

## INTERNATIONAL CLEARANCE REQUIREMENT

### Applicable to Players and Clubs

International clearance is a World Rugby requirement: a player or team is not eligible to play rugby in another country at any level until they have a valid international clearance from their home governing rugby Union. The clearance confirms that the player/team has no outstanding financial or disciplinary issues with their home rugby Union, club, or competitions.

Clubs and players traveling from a foreign country (even for exhibition matches) to the United States should expect to be asked for their letters of approval from their home union. It is up to the visiting club or player to obtain the international clearance from their home national rugby Union.

This applies to all players and teams: male and female, senior and junior, amateur and professional. There are no exceptions. USA Rugby does not have discretion to allow players to play without a clearance. It is the player's responsibility to ensure they have an international clearance before they play.

#### PLAYERS: How to Obtain an International Clearance.

**FROM: United States ([tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby)) TO: Another Country**

Apply at least two weeks before you intend to play rugby in another National Union. All USA Rugby players must complete the Individual Outbound form, return to USA Rugby: [tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby). Link to Form: [INDIVIDUAL OUTBOUND FORM »](#)

**FROM: Another Country TO: United States ([tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby))**

Steps may differ depending on the home National Union, but generally the process is:

1. Player must complete, in full, and sign the appropriate international clearance form used by the National Union the player is coming from. Player may need to request the form from their home club.
2. Player must send this to their overseas club to approve.
3. The overseas club will forward this to its National Rugby Union administrator, who will approve and sign the clearance and forward it to USA Rugby ([tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby)).
4. USA Rugby ([tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby)) will finalize the clearance and inform the club and player when player has been cleared.

#### TEAMS: How to Obtain an International Clearance.

**FROM: United States TO: Another Country**

Complete the Tour Application Form in RX. **Instructions:** <https://help.xplorer.rugby/s/article/Tour-Application-Form>

#### TEAMS: Hosting an International Team/Tour.

**FROM: Another Country TO: Your Club / USA Rugby.**

Make sure you have seen a copy of the tour approval signed by both the visiting Union and USA Rugby. If not confirmed, you are potentially imperiling your players' insurance.

The hosting club is responsible to confirm that USA Rugby has approved the incoming team/tour.

#### Failure to Comply.

Players and/or clubs not in compliance will be subject to sanctioning by the local governing body. Participants (players, coaches, referees) in unapproved events will not be covered by USA Rugby insurance

#### Reasons Why a Clearance May Be Withheld.

Outstanding financial obligations under the player's contract with their previous club or National Union, or a current suspension on disciplinary grounds are reasons the clearance may be declined or withheld.

#### Reasons Why a Clearance May Be Delayed.

Failing to complete the clearance process properly, including not signing the clearance form, or failing to obtain approval from the Provincial Union or National Union.

#### Submit completed forms to: [tours@usa.rugby](mailto:tours@usa.rugby)

ONLY send clearance forms to USA Rugby when all required fields of the form have been completed correctly. If the correct process has not been followed, your clearance will not be processed.