

ANNEX B: MATCH SANCTIONING PROTOCOL

DEFINITIONS

“Bilateral”	means a transnational representative Match that is not part of a Competition.
“Exchange(s)”	means all transnational representative Matches, including those that are part of a Competition or a multi-game tour.
“LOC”	means the local organising committee of a Competition.
“Match Sanctioning Protocol” (“MSP”)	means the process adopted by the IRL, and as amended from time to time, setting out the relevant procedures for sanctioning a Match
“Online form MS1” (“MS1”)	means the online application form found on the IRL Member portal used to apply for transnational representative Match sanctioning or for a Competition to enter data of relevant Matches.
“Online form MS2” (“MS2”)	means the online application form found on the IRL Member portal used to enter data surrounding professional Player participation in a Match.
“Online form MS3” (“MS3”) (“Match Details Form”)	means the form found on the IRL Member portal used to enter data before, during and after a sanctioned Match.

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. WHY SHOULD TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGES BE SANCTIONED?

All Exchanges, not just those involving national teams, must be sanctioned. There are several reasons for this:

- (a) IRL Members must endorse Exchanges by their own members to ensure domestic competition integrity is unaffected.
- (b) Insurance claims may be affected if Exchanges are considered unofficial.
- (c) Only sanctioned Matches will receive world rankings points (if a match is intended to be between senior national teams).
- (d) Terms outlining the Exchange are recorded, to facilitate planning and mitigate against disputes.
- (e) If a need for mediation arises as a result of a dispute, Members will have less grounds to appeal for support to the appropriate confederation or IRL if an Exchange is unsanctioned.





2. HOW ARE MATCHES SANCTIONED?

- (i) Once Members have bilaterally agreed the terms of the Exchange(s), they are responsible for completing the online Match Sanction Protocol by following the steps in Part 2 and completing form MS1 and, if at least one Professionally Contracted Player is involved, MS2. Both these forms are available on the IRL Member portal.
- (ii) All Exchanges require sanction by the confederation of the designated home team.
- (iii) Once all IRL Members directly involved in the Exchange (including any relevant third party IRL Member(s), such as a host or hosts) and the relevant international governing body have counter-signed the MSP the match is considered sanctioned and archived.
- (iv) If you need further information on tour planning, please refer to the tour planning framework.

3. WHAT CONSTITUTES AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL MATCH?

For a Match played between national teams and intended to be considered an International Match, the following criteria apply:

- (a) The fixture has been sanctioned in line with the Match Sanctioning Protocol.
- (b) It adheres to the international Laws of the Game.
- (c) It is controlled by a squad of suitably qualified Match Officials registered with the IRL or a confederation.





PART 2: SANCTIONING YOUR EXCHANGE

Online form MS1 – To be completed for every trans-national Exchange

SECTION 1 – APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Who is the applicant?	Any IRL Member organisation involved in an Exchange can submit the application, although all parties involved must authorise the Exchange (see section 11 - Confirmation). In the case of official Competitions, the LOC is responsible for completing the MSP.
Exceptional circumstances	It is recommended that all Exchanges are sanctioned at least three months in advance. If, however, an application is submitted within three months of the scheduled Exchange date the circumstances should be detailed, along with a justification to sanction the Exchange.

Comment on section 1: Competitions do not need to complete sections 3-5 and 7-9. This is because they are administered by their own Competition Rules that contain provisions regulating these areas.

SECTION 2 – EXCHANGE INFORMATION	
Category of Exchange	If the Exchange is not part of an official Competition recognised by the IRL it is a Bilateral.
Category of teams	Some Exchanges involve multiple teams. Please select the categories of all the teams that are involved in the Exchange here. Categories are Men, Wheelchair, Women, Youth – Female, Youth – Male . This information may result in further requisite action, such as safeguarding plans in the case of Exchanges involving young and / or vulnerable people.
Strategic importance	Agree and list up to three reasons justifying the match in the participating organisations' strategic contexts.
Logistics framework	This is not a compulsory part of the MSP but is included as an aid to applicants. (Competitions may require a logistics plan. Please refer to the relevant Competition Rules.)

SECTION 3 – HOST INFORMATION	
Exchange	The designated host contact for all matters relating to the logistics and operations of the Exchange, once it has been sanctioned.
Professionally Contracted Players	If the Host intends fielding one or more Professionally Contracted Player the Exchange Manager will automatically be sent a link to complete MS2.
Additional Hosts	Sometimes a tour may involve a visit to more than one Member or third party. If an exchange involves multiple destinations, all host details should be included. You can use this function as many times as necessary.





SECTION 4 – TRAVELLING PARTY INFORMATION	
Exchange Manager	As per section 3
Squad sizes	Record the total agreed player and staff numbers. If there are multiple teams travelling in one party, please illustrate how the total number is divided between the various teams.
Exchange dates	Please enter the date the visiting party arrives in the host country or countries and the date it leaves. In the event the Exchange involves multiple host countries, please specify the dates the party is in each country.
Professionally Contracted Players	As per section 3
Additional Travelling Parties	Sometimes multiple parties may visit a host or hosts. If your Exchange involves multiple organisations, all Travelling Party details should be included. You can use this function as many times as necessary.

