

NORTHERN CRICKET UNION OF IRELAND

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To the Hon. Secretary of each affiliated Club

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Dear Secretary

REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS – 2022 SEASON

In accordance with Competition Rule A17, the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate has given the Registrations Committee the following guidance in relation to the registration of players for the 2022 season.

1 GENERAL

1.1 The Registrations Committee, a sub-committee of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate, considers all registration applications against the eligibility criteria set out in Competition Rules A6–34 (copy annexed). Clubs are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with the current wording of these rules and should study them carefully before completing any registration application.

1.2 The information sought about players is necessary in order to enable the Registrations Committee to determine:

- whether or not the player is eligible to play for the club and, if so,
- what starring stipulations, if any, should apply.

2 REGISTRATION FORM

The Registration Form must contain the names of every player, regardless of age, whom the club expects to play for it in the course of the season, including any player in respect of whom a Supplementary Information Form is also required.

The various columns should be completed as follows:

SP – School Pupil – enter **Y** where the player is a pupil at a primary or secondary school at the date of registration. Institutes of Further and Higher Education should not be regarded as schools, regardless of the student's age.

NEI – Not Eligible for Ireland – enter **Y** (and submit a Supplementary Information Form) where the player is not eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates (see Definition 1) **and** has not already been approved by the Union as resident for purposes unconnected with cricket (see Definition 2).

NR – Non-Resident – enter **Y** where the player is not normally resident in the Union’s area (see Definition 3) **and** has not already been approved by the Union as present for purposes unconnected with cricket (see Definition 2).

TA – Temporarily Absent – enter **Y** where the player was starred as at 31 August in the previous season but will not be able to play regularly (and therefore be starred) at the start of the new season because of temporary absence from Northern Ireland (eg studying at university in Great Britain or working temporarily away from home). Such players will retain their starring from the previous season on a ‘shadow’ basis and will not be eligible to play for a lower team. Once they have returned and played sufficiently regularly, they should be starred in the normal way and their ‘shadow’ starring will cease. ‘Shadow’ starrings will be additional to the quotas required under Competition Rule A10.

Surname – this should always be the last name appearing on the player’s passport. Players should be entered on the form in alphabetical order of surname.

Forenames – these are all previous names appearing on the player’s passport or birth certificate. Please provide complete forenames for each player to enable players with similar names to be distinguished.

DOB – Date of Birth – required for all players in the Under 19 and lower age groups.

3 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORM

3.1 A Supplementary Information Form is required for:

(a) any player who is not eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men’s competitions in which it participates (see Definition 1) unless he:

- was registered by the club in the immediately previous season, or
- has been approved by the Union as resident for purposes unconnected with cricket (see Definition 2).

(b) any other player who did not play cricket under the auspices of the Union in the immediately previous season and who has, within the past three years:

- played regular first XI club cricket (other than under the auspices of the Union); or
- played representative cricket at Under 19 level or higher.

3.2 A Supplementary Information Form is however required where a player in category (a) above has, since such a Form was last submitted, played cricket at a level that would change his assumed level of playing ability, as categorised in paragraph 4 below.

3.3 The Form and any supporting documentation required must be submitted either before or at the same time as the Club's standard registration forms. In respect of players in category (a) above, no Forms received after 15 May will be considered, except for an application for a replacement for an overseas player who was originally registered, and has become unavailable as a result of serious injury, or international, provincial or state selection by his home country.

It is the responsibility of the club to obtain full details of the player's record for the past three years and any material inaccuracy or omission may lead to the retrospective rescinding of the registration.

