



The WRU Players Registration and Transfer Regulations

Season 2016-2017

1. **Player Registration:**

- (a) No player may represent a Club in any Fixture unless he is one of the registered playing members of that Club ('Registered Player'), is on loan to that Club, is on dual registration with that Club or has been granted a permit to play for that Club.
- (b) For the purpose of these Regulations "Fixture" shall mean any match forming part of a Competition, or a friendly match, sanctioned by the WRU.
- (c) A Registered Player is one who has accepted the Union Registration Request appropriate to his status and who has been duly registered with the Union in the Union's database in accordance with Regulation 3.
- (d) Premier Division Clubs and Championship Clubs who have been granted an A Licence pursuant to the National League Rules may register up to 2 non-Welsh qualified players who will at any one time be eligible to play for it in the National League (i.e. if one or both non-Welsh qualified player(s) leave the Club he/they may be replaced providing the number of non-Welsh qualified players at that Club does not exceed 2). In the case of a professional or semi-professional player from outside the EC and who does not have EC workers rights, a licence to employ the player must be obtained by the Club from the UK Border Agency. An application for a licence to employ a professional or semi-professional rugby player has to be supported by the Union. The WRU will not support an application for a licence to employ a professional or semi-professional rugby player other than an application made by a Professional Region, a Development Region, a Premier Division Club and a Championship Club which has been granted an A Licence pursuant to the National League Rules. The numbers of non-Welsh qualified players which may be registered and/or contracted by a Professional Region is governed by the Rugby Services Agreements between the WRU and the Regional Organisations.

With the exception of those Championship Clubs that have obtained an A Licence, Clubs in the Championship Division through to Division 3 may register more than 2 non-Welsh qualified players, but no more than 2 overseas players (such players must provide documentary evidence to prove they have a right to reside in the UK and Clubs must confirm such players do not receive any material benefit from playing Rugby Union). A Premier Division Club and Championship Club that has obtained an A Licence may register up to 2 non-Welsh qualified players who will at any one time be eligible to play for it in the



WRU National Cup (i.e. if one or both non-Welsh qualified player(s) leave the Club he/they may be replaced providing the number of non-Welsh qualified players at that Club does not exceed 2).

For the avoidance of doubt, an overseas player is one who is not qualified to play for Wales at the date of registration and who cannot prove to the satisfaction of the WRU that he is entitled to the rights granted under Title III of the EC Treaty or under the EEA or other European Agreement (i.e. a person who has European workers rights).

Any Premier Division Club registering more than two non-Welsh qualified players (being players who at the date of registration are not qualified to take the field of play as a member of a team at senior level to represent Wales in accordance with World Rugby Regulation 8.1), will fail the A Licence Criteria to participate in the Premier Division and in turn will be in breach of the Premier Division Participation Agreement.

Any Championship Club that has obtained an A Licence registering more than two non-Welsh qualified players (being players who at the date of registration are not qualified to take the field of play as a member of a team at senior level to represent Wales in accordance with World Rugby Regulation 8.1), will fail the A Licence Criteria to participate in the Premier Division and in turn fail to qualify for promotion to the Premier Division.

- (e) No payment of any kind, whether direct or indirectly, may be made to a Player to play for a Club which has signed the Statement of Truth (Appendix 1) pursuant to the National League Rules. In the event that a Member Club which has signed the Statement of Truth is deemed to be making payments to Players, the sanctions (Appendix 1) may be applied. For the avoidance of doubt, Clubs which have elected to make payments to Players and as a result have foregone their Rugby Core Grant will not be deemed to be in breach of this policy.

Only a player who is currently registered with a Union shall be able to participate in competitions organised, recognised or sanctioned by that Union (World Rugby Regulation 4.5.6)

2. **Types of Player Registration:**

There are 2 types of player registration

- i) Regional Contracted Player

Any player who is engaged on a player contract with a Regional Team and / or Regional Academy



ii) Player

Any player aged *18 years or over.

