

GRFU Regulation 1 - Adult Male Player Registration

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GRFU Regulation 1 - Registration of Adult Male Players

Acknowledgement: This Regulation was adapted for Ghana from the corresponding RFU Regulation.

1.1 General

1.1.1 This GRFU Regulation 1 applies to all Clubs and to all male Players seeking to be registered to play adult rugby in GRFU Competitions for a Club on or after 1 August 201.

1.1.2 The definitions set out in Regulation 1 (GRFU Definitions) shall apply to this GRFU Regulation 1. Unless otherwise expressly referred to in this GRFU Regulation 1 "Player" shall include a Ghana Academy Player.

1.2 Eligibility of Players

1.2.1 A Player must be resident in Ghana and must hold Effective Registration in accordance with these Regulations with a Club in order to play for that Club in a GRFU Competition, unless otherwise permitted to play by the GRFU Regulations.

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1.2.2 A Club may only be represented in a match in any GRFU Competition by Players who are Effectively Registered with that Club or who are otherwise permitted to play by the GRFU Regulations.

1.2.3 Effective Registration of a Player aged 17 does not mean he is automatically eligible to play adult rugby for the Club and other relevant GRFU Regulations (e.g. GRFU Regulation with regards to Age Grade Rugby) must still be observed.

1.3 Effective Registration

1.3.1 A Player will have Effective Registration in accordance with these Regulations with a Club if:

- (a) he was Effectively Registered with that Club at the beginning of the Season; or
- (b) his application for Registration has been accepted either by the Registrar or through the online application process and the Waiting Period has elapsed;

In each case subject to any subsequent loss or invalidity of such registration pursuant to the other provisions of these Regulations and save in the case of such registration having been made as a result of inaccurate, false or misleading information having been provided (in which case the Effective Registration will be void and invalid from the date of initial registration)

1.3.2 A Club may apply for a Player to become Effectively Registered by following the process set out in Regulation 1.5

1.3.3 Other than as set out in Regulation 1.3.4 below, a Club must apply for a Player to become Effectively Registered before the Transfer Deadline. The Transfer Deadline for the 2014-15 Season is Friday 27th February 2015, the Waiting Period having been completed before the Transfer Deadline is reached. The date may be determined for each season by the Board.

1.3.4 A Club may only apply for a Player to become Effectively Registered after the Transfer Deadline if he is either:

- (a) a Permitted Player (as defined in GRFU Regulation dealing with Definitions);
- (b) a Ghana Academy Player seeking Effective Registration with the Club of whose academy he is a member; or

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- (c) a Loan Player seeking Effective Registration to return to the Club which loaned him and with which he still has a Contract; or
- (d) sixteen years old prior to the Transfer Deadline and turns seventeen after the Transfer Deadline and is entitled to register for the first time; or
- (e) a Player who the Club in exceptional circumstances needs to be Effectively Registered after the Transfer Deadline to enable the Club to comply with its Competition's requirements in relation to the provision of Front Row forwards and the GRFU (or person to whom it has delegated this) is satisfied that the Player's Registration is necessary.

The Registrar may process an application for Registration of a Player after the Transfer Deadline as long as it is supported by evidence that the Player falls within Regulation 1.3.4(a) to (f). In such a case, the Registrar may apply the Waiting Period which would have applied if the application had been made before the Transfer Deadline.

1.3.5 A Player may not hold Effective Registration with:

- (a) more than one Club at any one time; or
- (b) more than three (3) Clubs in any Season; or
- (c) in respect of Loan Players, the same Club more than three (3) times after the opening day of the Season. (When counting the number of Effective Registrations a Player has held, the Player's Effective Registration with the Club on the first day of the Season shall not count).

1.3.6 A youth player will not automatically assume Effective Registration as an adult Player until that Player completes an Adult Registration form and serves the relevant Waiting Period.

1.4 Requirement to Register Players and Principles applicable to Registration

1.4.1 The Player Register shall be maintained by the GRFU and is the only and conclusive evidence of a Player's Effective Registration on any particular date.

1.4.2 A Championship Club may register up to 70 Players. A Club playing at or below Level 2 in the League may register up to 100 Players. Where a Club has reached its limit, no further applications will be accepted until the Club has de-registered sufficient Players and those Players have completed their 7 day de-registration period.

1.4.3 A Club must apply for Registration of all Players it wishes to present it in GRFU Competitions. A Club may not assume that any application for registration will be accepted. A Player is not Effectively Registered until the Effective Date.