4 PLAYING ABILITY

Each application will be considered on its own merits, taking due account of age, experience, playing form and any special factors, for example, recent serious injury. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate has, nevertheless, laid down the following broad guidance:

- (i) a player with recent and regular experience of Test cricket, one-day international cricket, or T20 international cricket between Test-playing countries is likely to be considered of too high a level of playing ability for any level of NCU cricket;
- (ii) a player with recent and regular experience of First Class cricket, List A/Twenty20 limited-overs cricket ie: premier limited over tournaments in Test playing countries; or A team internationals; or international cricket between ICC Associate Member countries; is likely to be considered of too high a level of playing ability for cricket below the Premier league;
- (iii) a player with recent and regular experience of Premier League cricket is likely to be considered of too high a level of playing ability for cricket below Section 1 of the First Division; and
- (iv) a player with recent and regular experience of Section 1 cricket is likely to be considered of too high a level of playing ability for cricket below Section 2 of the First Division.

5 PLAYER TRANSFER FORM

A club seeking to register a player transferring from another NCU club must submit a Player Transfer Form. The player may not play for their new club until their registration for that Club has been approved by the Union. The club from which the player is transferring must complete the relevant section of the Player Transfer Form and return it without delay. The registration will not be approved if the player has any outstanding financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to the previous club. Transfers will not be approved after 31 July.

6 VISAS

Where a player's eligibility to enter the United Kingdom is dependent on the award of a visa, the player's registration will not be finally approved until a copy of the visa has been submitted to the Union, and the Registrations Committee is satisfied that the visa is appropriate to the level of cricket being played by the 1st XI of the registering club.

7 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For registration purposes, the Union is willing to accept photocopies or documents sent by facsimile, but reserves the right to view the original documents before accepting the player's registration. Corroborative information must be supplied on documents bearing signature(s) and full names as appropriate.

Contact details for those providing information regarding the player's employment, education or other purpose

of residence in Northern Ireland must be submitted by the applicant Club, and the Union may make such enquiries as are considered necessary.

8 CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES

If at any time following approval of a player's registration, there are any changes in the player's employment status, education or other purpose of residence in Northern Ireland, on the basis of which his registration was originally accepted, the Club must inform the General Secretary immediately. The Registrations Committee will consider the new circumstances to determine whether the registration remains valid.

Yours faithfully

Bryan Milford
General Secretary

DEFINITIONS

(1) Eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates

A player is so eligible if he or she:

- (i) demonstrates (by submission of a current Irish passport) that they are an Irish National; or
- (ii) was born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland; or
- (iii) has had his or her primary or permanent place of residence in Ireland for a minimum of 10 months in each of the preceding 3 years.

and has not participated in an international match for any other National Cricket Federation during the immediately preceding 3 years.

(2) Resident for purposes unconnected with cricket

A player shall be so regarded where:

- (i) the player's employer has transferred him to Northern Ireland; or
- (ii) the player gained employment in Northern Ireland before his arrival, provided that:
 - (a) appropriate recruitment procedures and practices had been applied; and
 - (b) the post is permanent and full-time (or full-time and for a fixed term of at least 51 weeks); or
- (iii) the player is enrolled as a pupil of a grammar or secondary school in Northern Ireland; or
- (iv) the player is undertaking a full-time study course, or a part-time course involving more than 15 hours class-contact per week, provided that:
 - (a) the player does not work for more than 20 hours per week during term-time, except where a placement is a necessary part of the studies that is attended with the agreement of the educational institution attended; and
 - (b) the course is under the auspices of a Northern Ireland university or, in the case of an Institute of Further and Higher Education, is accredited by an external accrediting body; and
 - (c) the duration of the course is at least one academic year; or
- (v) the player is in Northern Ireland as part of a recurring pattern of residential visits to his or her family; or
- (vi) the player can satisfy the Union that he or she is resident for some other purpose unconnected with cricket, and has been continuously resident in Northern Ireland since arriving for the specified purpose.

No player whose eligibility to remain in the United Kingdom is dependent on a visa issued for cricket-related purposes shall be regarded as resident for purposes unconnected with cricket, even where he or she also fulfils one or more of the criteria specified in Definition 2.

Where it is claimed that a player registered by a club for the first time is resident for purposes unconnected with cricket, the Registrations Committee will require sight of the player's passport and/or independent/official corroboration of relevant information relating to the player's date of arrival in Northern Ireland and his employment, education or other purpose of residence.

