



Eligibility Rules for Associate and Affiliate Members: Commonly asked questions

What are the rules in a nutshell?

The rules have two steps

Firstly players must meet one or more of the central eligibility criteria:

- 1) A national of the country (as defined by the country) or
- 2) Born in the country or
- 3) 7-Year Resident players – Resident in the country for at least 183 days in each of the previous seven years or
- 4) 4-Year Residents who qualify as Deemed Nationals (maximum quota of two)

In addition to the nationality qualification, all players must also meet one or more of the development criteria:

- A) Played 50% of games in national competition in any 3 of the 5 preceding years or
- B) Spent a cumulative total of 100 days over the preceding 5 years doing cricket work or
- C) Played representative cricket for that country in the past or
- D) Done enough to convince the Chairman of Cricket Committee that he has genuine commitment to development of cricket in that country

Central Criteria

How do you decide if someone is a national of a country?

That is up to each country according to its rules of nationality. Anyone who holds a passport will be considered a national of that country. In some circumstances a country may also consider people who do not hold passports to still be nationals.

It is up to the government of the country, not the cricket association, to define who is a national. A letter of confirmation from the appropriate government official may be required for non passport holders who claim to be nationals of a country.

What does born in the country mean?

It means physically born there..

How do you establish the seven years residence for 183 days each year?

It is up to the President of each National Cricket Association to be certain in his mind that this criteria is met in full by any players submitted by their association. A signed declaration from the President will be required.

The requirement is for 183 days in each of the preceding seven years as calculated retrospectively from the final date for submission of team entries.

Authenticating evidence will be required. Any information that can confirm they have been in the country for the required 183 days per year, for the past 7 years. This could include:

- A printout of time spent in the country from the relevant Home Office, and or
- Confirmation from president of club(s) represented, and or
- Letter from an employer or school, and or
- Copy of passport pages showing relevant visa and/or entry date stamps, and or
- Residence Permit or other relevant documentation.

7-Year Resident players also need to submit a Player Declaration

What is a 4-Year Resident who qualify as Deemed Nationals?

A “deemed national” is someone who has resided in the country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the four immediately preceding years. This will be established in the same way as the “seven year residence” outlined above. The difference is that a team may only field a maximum of two 4-Year Resident who qualify as Deemed Nationals in any one game, whereas they could field a whole team of players who have met the ‘seven year residency’ requirement.

Please note: This restriction does not apply where an Associate or Affiliate Member Country is fielding a team in a match against a Full Member or in any match which forms part of a tournament or competition involving teams from one or more Full Members.

Additional Development Criteria**Why were the development criteria added? Don't they just complicate matters?**

The development criteria were added to help ensure that all players had a significant and real connection to the country they represent. This was the wish of the majority of Associate member countries.

The criteria are not used in relation to Full Members where the prime criteria of nationality, birth or and residence are considered sufficient connection to the country.

Criterion A - How do we establish 50% of games in national competition in any three of the preceding five years?

Good question! It is obviously difficult to define exactly how this should be interpreted but the intent is clear. That is that the player has taken part in a substantial part of your domestic cricket competition in three of the last five years.

Again the signature of the President / Chairman of the National Association on the ICC Team Registration form will be regarded as positive evidence that all players meet the development criteria as submitted. Support documentation in the form of club records and evidence of residence should also be available if required.

Note that it is accepted that nearly all players who have lived in the country over the last five years will meet this criteria. Players who are either non-residents or recent arrivals and use this criterion may well be asked to provide further proof.

Criterion B – What amounts to ‘cricket work’ and how do you provide evidence of 100 days over five years?

Again this is a difficult criterion to define exactly and quantify. Cricket work can apply to playing, coaching, administration – virtually any area that has assisted your country’s cricket development.

The advantage of this criterion over Criterion A is that it allows for a cumulative total of 100 days over five years. Consequently the 100 days could occur at the beginning of that period, at the end of the period or spread over the whole period.

A player who has not been resident for most of the five year period may still qualify under this criterion (of course he first needs to meet one of the four central criteria). If this is the case definite and clear proof of his involvement for 100 days will be required.

Again the signature of the President / Chairman of the National Association on the ICC Team Registration form will be regarded as positive evidence that all players meet the development criteria as submitted. Support documentation in the form of club records and evidence of residence should also be available if required.

Criteria C – What amounts to representative cricket?

Not all games played by your national team will count as representative cricket. The basic concept will be that the player will need to have played in an ICC sanctioned match or tournament to qualify under this criterion.

Associate and Affiliate Members shall be limited to two players per team who have formerly played Representative Cricket for a Full Member Country. This restriction does not apply where an Associate or Affiliate Member Country is fielding a team in a match against a Full Member or in any match which forms part of a tournament or competition involving teams from one or more Full Members.

Games may be sanctioned at both senior and Under 19 level but not below.

Criteria D – Why would the Chairman of Cricket Committee give a dispensation?

There may be the occasional case where a player does not qualify under the rules, e.g. the player is a small number of days short of the residency requirements, but there is a strong argument that his connection to the country is such that he should be eligible. The Chairman of the Cricket Committee has a discretion to grant a dispensation upon application should he believe this to be the case.

Other Matters

What if a player has previously represented another member country?

There will need to be a four-year gap since he last played for that other member country before he can be eligible for his new country. This applies regardless of whether the countries concerned are Full, Associate or Affiliate members.

However this does not apply if a player has only played for the first country below Under 19 level. In effect the stand down rule only comes into operation once a player represents one country at Under 19 or above, except as in Rule C2 of the ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket

C2 Cricketers qualified to play for Associate and Affiliate Members can continue to represent that country without negating their eligibility or interrupting their qualification period for a Full Member Country up until the stage that the cricketer has played for the Full Member Country at Under 19 level or above.

What happens when an Associate Member plays a Full Member?

When this occurs (eg: World Cup) it is the Full Member eligibility rules that will apply to both sides. This means that the development criteria will not apply to the Associate Member and they will be able to field some players who were not eligible under the Associate eligibility rules (i.e. there will be no restriction on the number of 4-Year Residents who qualify as Deemed Nationals or players who have previously represented a Full Member Country).

Who will enforce the rules?

An ICC Team Registration Form and backing documentation will be required prior to any ICC sanctioned game or tournament. These will be scrutinised by the appropriate ICC Event Organisers.

What will happen if a team fields a player who it later turns out does not meet the eligibility criteria?

Registration of ineligible players is an extremely serious matter and the sanctions available to ICC are set out in the ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket as follows:

D2. Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in Representative Cricket will forfeit all points gained in each match in which such player plays and that player shall be suspended for a period not exceeding the balance of any competition of which the match forms part.

D3. Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in Representative Cricket in 2 or more matches will be further subject to such disciplinary procedures as the Executive Board deems fit. National Associations should realise that the onus is on them to corroborate any evidence provided by its players prior to submitting its team registration.

Please note a breach of the ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket would be considered a severe misdemeanour by the Executive Board.

What are the age eligibility regulations in place for the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup?

- Full Member countries: Under 19 by 1st September in the year preceding the Tournament
- Associate and Affiliate Member countries: Under 20 by 1st September in the year preceding the Tournament

Therefore for Associate and Affiliate Member countries, any player born on or after 1st September 1983 is eligible to play whereas those representing Full Member countries must be born on or after 1st September 1984.