



ELIGIBILITY OPTIONS FOR PLAYING INTERNATIONAL CRICKET FOR IRELAND

INTRODUCTION

Within Northern Ireland all citizens have the following birth right –

“It is the birth right of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves... as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly... to hold both British and Irish citizenship.”

The above text comes from the internationally recognised agreement called the Belfast Agreement, and is encompassed in legislation through the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – it allows citizens within Northern Ireland to choose their identity and subsequently hold either a British or Irish passport – or both if desired.

SPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The above Act impact on every are of life in Northern Ireland and sport is not immune. However, the Sporting Landscape within Northern Ireland is very complicated – with a number of sporting bodies within Northern Ireland who are All-Ireland bodies, British bodies or just Northern Ireland bodies – who might affiliate to a European or International federation.

Therefore, sporting pathways for athletes from different disciplines differ greatly, depending on the sport and governance structure in place.

CRICKET IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Governing structure with Cricket in Northern Ireland is through the All-Ireland Governing Body Cricket Ireland, which governs the two jurisdictions of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

CRICKET’S COMMITMENT TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ACT

All Governing Bodies in the UK and Ireland have a duty to honour this international agreement, which both British and Irish Governments have signed up to. To honour this agreement, we must allow the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves as British, Irish or both.

However, allowing personal choice is not enough to ensure compliance with the legislation we also have a duty to promote the right of a cricketer in Northern Ireland to play cricket for England (as a British citizen) as well as for Ireland. Details of those options and qualification are provided below.

This document outlines all the routes within the UK and Ireland for any cricketer within Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland to become an international cricketer. Cricket Ireland wants to ensure that any cricketer within Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland can make an informed decision with regards to their potential cricketing career, and ultimately they can choose which nation they would like to represent.

HOW TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER FOR IRELAND

A player shall be qualified to participate in an International Match or Event for Ireland where he/she satisfies at least one of the following three requirements:

1 – *The player was born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland* **OR**

2 – *On the date of submission of documents to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the player is able to demonstrate that he/she is a national of Ireland, and holds an Irish passport* **OR**

3 - *On the date of submission of documents to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the player is a resident of either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. For the purposes of this requirement, a player will be deemed to be a resident if player has had his/her primary and permanent home in the relevant country for the immediately preceding three years.*

In order to satisfy any of the above criteria, the following documentation would be required and, for points 2 and 3, and official submission to the ICC to confirm same, and approval from ICC, would be required:

Qualification Criteria	Documents Required
1 – The player was born in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland	Either: Copy of the title page of the player’s passport and relevant page showing place of birth Or: Copy of official birth certificate
2 – On the date of submission of documents to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the player is able to demonstrate that he/she is a national of the Republic of Ireland.	Copy of the title page of the player’s passport and relevant page showing nationality
3 - On the date of submission of documents to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the player is a resident of either Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland.	<p>A - The ICC’s template form titled ‘Data Summary for Resident Players’, properly completed and signed by CI and the Player. A copy of this template can be found on pages 32 & 33 of the following link – https://pulse-static-files.s3.amazonaws.com/ICC/document/2018/05/09/562a3e8a-e3ee-4ffa-8ecf-645022abd2c6/ICC-Player-Eligibility-Regulations-effective-7-May-2018-.pdf</p> <p>B – Any three of the following documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ copy of Passport with entry dates stamped; ○ driver’s licence; ○ utility bills with name and address (e.g. water, gas, electricity, landline telephone) spanning the three year period; ○ employment contract; ○ income tax return documents; ○ pay slip from employer; ○ working visa; ○ bank statements; ○ rental/lease agreement for home; ○ mortgage agreement;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ property purchase/bill of sale; ○ naturalization card (i.e. green card); ○ vehicle registration document; ○ school record/transcription; ○ social security or medical insurance card. <p>A and B above are both mandatory.</p> <p>Although not mandatory, any other relevant information that confirms that the player has had his/her primary and permanent home in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland over the immediately preceding three years.</p>
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HOW TO BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER FOR ENGLAND

To qualify to play for England would require the cricketer to have not represented Ireland at Under 17 level or above, and also be resident in England or Wales for four consecutive years, where his/her residence commenced before their 18th birthday. Where his/her residence commenced after their 18th birthday they would need to reside in England or Wales for 7 consecutive years.

More information on how players can qualify to play cricket for England can be found on the following link, found the ECB's website:

https://pulse-static-files.s3.amazonaws.com/ecb/document/2018/03/18/3c8ad1be-06f8-468a-86a3-96e20f2fe00b/FCC_KSL_RegistrationRegs_2018.pdf

ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY FOR MORE THAN ONE NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

There is nothing within the ICC's Eligibility Regulations for cricket to prevent a player from representing a second international team during his/her playing career. However, where a player has represented an international team at U19 level or above, and he/she subsequently seeks to play for a different full member international team, he/she will only be deemed as qualified to play if he/she meets the above nationality eligibility requirements and, in addition, has not participated (either in the starting 11 or as a playing or non-playing substitute) for their original full member international team for three years.

CRICKET IN THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Cricket was last played in the Commonwealth Games in 1998 – when a Northern Ireland team played – and is planned for the 2022 Games in Birmingham.

It is important for all cricketers from Northern Ireland to be aware that whichever international cricket team a cricketer chooses to represent, they will still be able to play cricket for Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games.

For the purposes of the Commonwealth Games, Northern Ireland exists as a special entity, and so a Northern Irish cricketer can still play cricket for either Ireland or England in International Cricket but retain the right to play cricket for Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games if they so wish.

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