



## 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR RUGBY EUROPE U20 EVENTS

A Player is eligible to participate in the Tournament if he/she fulfils the following requirements:

- a) World Rugby Regulation 8 as specified in Section 1.1; and
- b) Age window as specified in Section 1.2;
- c) Completion of the dispensation documents as specified in Section 3. (when applicable)

It is the responsibility of each Participating Union to ensure its Players satisfy such eligibility criteria.

### 1.1 Regulation 8

In order to participate in the Tournament, Players must be eligible to play for the Union of the country with which the Player has a genuine, close, credible and established national link in accordance with WR Regulation 8.1. Unions and Players should note the requirement for each Player to satisfy one or more of the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation 8.1 notwithstanding the fact that from January 1, 2018, Unions may no longer nominate their U20s team as the Union's next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team. The full Regulation and Guidelines may be found on the World Rugby website

<https://www.world.rugby/organisation/governance/regulations/reg-8>

### 1.2 Age Window

Following the provisions adopted by World Rugby Council on age grade requirements on November 30th, 2018, Rugby Europe has decided to adopt the same age grade requirements policy, in order to enforce a consistent regulatory framework.

The main change is that the date of birth becomes the reference to be eligible and no more the calendar year.

It is the responsibility of each Participating Union to ensure its Players comply with the World Rugby Age Policy as agreed by Council on November 14, 2018, for implementation from 01 January 2019.

Please refer to the table below for the mandatory requirements for the players that will compete in the 2025 U20 Rugby Europe activities:



Case	FRONT ROW	
A	Dispensation NOT REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2005 and Day and Month of the Event /2006
B	Dispensation REQUIRED to play	DOB between Day and Month of the Event/2006 and Day and Month of the Event /2007
C	Not able to play	DOB after Day and Month of the Event /2007
	OTHER POSITIONS (Non-front row playing positions)	
D	Dispensation NOT REQUIRED to play:	DOB between 01/01/2005 and Day and Month of the Event /2007
E	Dispensation REQUIRED to play	DOB between Day and Month of the Event/2007 and Day and Month of the Event /2008
F	Not able to play	DOB after Day and Month of the Event/2008

*DOB refers to Date of Birth*

**In example, if there is an event on 01/06/2025:**

1. A front row player born on 01/07/2006. He is eligible to play with a dispensation (CASE B).
2. Another front row born on 01/05/2006, He is eligible to play without dispensation (CASE A)
3. A back is born on 2/06/2008. He is NOT eligible (CASE F)



## 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR RUGBY EUROPE U18 EVENTS

A Player is eligible to participate in the Tournament if he/she fulfils the following requirements:

- a) Rugby Europe Regulation as specified in Section 2.1;
- and
- b) Age window as specified in Section 2.2;
  - c) Completion of the dispensation documents as specified in Section 3. (when applicable)

It is the responsibility of each Participating Union to ensure its Players satisfy such eligibility criteria.

### 2.1 Rugby Europe Eligibility Regulation for U18 category

For U18 Competitions only, Rugby Europe, in agreement with World Rugby, **has decided to apply only one year (12 months) of consecutive residency or one (1) full season registered exclusively with a Union or Rugby Body in the country prior to the Tournament start date**, and not five years, as valid for any Senior tournament (including U20 tournaments). All other provisions remain identical to World Rugby Regulation 8.

It is important to underline, that, according to the Regulation:

- **An U18 player will NOT be CAPTURED by the Union they represent at the Tournament by participating in the Tournament(s).**

A player can only be captured at Senior level through their inclusion on a team sheet of an official match involving the first Senior National or the nominated Next Senior National Representative Team of a Union.

### 2.2 Age Window

Rugby Europe uses a reference document, the World Rugby Guidelines on Age Differential Playing that uses the calendar year to determine the eligible age window, attached to this communication.

Based on these guidelines, please Refer to the table below for the mandatory requirements for the players that will compete in the 2025 U18 Events.

FRONT ROW	
Dispensation NOT REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2007 and 31/12/2007
Dispensation REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2008
Not able to play	DOB on 01/01/2009 and after



OTHER POSITIONS (Non-front row playing positions in XV's, all positions for Rugby Sevens)	
Dispensation NOT REQUIRED to play:	DOB between 01/01/2007 and 31/12/2008
Dispensation REQUIRED to play	DOB between 01/01/2009 and 31/12/2009
Not able to play	DOB on 01/01/2010 and after

*DOB refers to Date of Birth*



### 3. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN A DISPENSATION FOR A U18 PLAYER

Under 18 Players should not play Elite Adult Rugby unless the following are obtained:

- (a) **Written agreement from the Under 18 player** in writing to play Elite Adult Rugby and acceptance of any associated risk with playing with adults and acceptance of any associated risk with playing adults who may be stronger and more physically developed than him/her.
- (b) **Parental or legal guardian's consent** in writing.
- (c) **Written confirmation from a medical practitioner** with an understanding of the demands of Elite Rugby to whom the player is known that the player is in a physical condition to play Elite Adult Rugby and that this view is supported by a musculo-skeletal evaluation and /or other appropriate assessments.
- (d) **Written agreement from a medical officer** with an understanding of the demands of Elite Rugby employed or retained by the player's home Union that the player is in a physical condition to play Elite Adult Rugby and that this view is supported by a musculo-skeletal evaluation and/or other appropriate assessments.
- (e) **Written confirmation from a coach** with an appropriate understanding of the physical attributes required of and the risks to players in Elite Adult Rugby and to whom the player is known that the player has the requisite skills and experience to play Elite Adult Rugby.
- (f) Such other consents agreements or confirmations (if any) as may be required by the player's home Union or to comply with the local jurisdiction.

The Players home Union must keep a full and permanent record of the process undertaken and the consents, confirmations and agreements sought and obtained in relation to each Under 18 player who plays Elite Adult Rugby.

If required by World Rugby or the organizer of the competition in which the player in question will participate, the home Union will provide certification or evidence of the process that has been undertaken and the consents, agreements and confirmations obtained.

**TEMPLATES OF THE REQUESTED DISPENSATION FORMS ARE ATTACHED IN ANNEX OF THIS DOCUMENT**

#### Definitions:

Adult Rugby means Rugby played by teams comprising players normally of 18 years of age and older. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes games played at the under 20 and under 19 levels.

Community/Participant Rugby means Rugby other than Elite Rugby:

Elite Rugby means Rugby played between representative teams of Unions, cross board rugby played between the senior clubs, provinces, states and other sub-unions or associations of unions and such other rugby within its territory as a union may decide is Elite Rugby. Elite Adult Rugby is rugby played by teams comprising players normally of 18 years of age and older.