NB. * On attaining the age of 18 years and becoming a Senior Player, a completed Player Registration Request (Appendix 2) must be submitted to the Welsh Rugby Union even if the player was previously registered as a Youth player with the Club, otherwise the player will be ineligible to play for the Club's Senior Team in any competition or fixture sanctioned by the WRU.

The Union recognises that Clubs may wish to place players on a playing Contract. However, any disputes between a player and his Club or between Clubs will not be arbitrated upon by the Union. Accordingly, the Player Registration Request (Appendix 2) is the only recognised method of registration to be used by Clubs and accepted by the Union.

3. **Player Registration Request:**

(a) In order to register a Player the following submissions must be made to the Union:-

- (i) The prescribed Player Registration Request contained within submitted on behalf of the Club. (see **Appendix 2**)
- (ii) An International Clearance application form if the player is transferring from another Union (see **Appendix 7**)

(b) The Union shall, if satisfied that the Player Registration Request (and any Player Transfer Request required under Regulation 5) has been completed strictly in accordance with these Regulations, record the Player as being duly registered with the Club in the Union's database and the appropriate acknowledgment has been received by the Club.

(c) No Player may participate in a Fixture unless his Club has first registered the Player with the Union and the appropriate acknowledgment has been received by the Club. The standing down period between the receipt of a registration form in the Union Offices and the player's eligibility to play is as follows:-

- (i) Seven (7) days where the player is transferring from another Club and the registration / transfer request has not been accepted on behalf of his previous Club.
- (ii) Twenty eight (28) days where the player is transferring from another Premier Division Club and the registration/transfer request has not been accepted on behalf of his previous Premier Division Club.



- (d) A Club submitting a Player Registration Request for a Player who is already registered with another Club shall be duly notified of the Player's prior registration by the Union.

4. **Transfer Deadline:**

The transfer deadline is the 31st January in each year.

A Player will be ineligible to play for a Club in any National League or National Cup, Plate or Bowl Fixture if he becomes registered after 31st January in any season, unless such Player is:

- a. A Player who is registered with the Youth team of that Club and is subsequently registered as a Senior Player with that Club.
- b. A Player who is subject to a permanent residential relocation from another area where extensive travel (in excess of 100 miles round trip) precludes the player continuing to play for his former Club. (applies to Championship who do not hold A Licence status and Divisions 1 – 3 only). **Before such a Player may play in WRU Competitions the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
- c. A Player not previously registered with any other rugby Club. **Before such a Player may play in WRU Competitions the player's registration must be sanctioned by the Union's Regulatory Committee.**
- d. A player who has been de-registered by a club during the season may be re-registered by that club at any time during the same season, including after the deadline of the 31st January.

5. **Termination of Registration, Deregistration and Transfer of a Player:**

Any Transfer of a Player must be effected by completing the appropriate Player Transfer Request (see **Appendix 3**) which must be accepted by the Player and an authorised person of both Clubs. If the transferring Club fails or refuses to accept the Player Transfer Request, the Transfer will nevertheless be effective 7 days after submission of the Player Transfer Request to the Union, provided that the Club to which the Player is transferring has notified the Union as well as the Transferring Club. This will not be the case for those transfers where the transferring Club has expressed concerns in relation to the WRU Payments to Players Policy (Appendix 1). In this case the Transfer will not become effective until the Union is satisfied there is no breach of policy.

If a player, subject to a **dual registration** agreement, transfers his primary registration to a Regional Team or a Club other than in the Premier Division then the player's dual registration will cease immediately. If a player, subject to a dual registration agreement, transfers his primary registration to a Club in the Premier Division then that dual registration agreement with the Secondary Club may be retained providing the Club to which the player is transferring is in agreement and notifies the Union accordingly. In this instance, where the dual registration is



retained with the Secondary Club, the Premier Division Club who is party to the dual registration will not be obliged to count the dual player into their total player registration limit of 32 players, subject to a cap of 4 dual contract players.

All dual registration agreements cease at the end of a Season.

If a player is deregistered by a Club then the player's registration will revert to the Union. The Union will be able to grant permission for that player to play on permit for any Club in any Division.

