

International Quota Policy

1.1 For the purposes of elite tag competitions, each player who takes part in a league shall have a “designated club” of which they are considered a member.

1.1 In a given calendar year, any player who played on any of the following Irish Teams in the previous calendar year shall count as an “International Player” for the purpose of these rules:

- Mixed 21s Men’s 21s, Women’s 21s
- Mixed Open, Men’s Open, Women’s Open
- Mixed Senior, Men’s 30s, Women’s 30s

and such other team as ITRA shall from time to time designate, provided always that ITRA will give advance notice of such designation prior to any player playing on such other team.

In addition, any player who played for an ITF Board Member International Team in the previous calendar year shall also count as an “International Player”.

ITF Board Members as of 12th December 2024 are Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa.

1.2 In exceptional circumstances, where no international play has taken place in the prior year, the year before that shall be deemed the “previous calendar year” for the purpose of these rules.

1.3 Where applicable, an “International Player” shall have a “Designated Club” which shall be the Mixed Premiership team:

1.4

- For which they registered and played in the ITRA Premiership for **Summer 2020**; or
- If not registered for Premiership play **for Summer 2020**, shall be the Mixed Premiership team for which they first register for Premiership Play thereafter prior to becoming an International Player.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a player is or becomes an International Player without having a Designated Club they will not be able subsequently to associate with a Designated Club for the purpose of Rule 1.5 below, save in exceptional circumstances as provided for in Rule 1.6.

1.5 No Team shall have more than five (5) (referred to as a “quota”) International Players registered and playing as members of their Premiership Squad. This rule shall be known as the “International Quota Rule”.

1.6 Where more than a quota of 5 International Players share a “Designated Club”, it shall not be a breach of the “International Quota Rule” for any or all of those players to continue to register and play for their “Designated Club” team in future Premiership seasons.

For the avoidance of doubt, this rule is aimed at avoiding a situation where a team must divest itself of International Players who were selected while playing for that designated team.

Where an International Player wishes to register for and play Premiership for a team other than their Designated Club's team, they can only do so if that team does not already have a quota of 5 other International Players registered for that Premiership season.

- 1.7 On request of an International Player, ITRA may allow a player to change their Designated Club or to join a Designated Club, but this discretion will only be exercised in genuinely exceptional circumstances where ITRA deem it consistent with ITRA's values and the spirit that underpins these rules, and where ITRA consider that it would be unfair not to do so.

ITRA shall publish a list of criteria on the basis of which a club change may be granted. Changes shall be approved if they are deemed to meet the outlined criteria. Applications to change shall be considered in a single given annual "transfer window" specified by the ITRA. Only genuinely exceptional applications which are based on unforeseeable circumstances may be considered outside of this window.

Requests will be considered by a panel appointed by the ITRA. It shall ordinarily consist of some or all of:

- Simon Bewley, ITRA Director and Irish Tag Rugby Programme Director
- Alex Mullin, Irish Tag Rugby Performance Director
- Jack Leahy, ITRA General Manager
- Any other individuals as appointed by those named above

Where it might reasonably be deemed that any above named individual has a direct conflict of interest in any application, they shall fully divest themselves from the decision-making process.

- 1.8 The foregoing Rules shall apply equivalently to the Championship, Men's, and Women's Elite level competitions, save that in Championship the quota for the purposes of rule 1.4 shall be three (3) international players.

- 1.9 Where a Club fields teams in Women's, Men's, or Championship Elite level competitions as well as in Premiership competitions, any player registered on one or other of all of those teams who becomes an "International Player" without having a "Designated Club" (*for example, by virtue of not having played Mixed Premiership prior to becoming an International Player*), then the Club's Premiership Team shall automatically be that player's "Designated Club".

Where a Club wishes to avail of this rule (1.8) they must apply to ITRA for approval in advance, setting out the reason why they should be considered a Club, and they will only be entitled to be considered a Club for the purpose of these rules where ITRA so determines.

The relevant mailing address for all IQ related correspondence is:
performance@tagrugby.ie

- 1.10 A player who turns 37 or older at any point in the year of their most recent cap may be exempt from quota. Any player to whom this applies must claim the exemption in writing to international@tagrugby.ie by 31st December 2023..

For the avoidance of doubt:

Example 1: Player A represents Ireland Men's 30s in 2023 at the age of 39. Player A is exempt from quota in 2024.

Example 2: Player A represents Ireland Women's 30s in 2023 at the age of 36. Player A turns 37 in December 2023. Player A is exempt from quota in 2024.

Example 3: Player A represents Ireland Men's 30s in 2023 at the age of 36. Player A turns 37 in February 2024. Player A is subject to quota in 2024.

2. Implementation of International Quota Policy

Squad Lists

All teams competing in elite tag leagues will be required to submit a complete squad list no later than 5pm on the day of a match, clearly identifying players who are subject to international quota.

Failure to submit a squad list - or to update prior to kick-off in the event of changes - shall result in a forfeit.

An initial squad list listing players signed up for the league must be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the first scheduled game. This list must also clearly identify any International Players.