

World Rugby MEMBERSHIP PATHWAY

Stage	Detail
Stage 1	<p>Regional Member Associate Membership</p> <p>1.1 Apply to become an Associate Member of Regional Association</p> <p>1.2 Unions meeting RRDU Criteria become AM of Regional Associations</p> <p>1.3 Affiliated to World Rugby for purposes of NOC recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Rugby must be notified of such applications at least six months in advance of consideration by the Regional Association and afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the application.</i>
Stage 2	<p>Full Member of the Regional Association / Associate Member of World Rugby</p> <p>2.1 After 2 Years (ie: completion of Stage 1) of Associate Membership of a Regional Association a Union may apply to become an Associate Member of World Rugby.</p> <p>2.2 Application for Associate Membership of the World Rugby received.</p> <p>2.3 Report from RSM and Regional Association</p> <p>2.4 Subject to meeting all criteria admitted as a Non-Funded Associate Member (permitted to participate in World Rugby Funded Tournaments but not RWC)</p>
Stage 3	<p>Full Member Of The World Rugby</p> <p>3.1 After 2 Years (24 months) of Associate Membership of the World Rugby a Union may apply to become a Full Member of the World Rugby.</p> <p>3.2 Application for Full Membership of the World Rugby received.</p> <p>3.3 Report from RSM and Regional Association</p> <p>3.4 Subject to meeting all criteria admitted as a full World Rugby Member as approved by the Council.</p>

SECTION A1: CRITERIA FOR World Rugby ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

To be considered for World Rugby Associate Membership a Union must meet all the following criteria:

1.0 Governance

- 1.1 Be the controlling body with its own constitution that has authority to exercise independent control of the Game within its jurisdiction. Provide details of Union Officers and control of all associated entities.
- 1.2 Provide a declaration of opposition to any discrimination on the grounds of race, national or social origin, sex, politics, religion or creed.
- 1.3 Provide a declaration that the Union has child/vulnerable persons welfare and protection policies in accordance with applicable legislation, codes of practice and best practice guidelines relevant to the jurisdictions in which it operates.

2.0 Jurisdiction

- 2.1 Be a member of a Regional Association for two year
- 2.2 Be from a Country which is either a Member State of the United Nations or a Country with a National Olympic Committee recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- 2.3 Be recognised as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.

3.0 Regulation / Laws of the Game

- 3.1 Conform in all regards to World Rugby Bye-Laws, Regulations relating to the Game, General Regulations and the Laws of the Game.
- 3.2 Unions must adopt World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations which are WADA compliant.

4.0 Game

Applicant Unions are required to provide evidence of a Domestic participation programme which have a male and female organised competition

5.0 Associate Members are entitled to:

- 5.1 Participate in competitions on a qualified basis, to be decided by the Regional Association in consultation with the World Rugby (this does not include RWC tournaments).
- 5.2 Attendance at the biennial General Assembly in a non-voting capacity
- 5.3 Receipt of World Rugby Publications
- 5.4 Access to World Rugby Administrative advice / support

6.0 World Rugby Funding

- 6.1 No direct World Rugby Funding will be provided to Associate Members
- 6.2 World Rugby funding to support agreed projects to be considered on case by case basis

7.0 Information Required To Support The Case For Association Membership of The World Rugby

The information to be provided by the Union as evidence to support their application is:

- 7.1 Provide Minutes of last two Annual General Meetings.
- 7.2 Provide documentation confirming recognition of the Union as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.
- 7.3 Provide last two Financial Statements.
- 7.4 Provide details of the number of players (various age group categories) clubs etc. Information
- 7.5 Provide details of the Union strategic plan – copy to be provided.
- 7.6 Provide details of the Union development programme as agreed with the World Rugby RSM – copy to be provided.
- 7.7 Provide details on next senior national representative team, national team jersey, flags, emblem, national anthem
- 7.8 Provide evidence of compliance with World Rugby Bye Laws and World Rugby Regulations
- 7.9 Provide evidence of domestic participation programme for men/women/youth and which must be sustainable on an annual basis.
- 7.10 Provide information to the World Rugby on an annual basis on the union and the game (refer to Development Grants application)
- 7.11 Provide last two annual accounts
- 7.12 Agree to provide any such data on the game as requested e.g. player numbers
- 7.13 Complete annual development grant information on the game and provide details on the game, plans and programmes
- 7.14 Adhere to values of rugby, Anti-doping and other relevant codes

SECTION F1: CRITERIA FOR World Rugby FULL MEMBERSHIP

To be considered for World Rugby Full Membership a Union must pass all the following criteria:

Exceptions can be made to certain criteria if the population of the country of the Union is less than 1.5 million persons.

1.0 Membership

- 1.1 Be a World Rugby Associate Member for two years.
- 1.2 Regional Association Full Member in good standing for 2 years

2.0 Governance

- 2.1 Comply with all conditions of Associate Membership.
- 2.2 Be the controlling body with its own constitution that has authority to exercise independent control of the Game within its jurisdiction. Provide details of Union Officers and control of all associated entities.
- 2.3 Provide a declaration of opposition to any discrimination on the grounds of race, national or social origin, sex, politics, religion or creed.
- 2.4 Provide a declaration that the Union has child/vulnerable persons welfare and protection policies in accordance with applicable legislation, codes of practice and best practice guidelines relevant to the jurisdictions in which it operates.

