



To: **Secretaries/Chief Executive Officers of Unions in Membership of the IRB**

From: **David Carrigy**
Head of External & Member Relations

Date: August 24, 2010

Re: **CLEARANCES**

It has come to the attention of the IRB that a clarification of the Clearance regime pursuant to Regulation 4.6 of the IRB Regulations Relating to the Game, which governs the movement of Players between Unions, may be of assistance to Unions.

In accordance with Regulation 4.6.1:

A Player leaving or proposing to leave his Current Union to play in another Union shall not be Registered or eligible to participate in competitions organised, recognised or sanctioned by that New Union until the New Union has received the original version (or a facsimile copy of the original version) of a Clearance.⁵

A Clearance is defined in footnote 5 as follows:

Clearance means the written consent (in the standard form) authorising a Player to participate in the Game in a New Union at the request of such New Union and signed by:

- (a) the Player's Current Union;*
- (b) the Union for whom the Player plays International Matches where such Player has represented that Union in a Match covered by Regulation 8.3 or 8.4; and*
- (c) the New Union.*

The standard form is attached as Appendix 1 to Regulation 4.

A Clearance is absolute and definite. There is no provision in Regulation 4 which allows for:

1. a Clearance to be for a specified period upon the expiry of which the Player shall return to his Current Union



2. a Clearance to be back-dated to a date earlier than the date set out in Note 1 of Appendix 1 to Regulation 4 as being the date upon which the Clearance shall become effective, namely, when:
 - (i) the New Union has received an original version (or a facsimile copy of the original version) of the Clearance;
 - (ii) the Player's written agreement with his Current Union has expired or been terminated; and
 - (iii) the Player's Registration within his Current Union has been cancelled; and/or

3. a Clearance to be subject to any conditions or fetters other than those set out in Regulation 4.6.

I trust this clarifies matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'David Carrigy', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

David Carrigy
Head of External & Member Relations