(3) Normally resident in the Union's area

Normally resident means resident for a minimum of 10 months in at least two of the three immediately preceding calendar years. The Union's area, as defined in General Rule 1(a) is the historic province of Ulster, namely the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Monaghan and Tyrone.

For the purposes of Competition Rules A32-34, the following will be regarded as normally resident in the Union's area:

- full-time students attending institutions elsewhere whose family home remains within the area;
- players contracted to English counties returning to play for the Premier League team for which they last appeared.

ANNEX

REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

Registration

A6. Each club shall, before 15th April, send to the General Secretary, on the form provided, a list of its playing members, including school pupils. The Domestic Cricket Development Directorate may impose upon any club that fails to do so a fine not exceeding £50.

A7. A club wishing to register any player who did not play cricket under the auspices of the Union in the previous season and who has, within the past three years:

- played regular first XI club cricket (other than under the auspices of the Union) or
- played representative cricket at Under 19 level or higher

shall also submit a Supplementary Information Form giving full details of the player's performances in competitive cricket over the past three years.'

A8. Where the player is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, no such application shall be considered unless the Supplementary Information Form, together with all necessary supporting documentation, is submitted by 15th May. The Registrations Committee may allow a replacement player to be registered on a later date where it is satisfied that the player originally registered has become unavailable as a result of serious injury or international, provincial or state selection by his home country.

A9. Clubs are solely and entirely responsible for the accuracy of the information supplied in support of an application for the registration of a player.

Starring

A10. On the list of registered players:

- (a) a club with two teams shall star the first eight players normally selected for the 1st XI;
- (b) additionally, a club with three teams shall star for its 2nd XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 1st XI, together with the first eight normally selected for the 2nd XI;
- (c) additionally, a club with four teams shall star for its 3rd XI the three remaining players normally selected for the 2nd XI, together with the first six normally selected for the 3rd XI;
- (d) additionally, a club with five teams shall star for its 4th XI the five remaining players normally selected for the 3rd XI, together with the first two normally selected for the 4th XI
- (e) additionally, a club with six teams shall star for its 5th XI the next seven players normally selected for the 4th XI.

A11 Should a club subsequently wish to register additional players, or to alter its starring list, it shall apply in writing to the General Secretary and send a copy to the Honorary Section Secretary of each Section in which it has a team. Any club failing to notify each Section Secretary shall be liable to be fined by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A12. Details of the player it wishes to de-star and of the player it wishes to star in his place, with analyses of their performances over the previous three matches in competitions organised by the Union, shall be given on the form provided. Such alterations shall be subject to scrutiny by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A13. A player starred for a team and not playing for that team or a higher team for a period of three consecutive matches or three weeks, whichever be the greater, or who sustains an injury sufficiently serious to be likely to prevent him from playing for such a period, or who otherwise becomes unavailable for such a period, shall forthwith be de-starred by his club and another player starred in his place. A player who is de-starred because of absence or injury shall, before playing again, be re-starred at a level appropriate to his playing ability. Where a player is unavailable to play for the team for which he is starred in any match because of his selection for an Irish international squad, he shall be deemed for the purposes of this rule to have played for the team in the match. Failure to comply with starring requirements may result in forfeiture of points and/or elimination from cup competitions at the discretion of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate or the Competitions Committee.

A14. A player may transfer clubs during the season only with the approval of the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate. No transfer shall be approved after 31st July.

A15. The list of registered players and the starrings in effect on 31st August shall remain in force until replaced by a new list for the following season.

Scrutiny

A16. All registrations and starrings shall be scrutinised by the Registrations Committee, which shall:

- in respect of players who are currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, require the starring for a higher team of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein;
- in respect of players who are not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates, refuse or withdraw the registration, or require the starring for a higher team, of any player whom it believes to be of cricketing ability so much in excess of the standard generally obtaining in the competitions for which registration is sought, as to make his participation unfair to other players and teams participating therein.