3.0 Jurisdiction and Recognition

- 3.1 Be a full member of a Regional Association for two years
- 3.2 Be from a Country which is either a Member State of the United Nations or a Country with a National Olympic Committee recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- 3.3 Be recognised as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.

4.0 Regulation / Laws of the Game

- 4.1 Conform in all regards to World Rugby Bye-Laws, Regulations relating to the Game, General Regulations and the Laws of the Game.
- 4.2 Unions must also adopt World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations which are WADA compliant.

5.0 Game

- 5.1 The below schedule outlines the minimum requirements for participation at national representative level in order for a Union to meet the World Rugby Full Membership requirement.

5.2 Applicant Unions are required to provide evidence of a Domestic participation programme which have a male and female organised competition

Table 2

National Teams	Competition	Male	Female	Note
Senior fifteen a-side National Representative Team (XV)	Regional International Competition	Required	Fifteens Women's Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a Senior National Representative Men's team (Fifteen), participating in recognised Regional Competitions (where possible). ▪ Have a sustainable Women's Programme
National Representative Sevens Team (VII)	Regional International Competition	Required	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a National Representative Men's Sevens team participating in recognised Regional Competitions, where possible ▪ Have a National Representative Women's Sevens team participating in recognised Regional Competitions where possible
Age Grade Domestic Programme	Domestic Programme	To be advised as World Rugby Policies and Competitions progress	To be advised as World Rugby Policies and Competitions progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a male/female Age Grade Domestic Programme

6.0 Benefits

Members are entitled to:

- 6.1 Apply for Development Grant Investment - through the completion of the online development grant form. (Note in Year 1 a union will be classified as a Development 3 Union and will be entitled to a maximum grant of £5,000 plus access to World Rugby programmes and technical support)
- 6.2 Participate in competitions (including RWC) on a qualified basis, to be decided by the Regional Association in consultation with the World Rugby
- 6.3 World Rugby funding to support agreed projects to be considered on case by case basis
- 6.4 Attendance at the biennial General Assembly in a voting capacity.
- 6.5 Receipt of World Rugby Publications
- 6.6 Access to World Rugby Administrative advice / support

7.0 Information Required To Support The Case Full Membership of The World Rugby

The information to be provided by the Union as evidence to support their application is:

- 7.1 Provide Minutes of last two Annual General Meetings.
- 7.2 Provide documentation confirming recognition of the Union as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council or Ministry of Sport of the country of the Union.
- 7.3 Provide last two Financial Statements.
- 7.4 Provide details of the number of players (various age group categories) clubs etc. Information
- 7.5 Provide details of the Union strategic plan
- 7.6 Provide details of the Union development programme as agreed with the World Rugby RSM (copy to be provided.
- 7.7 Provide details on national jerseys, next team, flags, emblem
- 7.8 Provide evidence of compliance with World Rugby Bye-Laws and World Rugby Regulations
- 7.9 Provide evidence of domestic participation programme for men/women/youth and which must be sustainable on an annual basis.
- 7.10 Provide information to the World Rugby on an annual basis on the union and the game (refer to Development Grants application)
- 7.11 Provide annual accounts
- 7.12 Agree to provide any such data on the game as requested e.g. player numbers
- 7.13 Complete annual development grant information on the game and provide details on the game, plans and programmes
- 7.14 Adhere to values of rugby, Anti-doping and other relevant codes

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

Table three below is a summary and comparison of the World Rugby criteria required to be met in order to meet World Rugby Associate and Full Membership requirements.

Table 3

	Associate Membership	Full Membership
Membership		
Be a member of a Regional Association for two years.	✓	✓
Be a Regional Association Full Member / World Rugby Associate Member for two years.		✓
Governance		
Be the controlling body with its own constitution that has authority to exercise independent control of the Game within its jurisdiction.	✓	✓
Provide a declaration of opposition to any discrimination on the grounds of race, national or social origin, sex, politics, religion or creed.	✓	✓
Provide a declaration that the Union has child/vulnerable persons welfare and protection policies in accordance with applicable legislation, codes of practice and best practice guidelines relevant to the jurisdictions in which it operates.	✓	✓
Jurisdiction & Recognition		
Be from a Country which is either a Member State of the United Nations or a Country with a National Olympic Committee recognised by the International Olympic Committee.	✓	✓
Be recognised as the national governing body of Rugby by the National Olympic Committee or by the Sports Council.	✓	✓
Regulation / Laws of the Game		
Conform in all regards to World Rugby Bye-Laws, Regulations relating to the Game, General Regulations and the Laws of the Game.	✓	✓
Unions must also adopt World Rugby Anti-Doping Regulations which are WADA compliant.	✓	✓
Game		
Evidence of a Domestic participation programme which have a male and female organised competition	✓	✓
Senior male Fifteen a-side National Representative Team		✓
Sustainable Women's Programme		✓
National Representative Sevens Team (male & female)		✓
Age Grade Domestic Programme (16 years – 20 years)		✓
Confirmation of willingness to participate in qualifying rounds of RWC.		✓

Information Required		
Minutes of last Annual General Meetings	√	√
Last two Financial Statements	√	√
Provide details of the number of players (various age group categories) clubs etc. Information	√	√
Basic development programme in place agreed with the World Rugby RSM	√	
Detailed participation and performance level development programme (male & female) agreed with the World Rugby RSM (copy to be provided).		√
Detailed 4 Year Strategic Plan.		√
Have access to a National Ground that can be used for Rugby		√

A detailed explanation of the above outlined criteria is set out in attached schedules.