



Moving to play in another Union: International Clearances

The approval process for a player to change the Union they are registered with, known as International Clearance, is subject to rules set out by the International Rugby Board (the “**IRB**”). IRB Regulation 4.6 (***Movement of Players between Unions***) applies to all countries that are members of the IRB and can be found on the IRB’s website (http://www.irb.com/mm/document/lawsregs/0/090603gffirbregulations2009websiteversion_8291.pdf). Particular reference should be made to Regulation 4.6.1.

A player is not eligible to play rugby in another country, at any level, until they have a valid International Clearance. This means that a club that plays a player could face a sanction such as a loss of championship points.

Clearance from Scotland to another Union (Outgoing Players)

Any player wishing to play in another Union must gain clearance from their club and from Scottish Rugby. The clearance process is simple when done correctly. However, it can take some time if the process has not been followed correctly before the player’s departure.

(1) Player completes IRB clearance form

The player must complete the Application for Clearance to Play within Another National Union form (the “**Application**”). The Application can be downloaded below, or it can be obtained from the player’s club, or from Scottish Rugby.

http://www.scottishrugby.org/community/component/option,com_jdownloads/Itemid,85/task,view.download/cid,49/

If the player cannot complete the Application personally he must nominate an alternative signatory e.g. parent or agent.

Most Unions will not accept an Application without the following fields completed:

- Name of the club where the player is currently registered (e.g. Murrayfield Wanderers);
- Name of Union where the player is affiliated (e.g. Scottish Rugby Union);
- The Union where the player proposed to register and play (the “**New Union**”) (e.g. New Zealand Rugby Football Union) ; and

- New club (if known).

An Application that is sent without stating what Union the player is coming from and going to cannot be processed.

(2) **Current rugby club sign and approves Application**

Once the player has completed the Application they must obtain signed approval by their current club. The club sign the Application and in doing so are stating that the applicant has no outstanding financial obligations to the club and is not currently serving a disciplinary suspension.

(3) **Scottish Rugby sends the Application to the New Union**

The completed and signed Application is then forwarded to Scottish Rugby to endorse and forward to the New Union. Please address forms to Kathleen Munroe: email kathleen.munroe@sru.org.uk or fax 0131 346 5001. Please note that Scottish Rugby will not send a copy of the Application to the clubs due to the volume of clearance forms.

Note: Applications received by Scottish Rugby which have not been correctly completed and/or signed will not be endorsed and will be returned to the applicant.

Clearance from another Country to Scotland (Incoming Players)

Any player wishing to transfer from their current Union to play in Scotland must first gain clearance from their Current Union prior to playing in Scotland. Again, the clearance process is simple when done correctly but can take some time if not done well before the time of the player's departure from his Current Union.

(1) **Player completes IRB clearance form**

The player must complete the IRB clearance form and sign the bottom of the first page where the space is given. The form should be downloaded from the player's Current Union website or obtained from the player's club.

Some countries have different layouts to the forms and may not provide space for the player to sign. This must be done regardless - a player cannot be cleared without his signing the form to show his approval.

If the player cannot complete the form personally he may designate an alternative signatory e.g. parent or agent.

Please note that Scottish Rugby will not accept an IRB clearance form without the following fields being completed:

- Name of the club where the player is currently registered (e.g. Auckland Marist);
- Name of National Union where the player is affiliated (NZRFU);
- National Union where the player proposed to register and play (the "**New Union**") (i.e. Scotland); and
- New club (if known).

An IRB clearance form that is sent to us without stating what Union the player is coming from and going to cannot be processed.

(2) Current rugby club sign and approves form

Once the player has completed the first page of the IRB clearance form they must obtain signed approval by their current club.

(3) Current rugby club sends the form to the National Union

Once the club has approved the clearance they will then send the completed IRB clearance form to the player's Current Union. The National Union will record the information on the form and finalise the clearance.

(4) The player's Current Union sends the form to Scottish Rugby

The player's Current Union will send the approved IRB clearance form to Scottish Rugby. Once Scottish Rugby has received the IRB clearance form it is recorded into the Scottish Rugby database, approved and sent to the club.

Reasons why a clearance can be Withheld or Not Required.

- If the player has not fulfilled any of their obligations including unpaid debts under any contract with the club or Union (IRB Reg 4.6.4);
- The player played in another country and then returned without applying for an inbound clearance at that time. When the player next applies for an outbound clearance it can be declined until that player completes the inbound clearance from their previous National Union (each time a player moves country he must complete the process e.g. A player playing in Scotland decides to play over the summer in Australia. He then comes back to Scotland before deciding to move on to Ireland. In doing so he must get clearance to play in Australia; clearance to return to Scotland; and then clearance to play in Ireland – if he misses out the middle step – i.e. clearance to come back to Scotland – his application may be refused.
- If a player cannot be found in the Scottish Rugby database then the player will not require a clearance out to play in another country. He will be assumed as a non-Scottish registered player; and
- If the IRB clearance form has not been signed by the player, club or National Union.

For more information on International Player Clearances contact:

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