A17. In determining whether or not a player's cricketing ability is appropriate to particular competitions, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A18. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Registrations Committee shall not refuse or withdraw the registration of any player who was first registered by the club as a school pupil and has not subsequently played for another club (other than a university club).

A19. Where the Registrations Committee becomes aware that a player's registration has been approved on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, it may rescind the registration with retrospective effect. Where a registration is so rescinded, the club shall be regarded as having fielded an ineligible player in any match in which the player concerned had played since his registration was originally approved.

A20. The Registrations Committee may delegate such powers as it deems appropriate to the General Secretary or an Honorary Officer. After 1st June, any power of the Registrations Committee may be exercised by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

Eligibility

A21. No player may play for a club until his registration for the current season has been accepted by the Registrations Committee, or for a team more junior than that for which he is starred.

A22. Even if subsequently de-starred, no player shall play in a cup competition more junior than that entered by the team for which he was starred on 31st May. Except for players eligible to play in the Under 15 League, or replacement players who have been approved in accordance with A8 above, no player registered after this date may play in the Challenge or Junior Cup, and no player registered after 30th June may play in the Intermediate, Minor (Lindsay) or Minor Qualifying Cup.

A23. No player who has participated in international cricket, or played in two or more senior inter-provincials within the previous twelve months, may play for a team other than the 1st XI without the approval of the Registrations Committee.

A24. No player may play for more than one club in cup competitions in any season.

A25. In determining whether or not a player is resident in Northern Ireland for purposes unconnected with cricket, the Registrations Committee shall take account of any general guidance given to it by the Domestic Cricket Development Directorate.

A26. No player who is not currently eligible to play for Ireland in all ICC men's competitions in which it participates may play, or act as a substitute, in any cup competition other than in a Challenge Cup match against a team from the same Section, or a team from a different Section where both clubs so agree; and not more than one such player may play in the same team in any cup or league match. This restriction shall not apply to players who are serving with HM Forces in Northern Ireland or to a person who, having been resident in Northern Ireland for less than four years, satisfies the Registrations Committee that he was so resident for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A27. No player currently registered for a club in another Union affiliated to the Irish Cricket Union may be registered without the prior approval of the Registrations Committee. No player transferring from such a club may be registered without that club's prior written approval.

A28. No player joining a club, having previously been registered by another club, may play for his new club until he has satisfied the General Secretary that he has met all financial and/or contractual obligations (apart from those arising from a contract of employment) to his previous club.

A29. Any dispute between the clubs and/or between a club and the player arising from the interpretation of A28 shall be adjudicated upon by a suitably qualified and independent third party appointed by the Union, whose decision shall be finding and binding upon all parties to such dispute. The costs of such adjudication shall be borne equally by the parties unless the adjudicator otherwise directs.

A30. A player shall normally be registered for only one club at any time. However, where the player's normal club does not participate in the Mid-Week League, or in an age-group competition for which the player is eligible, the player may be registered by another club solely in respect of the competition(s) in question. The competition(s) shall be specified on the registration form, which shall also indicate the player's normal club.

A31. If an ineligible player plays or acts as a substitute in any match, his club shall be deemed to have lost the match. In addition it shall be fined by the Registrations Committee.

A32. No player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 3 of the Senior League unless the club satisfies the Registrations Committee that the player is in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A33. Only one player not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in Section 1 or 2 of the Senior League. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that the player holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.

A34. Only two players not normally resident in the Union's area may play in league or cup competitions for a club in the Premier League, at least one of whom must be qualified to play for Ireland. The club must satisfy the Registrations Committee that any non-Irish qualified player registered under this rule holds a coaching qualification at or equivalent to ECB Level 2. If a club registers two Irish qualified players not normally resident in the Union's area, at least one must hold the above-mentioned coaching qualification. This restriction shall not apply to any player approved by the Registrations Committee as being in the area for purposes unconnected with cricket.