PLAYER LOAN SCHEME (see Appendix 4)

6. A Club with which a player is registered may loan that player to another Club on the agreement of the Clubs concerned and the player.

The **Loan Scheme** will operate as follows:-

- (i) When the loan has been submitted to the Union, (**Appendix 4**) the player will be eligible to play in the National League and the National Cup, Plate or Bowl (see vii below) Competition for the Club which has taken him on loan.
- (ii) A player may be loaned for a minimum period of one month and a maximum period of up to the end of the current playing season. **In exceptional circumstances, the Regulatory Committee may reduce the minimum period of loan to less than one month, or reduce the loan period, when the loaning Club is short of players.**
- (iii) Whilst on loan, the player may not play for any other Club, other than his "parent" Club.
- (iv) A Club may take no more than 2 players on loan at any one time.
- (v) The period of a player's loan may not commence later than 1st March in any Season.
- (vi) No overseas player may be loaned.
- (vii) A player who has played for a Club in the previous round of the National Cup, Plate or Bowl Competition within the current season, will not be eligible to play on loan in the next round for another Club.

7. **Player Permit Request (See Appendix 5)**



- (a) The Regulations relating to player permits in National League matches are set out in the Rules of the National League 2016/2017.
- (b) Permits may be granted to allow players to play in the National Cup, Plate or Bowl Competition and the regulations relating to permit players in National Cup, Plate and Bowl matches are set out in the Rules of the SWALEC Cup, Plate and Bowl Competitions 2016/2017.
- (c) **A Permit is required to allow a player to play for a Club, other than the Club with which the player is registered, in any fixture.**
- (d) **The procedure for granting Player Permits will be:-**
 - (i) A Player Permit Request is submitted by an authorised Official of the Club with which the player is registered (see **Appendix 5**). All Player Permit Requests will be acknowledged by the Union.
 - (ii) A permit must be sought for each match in which a player plays and such permit may be granted for a match at any time in the season.
 - (iii) The Union will confirm to the requesting Club that a Player Permit Request has been accepted.
 - (iv) The Union may submit a Player Permit Request on behalf of those players whose club of registration has withdrawn from Competitions.

8. **Dual Registration Request (see Appendix 6)**

A **dual registration** system will operate whereby:

- (i) A player may be registered by two Clubs (see **Appendix 6**) and be eligible to play for both in National League matches and *National Cup matches.
(* See Restriction contained in Regulation 4.(j) of the Cup Competition Rules and Regulation (4.h) of the Plate and Bowl Competition Rules)
- (ii) Clubs in the Premier Division may register up to 32 players (unless a Club in the Premier Division runs more than one Senior team whereby there is not a limit on player numbers) all of whom will be available for dual registration with Clubs in Lower Divisions
- (iii) The Dual Registration Request must be submitted to the Union at least 2 days prior to the first match in which the player is to play.



- (iv) Only Clubs in the Premier Division shall be able to hold a player's **primary registration**. Please refer to Clause 5 above.
- (v) The Club which holds the **player's primary registration** will have first call upon his playing services.
- (vi) A **secondary registration** will be held by a Club in a lower Division for players on dual registration from a Premier Division Club. Please refer to Clause 5 above.
- (vii) If a player, subject to a dual registration agreement, transfers his primary registration to a Club other than in the Premier Division then the player's dual registration will cease immediately. If a player, subject to a dual registration agreement, transfers his primary registration to a Club in the Premier Division then that dual registration agreement with the Secondary Club may be retained providing the Club to which the player is transferring, is in agreement and notifies the Union accordingly. Please refer to Clause 5 above.
- (viii) A Club in the Premier Division may place no more than 2 players on dual registration with any one Club in a Lower Division during a season.
- (ix) No more than 2 dual registered players may play for a Club in a Lower Division in any one match.
- (x) To enable a player to be eligible to play on dual registration with his Secondary Club the dual registration advice must be received in the Union offices two (2) days prior to the match in which the player is first required. The deadline to place players on dual registration is the 31st January. **A player can only be dual registered to one Club in any one season.**
- (xi) All dual registration agreements cease at the end of a Season.