SECTION 5 – THIRD PARTY ENDORSEMENT	
This section to be completed if the Exchange is occurring in a third country or countries that are not participating in Matches.	
IRL Member 3 rd party sign off	If the host of the Exchange is an IRL Member, have all authorisations and related terms been agreed? They should be detailed here, with the 3 rd party required to authorise the exchange (see section 11).
Authorising officer	Must be an office holder of the third party IRL Member: either a Board Member or a senior executive.
Non-IRL Member 3 rd party host	If the Exchange is occurring in a country outside IRL jurisdiction, please detail the arrangements that have been made, such as venue/promoter contract(s), mandatory governmental authorisation (if applicable), insurance (such as cancellation insurance) etc.
Additional 3 rd parties	If your Exchange involves more than one 3 rd party destination, please provide details of every 3 rd party country involved. You can use this function as many times as necessary.

SECTION 6 – MATCH INFORMATION	
Team names	The precise official names of the teams for the match should be used, including age group if applicable. If it is a national team (of any category) just use the country name.
Team category	The correct category should be selected for a unique Match.
Kick off time	Mandatory provision of 19-player squad will be 48-hours before KO.
Head Coach	The sanctioning body (IRL or a confederation) will determine whether the coaching accreditation is appropriate for the level of





	each match. All national team head coaches must hold at least the IRL L1 Coach accreditation or national equivalent. For matches involving Professionally Contracted Players please refer to Form MS2.
Multiple matches	If there are multiple matches, click the + to add new matches.

SECTION 7 – MATCH OFFICIALS	
MO selection	Explain how the MOs will be selected. Matches that are for world rankings points are required to have MO squads (minimum referee and two TJs) sanctioned by the IRL MO Manager.
Exceptional circumstances	Sanctioning applications citing exceptional circumstances (see section 1) cannot be guaranteed IRL MO support.
Fees	Applicants should state who bears the responsibility for paying the fees.

SECTION 8 – FINANCE	
Is there a reciprocal Exchange agreement?	Members agreeing to subsequent corresponding fixtures should note there may be consequences, such as disciplinary action, for failing to fulfil their obligations.
Financial obligations	Please describe, as fully as possible, the financial agreements between the exchange applicants and how the Exchange is being funded.
Transport costs	Please specify the obligations for each party to transnational and local transport.
Subsistence costs	Please specify the obligations for each party to accommodation and sustenance.
Venue costs	Please specify the obligations for each party to training and match venue(s).
Business arrangement	Please specify whether the applicants have agreed any profit or gate sharing or other commercial arrangement.
Match Levy	Which organisation(s) is responsible for compliance with the Match Levy procedure (see Rule 8)? If there are multiple matches in the Exchange, please specify the responsible party for each match.

SECTION 9 – INSURANCE & PLAYER WELFARE MINIMUM STANDARDS	
Is public liability insurance in place?	All training and match venues must have adequate public liability insurance in place. Cover should be proportionate to the scale of match and venue in use.
Is every member of the party covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Personal accident (catastrophic injury) cover is in place, insuring against accidental death, permanent disability, loss of an eye or limb





in line with the guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel insurance is in place, covering medical care while engaged with the team and repatriation. A travel insurance policy may not be necessary if applicant nations have a reciprocal medical arrangement at government level
Player welfare	<p>The IRL Safeguarding Policy is available on the IRL website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the exchange involves young or vulnerable players, have you shared safeguarding information with all parties, including the relevant NF safeguarding policies? Have emergency contact details for child protection agencies in the host nation(s) been circulated? Have players and staff been asked to sign a code of conduct defining acceptable behaviour?
Do all matches in the exchange comply with the IRL's minimum medical standards?	<p>The minimum medical standards can be found in Annex L. Non-compliance with the minimum medical standards risks postponement or suspension of a Match.</p>

SECTION 10 – MATCH OPERATIONS AND REPORTING PROTOCOL

Name of officers responsible for MORP	<p>The MORP includes essential information relating to pre- and post-match functions.</p> <p>Failure to comply with MORP provisions may result in a sanction.</p>
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SECTION 11 – CONFIRMATION

Next steps	<p>All individuals whose email addresses have been added to the application will receive an automatically generated email asking them to confirm the details included in the MS1.</p>
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Online form MS2 – To be completed by all parties intending to field Professionally Contracted Players

