



## **WOMEN'S SECTOR**

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# Approved: Player Eligibility Criteria

Reviewed: July 2014



## 1. General Principles

1.1 These regulations apply to all Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) world events. They apply at national team level only.

1.2 These regulations apply to women.

## 2. Eligibility and Nationality

2.1 In order to play for the national team of a country, a player must be:

2.1.1 A 'National' (see definition) or a 'Non-Passport Player' (see definition)

2.1.2 A 'National' is defined as a person holding the passport of the country as obtained by birth or by naturalization and who has fulfilled the conditions of eligibility according to the internal regulations of that country.

2.1.3 A 'Non-Passport Holder' is defined a player who, in addition to fulfilling the conditions of eligibility of the internal regulations of that country, meets at least one (1) of the conditions below:

- a) Parents: One or both birth parents, adoptive parents or step-parents born in the country.
- b) Grandparents: One or more birth or adoptive grandparents born in the country. Step-Grand Parents are not acceptable.
- c) Marriage: Partner/spouse being a passport holder the country, with the qualification that the couple must be resident in the country being represented.

### Guidance:

- i) In the event of death of the partner /spouse this would not prevent the individual from qualifying by this criterion.
- ii) Divorce from the partner /spouse would disqualify the individual from qualifying by this criterion.
- iii) This criterion relates to a marriage or partnership which has been validated by a jurisdiction in that country

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

### Guidance:

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.

NOTE: See 4.6 for Eligibility Documents Required for Proof of Residency.

2.1.4 A UK passport is allowed for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland players but documentation proving that they also fulfill the country eligibility criteria is also needed.



2.2 Any nation may have up to 15% of its players who are Non Passport Holders, but meet the criteria above in Section 2.1.

**Guidance:**

85% of the team must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 2.1. (85% of the current squad size of 18 is 15.3 rounded down to 15). The maximum number of Non-Passport Holders would be 3. Documentation proving that the player meets the Non-Passport Holder criteria listed in Section 2 must be submitted with online player registration. FIL will respond within 4 weeks of submission.

### 2.3 Age Requirements

2.3.1 To be eligible to play in a FIL world event, a player must be at least 15 years of age as of the day prior to start of the event.

2.3.2 For FIL Under 19 (U19) world events only, players must be 18 years of age or younger on 31 August in the year prior to the Championship.

2.4 A player who has two legal nationalities or more, by birth, or by naturalization, may choose, at any age, the national team for which she wishes to play. Once she represents one country in a FIL World Event, an ITC would be necessary to play for the other nationality. She must have a passport in order to be considered a 'National'. If she does not have a passport, she must be considered a 'Non-Passport' Holder of which there can be only 3 for each team.

### 2.5 U19 World Events ONLY

2.5.1 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. The decision to represent this nation is binding for all future U19 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. (See Appendix U19 School Waiver form)

2.5.2 A player applying for this waiver must choose which national governing body (country) they may represent prior to team trials/selection. Once a waiver is granted, it is binding for all U19 representation.

2.5.3 A player who receives a "School Waiver" as outlined in 2.5.1n 2.6.1 must apply for an ITC in order to participate for their home country at a World Cup.

2.5.4 The School Waiver form must be submitted to the Women's Competitions Chair by 1 January of the year of competition. FIL will respond within 4 weeks of submission.



### 3. International Transfers

#### 3.1 International Transfer Card (ITC)

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 her position with regard to player eligibility for international competitions and to uphold discipline and maintain order between countries and within the sport.

An ITC must be submitted to the FIL Competition Chair by January 1, the year of the event for approval. The ITC must be signed by the player, by the FIL member of that country, by the new FIL member and confirmed by the FIL. The transfer becomes valid on the date it has been confirmed by FIL. FIL will respond within 4 weeks of submission.

The following players need an approved ITC:

3.1.1 Any player ('national' or 'non-passport holder') who has previously participated in a FIL world event, who meets all eligibility requirements as per 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, and wants to represent another country.

3.2 Any player ( 'national' or 'non-passport holder') who has represented one country in a recognized FIL Event and who elects to represent a different country, must wait a minimum of three (3) years from the end of the event where she last represented her former country.

A transfer will be permitted if and when:

- a) The three-year period has elapsed between playing for one country and then playing for another;
- b) An ITC has been submitted by January 1 of the year of the event, and approved; and
- c) Eligibility criteria have been met and documentation to confirm provided.