9. **Clubs ceasing to be members of the Union:**

In the event that a Regional Member or Club cease to be a member of the Union all Players of such Regional Member or Club shall, from the date of cessation, be deemed to be registered with the Union and the Union shall have the same rights in respect of the transfer of registrations of all such Players as such Regional Member and/or Club had until the date of such cessation.



10. **Penalty for Breach of Regulations:**

Failure by any Player, Club or Club Official to comply with any of these regulations will render the Player and/or the Club(s) and/or Club Officials concerned liable to such sanctions or remedies as the Union shall in its discretion deem appropriate including, without limitations, reprimand, fine, suspension or expulsion from the Union.

11. **Powers of the Union:**

- (a) The Union reserves the right to override, amend, supplement and/or discontinue each and any of these Regulations from time to time.
- (b) In addition to the other powers set out in these Regulations, the Union shall at its discretion be entitled, of its own motion and/or on the application of any Club or Player, to override any procedural defect in relation to these Regulations if, in the circumstances, it considers it just to do so.

12. **Disputes:**

Any dispute difference or matter arising in connection with these Regulations shall be referred to the Union's Regulatory Committee for adjudication unless these Regulations provide otherwise.

13. **Miscellaneous:**

Players in the Armed Forces, Universities, Institutes of Higher Education, or Colleges (not Schools) can assist their Service Unit, University, Institute or College XV or Representative Teams involving the same without the necessity of a Transfer or Permit or permission, provided those Clubs are not involved in the National League, but such Players shall be regarded as registered with the Club for which they were registered immediately prior to joining the Armed Forces or entering a University, Institute or College. To play for any other Club would require a Permit or Transfer pursuant to these Regulations.



Appendix 1

WRU PAYMENTS TO PLAYERS POLICY

Following the Policy Statement in respect of the above, issued by the WRU dated the 23rd May 2013, and subsequent correspondence and communication with clubs, procedures have been established to monitor adherence to the policy, to investigate and, if required, apply sanctions to those clubs that do not comply with the Statement of Truth and with their own constitution.

1. Procedures to assist with monitoring of the policy are:

- Statement of Truth forms will be issued and signed annually. This will include the signature of the Head Coach of the Club.
- A dedicated email address P2P@wru.co.uk allows anonymous “whistleblowing”.
- The Player Transfer Form has been amended to include a comment box for the transferring-out secretary to state why the player wants the transfer and for the player and the transferring-in secretary to sign to say that the player will not be paid from any source to play for the club to which he is transferring. Note that old versions of the transfer form will not be processed.
- A report on player transfers will be produced monthly and scrutinised by the WRU as a means of uncovering unusual traffic to a particular club which may then trigger further investigation of that club.

2. Following a reported allegation, or as a result of the procedures above, the process will operate as follows:

- Information will be compiled in relation to the club in respect of which a report has been received.
- Rugby Grant funding will cease immediately; in the first instance the funding would be suspended.
- A report will be prepared and sent to the Payment to Players Panel, with the case being presented to the Regulatory Committee of the WRU.
- The Regulatory Committee will consider the case and, if found to be true, determine whether any further sanction should be applied against the offending club (over and above the permanent withdrawal of a Rugby Grant). The club will have the opportunity to appear before the Regulatory Committee should it choose to do so.
- Where the allegation proves to be incorrect funding will be reinstated.
- The club will have the opportunity to appeal to an Appeal Panel appointed by the WRU Board.

The burden of proof will lie with the club that has been reported. Therefore should the WRU receive what it deems to be a valid allegation that a club’s players ARE being paid to play, the onus will be on that club to prove that they are not.