SECTION 1 – INSURANCE

<p>Insurance: please confirm that all professional players within the squad have been covered in line with the guidelines</p>	<p>For travel, 3rd party liability and non-playing squad member insurance please refer to section 9 of MS1. This section deals with personal accident and loss of earnings insurance for Professionally Contracted Players only.</p> <p><u>Personal accident insurance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover provides benefit if a player suffers an accidental injury and is unable to attend to their usual occupation as a professional rugby league player Cover is 24-hours commencing and expiring on the dates set out in section 1 or when the insured player is with the team and
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	<p>includes all training, playing and attending any function while on duty with the team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policy beneficiary is the policyholder. Clubs are typically contractually obligated to continue paying players unavailable due to injuries sustained in international rugby league. If the policyholder is a Nation, it will typically pass on the benefits to the club ▪ <u>Nations are advised to check whether Professionally Contracted Players are covered by existing policies before purchasing new policies</u> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 604 1369 1131"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="475 604 837 683"><u>Insured event</u></th> <th data-bbox="837 604 1369 683"><u>Amount of compensation payable (GBP/AUD)</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 683 837 716">Accidental death</td> <td data-bbox="837 683 1369 716">£275,000/\$495,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 716 837 1131">Permanent total disablement</td> <td data-bbox="837 716 1369 1131"> Hemiplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Triplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Quadriplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Paraplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Total loss of sight, both eyes £550,000/\$990,000 Total loss of use of one eye £275,000/\$495,000 Total loss of use of limb £550,000/\$990,000 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="475 1176 837 1209"><u>Loss of earnings insurance</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 1243 1369 1881"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="475 1243 837 1276"><u>Category</u></th> <th data-bbox="837 1243 1369 1276"><u>Amount of compensation payable</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="475 1276 837 1881">Contracted players at all professional levels</td> <td data-bbox="837 1276 1369 1881"> (a) NRL/NRLW contracted players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NRL: 1/24 annual contract value per game missed ▪ NRLW: 1/4 annual contract value per game missed (b) Other contracted players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pro rata of contract value based on “weeks missed” Includes UK Super League and lower tier competitions in Australia and England. Coverage applicable for a maximum 52-week benefit period (from the date of injury) and is payable only during the current or subsequent season of the relevant match </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Insured event</u>	<u>Amount of compensation payable (GBP/AUD)</u>	Accidental death	£275,000/\$495,000	Permanent total disablement	Hemiplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Triplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Quadriplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Paraplegia £550,000/\$990,000 Total loss of sight, both eyes £550,000/\$990,000 Total loss of use of one eye £275,000/\$495,000 Total loss of use of limb £550,000/\$990,000	<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount of compensation payable</u>	Contracted players at all professional levels	(a) NRL/NRLW contracted players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NRL: 1/24 annual contract value per game missed ▪ NRLW: 1/4 annual contract value per game missed (b) Other contracted players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pro rata of contract value based on “weeks missed” Includes UK Super League and lower tier competitions in Australia and England. Coverage applicable for a maximum 52-week benefit period (from the date of injury) and is payable only during the current or subsequent season of the relevant match
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SECTION 2 – PLAYER WELFARE MINIMUM STANDARDS	
<p>Player welfare: have the following areas been provided for?</p>	<p><u>Nutrition</u> A nutritional plan should be made available upon a club's request. This should include post-match nutritional provisions.</p> <p><u>Counselling</u> Multi-faith pastoral care and other personal counselling services, including gender considerations, can be provided in a confidential setting, if required.</p> <p><u>Facilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Match and training pitches are safe and of an adequate standard, with level and even surfaces; covered and seated technical areas with 13-person capacity (for matches) available for each team and a suitable covered area for off-pitch Match Officials ▪ For an extended team stay, a high performance gym is available with the necessary capacity to accommodate a 19-player squad ▪ For an extended team stay, a swimming pool is accessible, either at accommodation or in close proximity <p><u>Recovery</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ideally, post-match ice water recovery facilities and hotel access to ice water recovery ▪ Massage area
SECTION 3 – TRAINING LOADS	
<p>Training loads: a training plan has been devised and will be made available upon request</p>	<p>Squad training plan should be made available upon a club's request. The applicant should use best endeavours to ascertain any specific training requirements for individual players by consulting with relevant clubs.</p>
SECTION 4 – TECHNICAL STAFF EXPERIENCE	
<p>Staff experience: please detail technical staff experience</p>	<p>Technical staff should have appropriate accreditation commensurate with the level of players present in the squad</p>
SECTION 5 – MEDICAL	
<p>Medical: team provisions are in line with the guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clubs will be asked to complete the Pre-Match Medical Form (Annex N) for each Player ▪ All teams must supply a fully qualified and registered team doctor and team physiotherapist to travel with the team and who MUST be present on match day, training and available every day the squad is in camp ▪ Each team doctor must possess specific professional competencies and must hold: (a) current medical registration to practice; (b) advanced life support and sport trauma qualifications; and (c) current appropriate medical indemnity





	<p>insurance for professional sport in the territory the exchange takes place in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each team physiotherapist must demonstrate professional competencies and hold: (a) Current registration with the relevant health professions council in the home country; (b) a degree in physiotherapy; and (c) current appropriate medical indemnity insurance for professional sport in the territory the exchange takes place in ▪ Applicants agree their medical staff's qualifications must be provided upon request of the IRL ▪ Mandatory Medical Equipment is available (see Annex L)
SECTION 6 – HOTEL	
Hotel	<p>Enter the website address of the hotel here.</p> <p>The organisation responsible for selecting the hotel must ensure that basic amenities and functions in line with those claimed by the hotel are available during the residing party's stay.</p>

