

The ILF spent significant time reviewing and agreeing the principles of the Men's Eligibility Criteria at its meeting in July 2004. At the FIL General Assembly in July 2010 the Women's Eligibility Criteria was agreed. The document presented at that time was based on Men's Eligibility Criteria modified to suit the Women's requirements.

Item	Men's Eligibility reference	Women's Eligibility reference	Notes
General Principles	not stated	1	
Prime Criteria Passport	1	2.1.1	
Non-national passport 15% UK Passport	2	2.1.2 / 2.3 2.1.3	Men 4, Women 3 (15%) Women - country documentation required
Emerging Nations AM only	3	5.1 5.2	Additional detail (not if in past two seniors)
Non-national eligibility			
Parents	4.1	2.1.2 a)	
Grandparents	4.2	2.1.2 b)	
Marriage	4.3	2.1.2 c)	Divorce disqualifies Common law (documentation needed)

Residency 2 out of 5 years	4.4	2.1.2 d)	
		4	Women's Proof of Eligibility more detailed
		4.3.1	Disqualification
Dual / Multiple passports	5	4.3.1	
Change of Country 3 years / Eligibility / FIL agreement	5	2.4 3.1 / 3.2 / 3.3 / 3.4	Women's more formal with ITC procedure Women - only one switch allowed.
Exceptions			
Age (U19 / U21)	7 a)	2.5.1 / 2.5.2 / 2.5.3	Women - U19 School waiver
Emerging nations	7 b)	3.2	
Minimum Age	8.1	2.3.1	Men 16, Women 15
U19 upper limit	8.2	2.3.2	Men 31/8/n-1, Women's wording different but same dates
Age Dispensation U21			
1st	9.1	5.3.1	Resident 12/18 months
2nd	9.2	5.3.2	2nd time only passport holders, women max 3
		5.3.3 / 5.3.4 / 5.3.5	Men - no limit / team based, Women - limited to 33% (6) Procedural detail
Prior Qualification	10	none	Men - prior to 31/12/2004
Documentation checks	11	4.1 / 4.2 / 4.3 / 4.4 / 4.5	Women's more prescriptive / detailed and could be in an appendix
Clarity of U19 Age Ranges	Appendix	not stated	

Key points of difference

- 1 Minimum age for Men is 16 and for women is 15
- Non-national passport holders for Men is 4 and Women 3 but both based on 15% of the squad size
- Women more prescriptive on UK passports, men covered by the more general reference to documentation checks
- 4 Dual passport, switch of country, Women only allow one switch, men no limitation
- 5 Country switch Women have the more formal ITC procedure, men operate with e-mails (very few switches)
- 6 Under 19 / 21 dispensation Women allow up to six players first time and up to 3 on a second / more times, Men no limit in that once there is one player in this category then the whole team carries that status of being U21.
- Men allow prior qualification (as at 31/12/2004) from when the new criteria was agreed. Women rejected this (emotively) at the 2010 GA.
- 8 Men provide the precise age ranges for the U19 (/ U21) championships
- 9 Women's document has more procedural detail / listing of documents

Ron Balls 4th October 2017