

## ICC MEMO

# PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REGULATIONS – STAND OUT PERIODS – OFFICIAL SUBSTITUTES

To	All Members
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### Introduction

The ICC has recently become aware of instances of inadvertent breaches of Section 3C of the ICC Player Eligibility Regulations (the “Regulations”), namely the provisions relating to stand out periods and the application of these provisions to official substitutes.

Upon review, the ICC has determined that these potential breaches appear to have been committed inadvertently and without any intent to either evade the provisions of the Regulations or to obtain any unfair sporting advantage, and fairness therefore requires that no punitive actions are taken. However, **the ICC wishes to take this opportunity to draw Members’ attention to the specific requirements of the Regulations and to advise them that the ICC intends to strictly enforce the terms of the Regulations moving forward. Members are therefore urged to ensure that they, and the players within their jurisdictions who are selected (whether as a player or official substitute), understand their obligations under the Regulations and the consequences of such selection.**

### Stand out periods under the ICC Player Eligibility Regulations

The Regulations (and section 3C in particular) set out the stand out periods that must be adhered to by a player seeking to represent a second (or to return to his/her original) National Cricket Federation. The full text of Section 3C is attached as Appendix A to this Memo and the entire set of Regulations can be found at the following link:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/about/cricket/rules-and-regulations/playing-conditions>

At this point in time, the current stand out periods are as follows:

- A male player seeking to move between Full Members must not have participated in an International Match for any other Full Member in the immediately preceding four (4) years;
- A male player seeking to play for an Associate Member must not have participated in an International for any other Member in the immediately preceding four (4) years, unless he is returning to play for the Associate Member he first qualified to play for, in which case the stand out period is two (2) years;
- A female player seeking to move to another National Cricket Federation (regardless of its membership status) must not have participated in an International Match for any other Member in the immediately preceding two (2) years; and
- There is no stand out period for a male player seeking to move from an Associate Member to a Full Member.

International Matches are defined in the Regulations to include Test, ODI and T20 matches, but not ‘A’ teams, ‘invitational’ teams or similar.

Please note in particular that Article 3.3 of the Regulations explicitly provides that a player will be considered to have participated in an International Match for the purposes of the calculation of the applicable stand out period if he/she was **“a member of a starting XI or [as] a playing or non-playing official substitute”**. Whether or not a player named as an official substitute actually plays during the match is irrelevant.

### Advice to Members

In light of the above provisions, Members are therefore reminded of the following:

1. The stand out periods set out in Article 3.3 of the Regulations apply to the full squad – i.e. the playing XI **and** any official substitute (whether the substitute actually takes the field or not at any point during the match).
2. Consequently, as soon as a player is named in a squad, including as an official substitute for a team, then, regardless of whether he/she actually takes to the field during the match, he/she will be deemed to have participated in that match and will not be able to play for another country unless and until he/she satisfies the applicable stand out period set out in Article 3.3.

## APPENDIX A

**3.3** Nothing in Articles 3.1 or 3.2 shall operate to prohibit a Player from representing more than one National Cricket Federation during his/her playing career. However, where a Player has represented a National Cricket Federation (at Under-19 level or above) and subsequently seeks to play for a different National Cricket Federation, the following additional requirements shall apply:

**3.3.1** a male Player will only qualify to play in an International Match or ICC Event for a Full Member National Cricket Federation if he has not participated (as a member of a starting XI or as a playing or non-playing official substitute) in an International Match (at Under-19 level or above) for any other Full Member National Cricket Federation during the four years immediately preceding the date of the relevant International Match or ICC Event;

**COMMENT:** For the purposes of these Regulations, the following matches shall not constitute an 'International Match':

- any Under-19 national team (or similarly branded U19 XI) match which has been bi-laterally arranged between National Cricket Federations and/or their members, clubs etc;
- any national "A" team, "B" team, 'Academy XI', 'Development XI', 'Chairman's XI' or other similarly branded non-first XI match which has been bi-laterally arranged between National Cricket Federations and/or their members, clubs etc,
- any short-form format of the game other than Twenty20 International Matches, for example, six-a-side cricket, and beach cricket.

so that: (i) no time restriction under Article 3.3.1 shall be applied to any male Player that has only ever represented a Full Member National Cricket Federation in any of the matches described herein before he is eligible to qualify to play for another Full Member National Cricket Federation; and (ii) where a male Player has previously played for a Full Member National Cricket Federation in an International Match, he/she shall only be eligible to qualify to play for another Full Member National Cricket Federation after the full four year period following the

**3.3.2** a male Player will only qualify to participate in an International Match or ICC Event for an Associate or Affiliate National Cricket Federation if he has not participated (as a member of a starting XI or as a playing or non-playing official substitute) in an International Match (at Under-19 level or above) for any other National Cricket Federation (irrespective of its ICC member status) during the four years immediately preceding the date of the relevant International Match or ICC Event, save that in the event that the male player is seeking to return and play for the Associate or Affiliate Member that he originally played for prior to qualifying to play for a Full Member the four year stand out period referred to in this Article 3.3.2 shall be reduced to two years; and

**3.3.3** For the avoidance of doubt, the restrictions set out in Articles 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 shall not apply to any male Player who is seeking to qualify to play in an International Match or ICC Event for a Full Member National Cricket Federation in circumstances where such Player has previously played in an International Match or ICC Event for an Associate or Affiliate Member National Cricket Federation.

**3.3.4** a female Player will only qualify to participate in an International Match or ICC Event for any National Cricket Federation (irrespective of its ICC member status) if she has not participated (as a member of a starting XI or as a playing or non-playing official substitute) in an International Match (at Under-19 level or above) for any other National Cricket Federation (irrespective of its ICC member status) during the two years immediately preceding the date of the relevant International Match or ICC Event.

- 3.5** *No Player shall be entitled to seek to qualify for a different National Cricket Federation on more than one occasion, unless the second qualification sought by the Player is to represent the same National Cricket Federation for whom he/she previously played prior to re-qualification.*

**NOTE:** *This Article therefore prohibits a Player from qualifying to play for country "Z" after he/she has previously played for countries "X" and "Y", but permits a Player re-qualifying to play for country "X" after representing country "Y" in circumstances where country "X" was the original country for whom he/she was originally qualified to represent.*