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1.4.4 The Player's current Club may object to the Player being Effectively Registered with another Club where:

- (a) the Player has a Contract with the current Club;
- (b) the Player is being disciplined under GRFU Disciplinary Rules;
- (c) the Player owes money to the Club under applicable GRFU or IRB Regulations.

Any such objection must be submitted in writing to the Registrar stating all the grounds upon which the objection is made within 7 days of being notified of the proposed transfer.

1.4.5 A Loan Player shall automatically be Effectively Registered with his loaning Club at the end of the Season and shall cease to be a Loan Player.

1.4.6 A Club must ensure that the information held on the Player Register about its Effectively Registered Players is accurate and up to date. A Club which has obtained Effective Registration of a Player must notify the GRFU of any changes to the information originally supplied in connection with that Player within 14 days of becoming aware of such change and, where appropriate, must apply for de-registration of Players in accordance with Regulation 1.8.

1.5 Registration Process

Process for Registration

1.5.1 To apply for Effective Registration of a Player, a Club must submit the Registration Form duly signed by the Player and dated the date of signature together with the applicable Application Documents described at Regulation 1.6 to the relevant Registrar either by post, fax or by email and online within 28 days of the signature of the Registration Form by the Player time being of the essence.

1.5.2 Only one application for registration of a Player may be operative at any one time. If any application is received from a different Club for registration of the same Player during his Waiting Period for Effective Registration with another Club, the subsequent application shall be invalid.

1.5.3 A Club applying for registration of a Player already Effectively Registered for another Club must on the same day as submitting its application serve on that Club a Notification of Transfer Form unless the Player's current Club has provided a release. The Registrar may request evidence of the Notification of Transfer Form being served on the current Club and failure to produce such evidence within 10 days of its being requested will result

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in the withdrawal of the application for registration.

1.5.4 For all applications (regardless of how they are submitted), the Registration Form and Application Documents must be fully and accurately completed and dated. The Club must retain copies of the signed Registration Form, any Notification of Transfer Form and the Application Documents for at least one year (including certificate of posting or, if sent electronically, evidence of dispatch).

1.5.5 On receipt of the Registration Form and the Application Documents the Registrar will:

(a) check the Registration Form, and the Application Documents to ensure that they are properly signed, submitted within 28 days of signature, complete and that all requisite registration requirements (as set out in Regulation 1.6) have been met;

(b) check that no other application for registration is pending for the Player and that there is no other reason that the Player should not be registered; and

(c) carry out any necessary checks with the GRFU (e.g. in relation to the Player's Contract or other matters).

1.5.6 Provided that the checks outlined in Regulation 1.5.5 are completed to the satisfaction of the Registrar, the Registrar will accept the application for registration (the Registration Date) and calculate the Waiting Period and the Effective Date. The Registrar shall enter the pending registration on the Player Register, including the status of the Player as "pending", the Effective Date and the Application Documents received.

1.5.7 Where the Registrar is unable to accept the Registration Form or the Application Documents the Registrar will either return the documents to the Club in the stamped addressed envelope provided (or in the absence of such envelope, the Registrar will endeavour to notify the Club by other means) or notify the Club that the application is incomplete and request the further information needed to progress the application.

Expedited Registration

1.5.8 Where a Club wants to achieve Effective Registration for a Player in a period of less than 7 days, it must provide the Registrar with the following by no later than 12 noon on a Friday (in respect of Saturday and Sunday matches) or no later than 12 noon on the day before the match (in respect of mid-week matches):

(a) a copy of the Registration Form and the relevant Application Documents; and

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(b) a cheque for the non-refundable amount of GHS250 made payable to the GRFU and the originals of the Registration Form and Application Documents as soon as possible and no later than 7 days from the Effective Date (if such application is accepted); and

(c) where a Player is Effectively Registered with one Club and transferring to another Club, written confirmation from the former Club that they consent to the Player being released with immediate effect.

1.5.9 Subject to the Registrar's agreement, a Club may use email, facsimile or post to provide the documents to the Registrar.

1.5.10 Provided that the Registrar accepts the application in line with Regulation

1.5.6 above, the Effective Registration will take place at such time as the Registrar may agree and advise by no later than 4pm on the day before the match.

Online applications for Clubs at Level 5 or below

1.5.11 Only Clubs at Level 5 or below may use the online application process to register Players. The online process may be used for all Players other than:

- (a) Ghana Academy Players;
- (b) Contracted Players;
- (c) Contracted Overseas Players;
- (d) a Player applying for Effective Registration with a Club with which he has previously been Effectively Registered during the Season;
- (e) a Player for whom the Club is making an Expedited Application; or
- (f) a Player for whom the Club is making an application during the period between the Transfer Deadline and the end of the Season.

