



Selection criteria for Ireland International Masters fixtures

1. Purpose and Spirit

This policy outlines the process, structure, and expectations for the selection of players to represent Rugby League Ireland Masters in international fixtures.

It supports consistency, fairness, transparency, and alignment with the values of Masters Rugby League: **Enjoyment, Respect, Inclusion, Safety and Camaraderie.**

Representative selection reflects the non-competitive spirit of Masters by prioritising player safety, welfare, inclusivity, and shared participation in line with core values. Representative selection supports this environment by ensuring squads are chosen fairly, safely, and transparently.

2. Eligibility

To be considered eligible for Ireland Masters selection, a player must meet all the following criteria:

- a. Be a fully registered Rugby League Ireland Masters player.
- b. Aged 35 or older at the time of selection.
- c. Irish-born, have an Irish-born parent or grandparent or be resident in Ireland.
- d. Minimum of four sanctioned Masters club fixtures in the previous 12 months. In cases where a player is short of four matches for his club, it will be allowable for that player to travel to and play for other Irish clubs to make up the required games.
- e. Must not have represented another country at Masters, with the exception of Great Britain Masters.
- f. Medically fit & physically ready* to play in accordance with RLI welfare requirements.
- g. Conduct consistent with the RLI Code of Conduct (2022).
- h. Must have completed the online 'Spirit of Masters' course & achieved 90% or above on the accompanying quiz, as directed by the Masters Committee.
- i. Must have played Masters Rugby League for a minimum of 6 months at the time.

*Physical readiness means medical fitness to participate and warming up/preparing properly before taking to the field. Safety of all players on the field must be considered in selection.

Refereeing a Masters game or attending while injured counts as a game.

Multiple game festivals count as one game in the context of selection.

Being eligible does **not** guarantee selection.

3. Club Nominations

- a. All Masters clubs may nominate players twice annually for consideration to join the RLI Masters Training and Development Group. This will normally consist of two camps of three sessions per year.
- b. Nominations must be endorsed by the club's Chair/Secretary and Masters Representative.
- c. Self-nomination is not permitted except in exceptional circumstances approved by the Selection Committee.
- d. Club nominations ensure a broad, inclusive training pool that supports development, social participation, and meaningful preparation.
- e. GB-based players with Irish heritage will also be invited to training camps but are subject to the same attendance rules as Irish-based players.

Nominations do not equate to selection for representative fixtures.

4. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- a. Head Coach (Chair).
- b. One nominated representative from each active Masters club.
- c. The Selection Secretary (non-voting).

A committee member **may not vote for themselves** if under consideration.

The role of the committee is to support fair and balanced decision-making aligned with the agreed criteria.

5. Selection Process

- a. The Head Coach proposes a draft squad.
- b. Selectors review the proposal through the lenses of fairness, inclusion, and duty of care.
- c. Consensus is preferred; if required, decisions are made by simple majority.
- d. The Head Coach holds the casting vote in the event of a tie.
- e. All decisions and rationales are recorded by the Secretary.

6. Selection Criteria

Selection decisions will consider the following:

- a. Eligibility as outlined in Section 2.
- b. Coachability and willingness to contribute positively.
- c. Behaviour consistent with Masters values and RLI Code of Conduct.
- d. Respect for welfare guidelines (including colour-coded contact restrictions).

Players must have a minimum of ⅔ attendance at training sessions to be considered for matchday selection. Where circumstances prevent this, they must be communicated to the head coach or manager in advance and, in turn, to the selection committee.

7. Selection Outcomes and Communication

Once decisions are finalised, the Selection Secretary will communicate the squad list to clubs and players.

A brief anonymised summary of decisions will be issued to clubs **within seven days of squad announcement.**

Any questions or concerns regarding selection must be raised **privately** through the Selection Secretary or Head Coach. Group debate or public commentary, including on WhatsApp or social media, is not appropriate.

8. Conduct Expectations

Players selected to represent Ireland are expected to:

- a. Demonstrate respect for teammates, staff, referees, opponents, and hosts.
- b. Uphold the ethos and values of Masters Rugby League.
- c. Participate safely and within their designated playing category.
- d. Contribute positively to communication, team culture, and morale.

Behaviour inconsistent with the ethos of Masters may affect current or future selection.

9. Key Principle

Masters rugby is inclusive by nature. Inclusion means every player has a place in Masters; international representation means carrying those values safely, responsibly, and with integrity. Standards do not make the game performance based—they protect the spirit of Masters.

10. Closing Statement

Selection to represent RLI Masters is a privilege, not an entitlement. Every player chosen to take the field is expected to uphold the spirit of Masters Rugby League: **fun, friendship, respect, inclusion, and safety — always.**

This criteria is subject to change, as agreed by the RLI Masters committee. Any changes will be advised to all registered members in advance, with clear rationale.