Sanctions against the offending club may (in no particular order) include, but shall not be limited to:

- Immediate suspension of full membership rights e.g. all funding, tickets etc. Any rugby grants withheld will be redistributed to clubs in an appropriate way.
- Relegation to the bottom division at the end of the relevant season
- Removal of WRU membership

In addition, any club seeking any financial support from the WRU will have their application deferred should they be a club that is being investigated in relation to allowing players to be paid



**WRU PAYMENTS TO PLAYERS POLICY
Statement of Truth and Declaration of Compliance**

By this document, which we, (Chairman), (Secretary) (Senior Team Head Coach) and (Treasurer) have signed (being authorised to do so) on behalf of RFC (the "Club"), we hereby confirm that we understand that in order to be eligible to receive the Club's full Rugby core funding from the Welsh Rugby Union in respect of the 2016 – 2017 season, the Club must:

- (a) Fulfil all of its 1st team National League fixtures;
- (b) Make full use of the MyWRU website for all player registrations, transfers and permits, as well as produce a "Club Plan" (to be incorporated into the Club Audit section on MyWRU) for on and off field activity; such Club Plans must be completed annually, as part of the audit submissions, the deadline being 31 May (and regularly updated thereafter).
- (c) We also warrant, represent and undertake on behalf of the Club that we will ensure that the Club will not pay or permit players to be paid (either directly or indirectly such as via a sponsor or a third party connected to the Club) for playing for the Club. It is understood that this requirement shall not apply to Welsh Rugby Union member clubs that have elected to make payments to players and in doing so have foregone their ability to receive a Rugby Core Grant. In addition it is understood that this requirement shall not apply to Welsh Rugby Union member clubs that have been awarded an 'A licence' by the Welsh Rugby Union. Whilst we are permitted to pay coaches for providing coaching services only to the Club, we understand that the Club may not pay more than two properly qualified coaches who also play for the Club in a season and that any such player-coach may not, in accordance with the above, receive any payment for playing for the Club. Any properly qualified coach, who also plays for the Club that receives any payment for coaching will be notified to the WRU in writing by 31st August 2016.

We understand that the above requirements must be met and verified by the relevant deadlines in order to receive the Club's full Rugby Funding for the 2016 – 2017 season from the Welsh Rugby Union and that if the Club fails to comply with such requirements and/or is found to have made a false declaration to the Welsh Rugby Union, it may be sanctioned by the Welsh Rugby Union Regulatory Committee.

Signed this day of2016, on behalf of the Club

By By
 (full name)
Senior Team Head Coach..... (full name)
Chairman

By
 (full name)
Secretary

By
 (full name)
Treasurer



Appendix 2

PLAYER REGISTRATION REQUEST

Register a Player

*Please be advised: You are unable to register players from other Unions via this system.
If you wish to register players from outside of Wales you need to contact Alan Thomas directly on
02920 822 407*

Please complete the following player registration form.

Once we have received your request, and can confirm that the player is not registered to another club, we will send notification to your myMail inbox.

Team to be Registered For	
Team:	<input type="text"/>
Personal Details	
Title:	<input type="text" value="Mr"/>
First name:	<input type="text"/>
Last name:	<input type="text"/>
Other names:	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>
Gender:	<input type="text" value="MALE"/>
Nationality:	<input type="text" value="-- select --"/>
Player Position:	<input type="text" value="-- select --"/>
Contact Information	
Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text"/>
Town	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="United Kingdom"/>
Home Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Mobile Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Work Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>



Appendix 3

PLAYER TRANSFER REQUEST

Transfer a Player

Locate the player you want to transfer in

Search for Player's Club

Search Club:

Search Results

No clubs found

Select Player to Transfer

Please select from the list below, which player you wish to transfer to your club:

Player	WRU #	DOB	Options
			request transfer



Initiate Player Transfer

Transferring **from**

*Please be advised: You are unable to transfer players from other Unions via this system.
If you wish to transfer players from outside of Wales you need to contact Alan Thomas directly on
02920 822 407*

Which one of your club teams will this player be transferring to?

Your Club Team:

Select team:

Player

Player Email:

transfer



PLAYER LOAN REQUEST

Appendix 4



Player Loan / Player Permit / Dual Registration * delete as appropriate

This form is to be completed and posted or faxed on 029 20822474 to the Rugby Operations Section of the WRU where a player is loaned or granted a permit to play for another Member Club or is to be dual registered. In exceptional circumstances a permit may be lodged, initially, by leaving a voicemail message on 02920 822407 or 02920 822404 (The written permit to be forwarded to the Union as soon as possible thereafter).

