be permitted for Men's Field, Women's Field and Men's & Women's Box, and only Full Members shall be able to compete in these World Championships.



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

Any athlete 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 Birth

Born in the country.

### 5.2 Parents

One or both birth parents, adoptive parents, or stepparents, born in the country.

### 5.3 Grandparents

One or more birth or adoptive grandparents born in the country. Step Grandparents are not acceptable.

### 5.4 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 athlete from qualifying by these criteria.

Note 2: Divorce from the partner /spouse would disqualify the athlete 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.

### 5.5 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

## 6. Dual / Multiple Passport Holders

Any athlete, who holds valid passports of two or more countries, may represent either one of them, as the athlete elects. However, after having represented one country in a recognised WL event, they may not represent another country unless they meet eligibility conditions and the time limitation set out in Section 7.



## **UK Passports**

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

## **7. Change of Country**

Any athlete 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 they last represented their former country.

Transfer will be permitted if and when:

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

Note this excludes an athlete from playing for one country in one form of Lacrosse (e.g., Field) and then playing for another country in another form (e.g., Box) 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**

Athlete movement between countries (assuming eligibility criteria is met) will be permitted, without the three-year gap, in the case of athletes in Under 20 championships moving to Senior championships.

Note: the reverse, from senior to junior, does not apply. Implications: A 19-year-old could play in the U20 world championship for one country, and then for another at open level without the three-year qualifying period.

An Under 19 could not play in the world championship for one country and then play, assuming age criteria met, in the next U20 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 Competition Director, with a recommendation made to the WL Board. The decision of the Board shall be binding and final.

In World Event play, either Field or Box, this exception will only apply to the teams who are not in active contention for the Championship i.e., Provisional 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 20 World Championships – School**

Students who attend school in a country, other than their home country, may apply for a School Waiver from the Competition Director to be able to represent the country in which they attend school to participate in a WL World Championship. The decision to represent this nation is binding for all future WL U20 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.

An athlete applying for this waiver must choose which member they will represent prior to team trials/selection; the athlete may not stand for selection for two different countries. Once a waiver is granted, it is binding for all WL U20 World Event representation.

The School Waiver form must be submitted to the Competition Director by 1 January of the year of competition. WL 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 WL 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 U20 Championships**

The upper age limit is that all athletes must be under 20 on 31st August of the year before the Championship takes place.

As of March 2023, the WL Board agreed there will be no over-age dispensations permitted.

## **10 Prior Qualification (Men)**

Athletes 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 “Non-Passport Holders Limitation of Numbers.” Members have submitted the names within this group, and these are held by WL.

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

## **11 Documentation Checks / Proof of Eligibility**

The Competition Director 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 athletes within their squads. Failure to provide satisfactory documentation may result in the athlete(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 WL Athlete 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.



## Appendix A

### 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 (passport number to be blacked out for security reasons)
- Driver's license
- Property purchase/Bill of Sale
- Property tax card
- Marriage license
- Naturalization card/ for e.g., green card
- School record/transcription
- 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 – (personal information to be blacked out)
- Working Visa – (Student Visa is not acceptable)
- Bank statements – (any bank number/s to be blacked out for security reasons)
- Rental/lease agreement
- Mortgage agreement
- Mobile / Cell phone billing records
- Voters' ID card
- Credit card statement

It is important to 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



## Appendix B

### International Transfers (between countries)

#### 1 International Transfers

It is the responsibility of WL to ensure the good order of the sport internationally and, in relation to athlete movement, to safeguard the athlete and their position regarding athlete 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 WL Competition Director, preferably by January 1st of the year of the event, for approval. The request must be forwarded by the new (for that athlete) WL member NGB, be signed by the athlete stating the last occasion that they played for the previous country, and confirmation from the transferring member that there are no issues preventing the transfer. The transfer will become valid on the date of confirmation by WL. It will be the intent to respond within 4 weeks of submission.

#### The following athletes need an approved transfer

- 1.1 Any athlete ('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 athlete ('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 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 An athlete who has dual citizenship and has played in one national team must have an approved transfer to play for another national team.
  - 1.4 Permitted Exceptions related to Change of Country

##### 1.4.1 Age Considerations

Athlete movement between countries (assuming eligibility criteria is met) will be permitted, without the three-year gap, in the case of athletes in U20 championships moving from the U20 age group to Senior lacrosse.

Note: the reverse, from Senior to U20, does not apply.





Implications:

An 18-year-old could play in the WL U20 World Championship for one country, and then for another at WL Senior event level, without the three-year qualifying period. An International Transfer request must be submitted to the WL Competition Director for approval.

A U20 cannot play in a Senior WL World Event for one country, and then play (assuming age criteria is met) in the next WL U20 World Event for a different country, without the three- year waiting period. An International Transfer needs to be submitted to the WL Competition Director for approval.



## Appendix C

### Guide to changes made since 2018:

Topic - Original	Clause - Topic - Amendment	Reference
<b>Roster Sizes</b>	Clause 3: Non (national) – Passport Holders – Limitation of Numbers	Member Postal Vote 6 July 2023
<b>Age Limitations</b>	Clause 10 Age Limitation Dispensations: Removal of over Age dispensations. Clauses 10.1 & 10.2 deleted.	WL Board Postal Vote Agreed 14 March 2023 There will be no over Age Dispensations permitted for U20 competition effective 1 January 2024. Primary rationale being the change from U19 to U20 competition. (GA 2020)
<b>Use of Gender Pronouns</b>	Use of 3 <sup>rd</sup> person Pronouns	DOC
<b>Passport</b>	Clause 1: (new) A copy of the photo page of the athlete's passport must be available for inspection at least 90 days prior to the commencement of a world event, if required.	WL Board meeting October 2018 Agreed by WL Board, with the implementation of an electronic registration system.
<b>Exceptions for Emerging Nations</b>	Clause 4: Provisional (from Associate) Membership	GA 2021 Membership WG
<b>Exceptions for Emerging Nations</b>	Clause 4: Effective 1 January 2022 no dispensations shall be permitted for Men's Field, Women's Field and Men's & Women's Box, and only Full Members shall be able to compete in these World Championships.	WL Board meeting October 2020.
<b>Competition Committee</b>	Competition Director	Change to WL competition structure following 2018 GA
<b>Non-Passport Holders</b>	Clause 5: Added 5.1 Birth: Born in country	WL Board meeting October 2018
<b>Dual/Multiple Passport Holders</b>	Clause 6: UK Passports added to this clause (were at 5.5 Non-Passport Holders)	Incorrect edit pre-2018. At Clause 5 this would mean the Home Countries could field only a max. of 4 players each total.
<b>U19</b>	U20	GA 2020
<b>U19</b>	U21	COVID change for Men's rescheduled 2022 WC
<b>Appendix C: Age Guidance</b>	No longer relevant as depicted 2019-2022	Appendix C – Age Guidance New Appendix C 'Guide to Changes'