Guidance:

A player may switch national eligibility only once.

3.3 A player who has dual citizenship (2.4) and has represented one country in a FIL World Event must have an approved ITC in order to compete for the other nationality. A player may switch national eligibility only once.



### 3.4 Permitted Exceptions related to Change of Country

#### 3.4.1 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 U19 World Championship for one country and then for another at World Cup level without the three year qualifying period. An ITC is required.

An Under 19 could not play in the World Cup for one country and then play (assuming age criteria is met) in the next U19 for a different country, without the three-year waiting period.

## 4. Proof of Eligibility

4.1 The FIL Women's Competition Committee will require the National Governing Body to provide evidence of the legal nationality (or nationalities) and eligibility of any players by requesting all passports and other documents to be submitted online with the Player Registration by March 1 of the year of the event.

4.1.1 Under 19 teams must show proof of nationality and age of all players online to the FIL by March 1 of the year of the world event.

4.2 Proof of legal nationality of a country by itself does not constitute sufficient evidence to guarantee a player's right to play as a national for the national team of that country – see 2.1, 2.4.

4.3 Failure to provide satisfactory documentation may result in the player being disqualified, from participating in the world championship in question and if discovered after a tournament has begun, may affect the results and standings of the team.

4.3.1 A player who is disqualified from participating in a world event after the tournament has begun due to lack of sufficient proof of nationality, will cause the team to forfeit all games in which the ineligible player was on the official roster and all points earned by the team. The player will be ineligible to participate in any team activities or games for the duration of the event.

4.4 Failure to abide by the FIL player eligibility criteria may result in financial penalty to the National Governing Body. A national governing body will be fined up to \$5,000 USD for failing to abide by the eligibility requirements of FIL. A country will be ineligible to participate in any future world events until this fine is paid.



#### 4.5 'Non-Passport Holder' Proof of Residency Documentations

The following documents can be used for proof of residency in a country:

- copy of 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)
- Automobile registration
- Social Security or Medical Insurance Card

The below need to span 2 years:

- Utility bills with name and address (water, electricity, gas, telephone) - spanning 2 year period
- Pay check slip/stub from employer)
- Income Tax return documents (please black out security information i.e. social security or tax file number, etc)
- 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 phone
- Voters ID card
- Credit card statement

Please note that it is important to black out numbers such as passport number, social security number, tax ID number, etc., for security reasons.

At least three of the above documents must be presented with the International Transfer Card application to the FIL Women's Competition Chair by January 1 of the year of the world event. The FIL Competition Committee recommends that the 'non-passport' holders, submit eligibility requests as soon as possible. These documents will help prove that the applicant has been a resident of the country a player is seeking to represent for a minimum of two of the previous five years. The above documentation shall accompany the International Transfer Card and should be scanned and emailed/faxed to the FIL Women's Competition Chair.

## 5. Emerging Nations (EN)

5.1 For the purposes of gaining Emerging Nation (EN) status, an Emerging Nation is defined as a nation:

- 5.1.1 that is making their first appearance at the World Cup or U19 level, or



- 5.1.2 that is not in active contention for the Championship, i.e. Associate Members, or
- 5.1.3 that has been considered and approved by the FIL Chairs of Competition and Development and the Women’s Sector as Emerging.

5.2 Teams who have previously participated in two Senior World Cups may not be eligible for EN status.

### 5.3 Dispensation at U19 (over age)

- 5.3.1 A nation may apply to FIL to be allowed to field over-age players (up to U21) in an U19 Championship. The maximum number of over-age players allowed will be 33% (6). This is generally granted to those teams competing in such an event for the first time. If a team is granted this dispensation, any player who is over-age must be a “Passport Holder” 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).
- 5.3.2 Dispensation at U19 (over-age) – on a second occasion.  
If a member requests dispensation on a second occasion then in addition to the residency requirement above, there will be an added requirement that the over-age players must be passport holders of the country and a maximum of 15% (3) over-age players would be allowed. Over-age players may not take any of the ‘Non-Passport Holder’ slots.
- 5.3.3 Any player receiving a waiver must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 2.
- 5.3.4 The Age Dispensation Waiver Form is due by 1 January of the year of the event.
- 5.3.5 Requests for dispensation should in the first instance be addressed to the Women’s Competition Chair who will consult with the Women’s Competition Committee and the other Women’s Chairs, and then to the FIL Board for a final decision.

**Guidance:**

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.