Please print and complete details in relevant section

Section A. Player Loan (minimum period 1 month – maximum period up to the end of the current playing season)

We RFC
have agreed to **loan**

..... (the player) to RFC

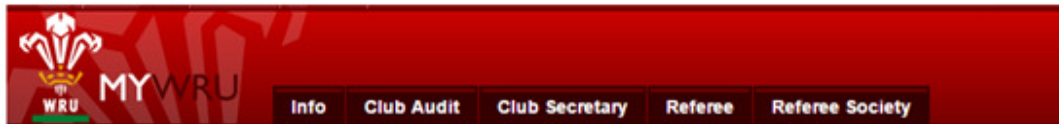
with effect from 201_ until201_

Signed Hon Secretary RFC

Player's signature



PLAYER PERMIT REQUEST



Grant a Player

This function is to allow you to grant a permit for up and coming weekend matches to another rugby club.

WRU ID	Forename	Surname	DOB	
				Grant Permit

Grant Permit for

- Select Club >
- Select Team >
- Select Fixture >
- Confirm Details >

Select Club

Please select the Club the player is being granted to play for:

-- Select Club --

Note: Clubs that are in the Premiership can only grant permits to other clubs that are currently in the Premiership, Championship or any Division 1 League.

Clubs that contradict the Premiership permit will display "club not eligible" and cannot be selected.

All other clubs can grant a permit to any other club regardless of division.

[Back](#) [Next](#)



Grant Permit for

- Select Club >
- Select Team >
- Select Fixture >
- Confirm Details >**

Confirm Details

You have selected to grant:

Player:
Playing For:
On Fixture:

Please check the details above are correct and click 'Submit' to grant the player.

Seek a Player

This function is to allow you to seek a player to play in coming weekends fixture.

Select Club:

Select Team:



Seek Permit for

Select Team >

Select Fixture >

Confirm Details >

Select Fixture

Finally, select the fixture the player is being seeked to play for:

-- Select Fixture --

Please select a fixture

Back Next



Appendix 6

DUAL REGISTRATION REQUEST

Dual Contract a Player

Initiate Dual Contract for

Select Club for Dual Contract

Select League:

Select Division:

Select Team:

next »

Dual Contract

Initiating Dual Contract

Registering with

Player Email Address:

confirm »



WORLD RUGBY (Appendix 7)
APPLICATION FOR CLEARANCE TO PLAY IN ANOTHER UNION

CURRENT UNION: _____

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Name of current club or other rugby organisation: _____

In which country do you propose playing Rugby? _____

Name of Proposed Club: _____

Proposed date of Departure from Current Union: _____

Anticipated date of return to Current Union: _____

Are you currently under contract with a Club, Union or Rugby Body for the provision of Material Benefit for your participation in the Game? If so, please state when this will come to an end and supply a copy of the contract. _____

In the preceding 12 months the Player has obtained the following period of rest:

_____ weeks and _____ days – rest from any Match(es) and/or team training.

_____ weeks and _____ days – rest from any Match participation (excluding periods of injury)

Date & opponents of Last match played: _____

PLAYER DECLARATION

I, _____
 (Applicant's full name – Forenames first)

of: _____

declare that the above information is correct and I understand that on leaving my Union I will be required to submit a similar application before I can be permitted to play in another union.

Applicant's signature _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF CLUB

The applicant is in good standing with this Club and has no financial debt to this Club.

Authorisation Signature of Club Official _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Print Name _____ Position _____

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF UNION

The applicant is in good standing with his Club and his Union. He is in no financial debt to his Club or this Union. He is under no playing suspension order within the jurisdiction of his Union. At the time of this approval, the player is/ is not (delete as appropriate) under contract for Material Benefit for his participation in the Game.

Union Signature: _____

Union Stamp:
 (& Date)

If this declaration is signed by an official of a Union other than the Secretary of the National Union, it must be sent for approval by the Secretary of the National Union. Original: To be retained by Current Union Copy: One to the person concerned and another to be sent to the Secretary of the proposed new Union.