1.5.12 When requested by the Registrar the Club must within 14 days of such request provide to the Registrar hard copies of the fully completed application form and such other supporting documents as may be requested.

Returning Players

1.5.13 Where a Club is applying for registration of a Player who has during the Season previously been Effectively Registered with that Club, the Club shall pay a re-registration fee of GHS2,500 (by such method as the Registrar shall require) unless:

- (a) the Club is seeking Effective Registration for a Loan Player who has a Contract with the Club or who is seeking to be registered as a Loan Player with the Club; or

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(b) the Registrar is satisfied (after appropriate consultation with the Committee) that it would be inappropriate to charge a fee as there is a bona fide reason for the Player wishing to re-register with the Club.

Examples of circumstances in which the fee may not be charged include: students transferring to a Club whilst at University and transferring back in the vacation or work secondments where a player is moved by his (non-rugby) job to another part of the country and then returns.

General

1.5.14 Notices or other communications may be given under this GRFU Regulation 1 by fax, email or post using the contact details for the GRFU, Registrar, Clubs (as appropriate) published in the GRFU Yearbook. Where no email address is included within the GRFU Yearbook for a Club, the Club must provide before the start of the Season a valid email address for a Club Official to whom the Registrar may give notice or otherwise communicate on matters arising under this GRFU Regulation 1.

1.5.15 A Club may view its entries on the Player Register online at any time using the password supplied to it by the GRFU and may at any time request from the Registrar a hard copy of its entries on the Player

Register by providing a stamped addressed envelope.

1.5.16 All information supplied in connection with an application for Registration must be true and accurate. The provision of false, misleading or inaccurate information may lead to the Committee reporting the matter to the GRFU's Head of Discipline for further action.

1.6 Registration Documents and Application Documents

All Players

1.6.1 A Club must provide the following Application Documents:

- (a) completed Registration Form (including the certificate of the Player's residence) (Section 10 Player Registration Form) signed within the 28 days prior to submission to the Registrar;
- (b) the Notification of Transfer Form (if any);
- (c) the documents set out below in this Regulation 1.6 for the Player in respect of each applicable category of Player into which he falls;
- (d) any proof of residence subsequently requested by the Registrar;

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- (e) a large stamped addressed envelope addressed to the Club making the application (for Clubs at Level 5 and below unless stated otherwise); and
- (f) where a Player is under contract with one Club and transferring to another Club, written confirmation from the former Club that they consent to the Player being released.

Amateur Players

1.6.2 The Amateur Declaration (Section 12 Player Registration Form) must be completed in respect of an application for registration of a Player who is not a Contracted Player.

Contracted Players at any Level

1.6.3 The following documents must be submitted to the Registrar in respect of an application for registration of a Contracted Player (including a Contracted Overseas Player) or a Player who will be contracted to the Club upon Effective Registration:

- (a) evidence that the Player may be Effectively Registered with the applicant Club (i.e. evidence that any previous Contract has expired or that the other party to it consents to the application for Registration or other evidence satisfactory to the Registrar); and
- (b) the Contract or the Contract Approval Form.

Ghana Academy Player

1.6.4 An application for registration of a Ghana Academy Player must be accompanied by:

- (a) the written approval of the Academy Manager of the Club of whose Academy the player is a member; and
- (b) for Registration with a Club at Level 4 and below written consent on the form prescribed by the GRFU from the GRFU Head of Academies and the Committee or person designated by the Committee.

Loan Players

1.6.5 An application for registration of a Loan Player will not be accepted where the applicant Club is more than two Levels below the level of the loaning Club. This does not apply to Loan Players who are being loaned to a Club in the Levels above the loaning Club, subject to Regulation 1.3.5.

1.6.6 An application for registration of a Loan Player must be accompanied by:

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(a) evidence in writing of the terms of the loan (either a signed copy of the Player's written Contract with his home Club or a written loan agreement signed by the Player and both Clubs); and

(b) evidence that the loaning Club consents to the registration (unless the GRFU Board of Directors decides that the Player's registration with the applicant Club is otherwise in the best interests of the Game and the requirements of this Regulation 1.6.6 can be waived).

Overseas Players

1.6.7 An Overseas Player wishing to be Effectively Registered with a Club must apply for Clearance from his Current Union.

Registration with Clubs in Level 4 or above

1.6.8 An application for registration of an Overseas Player with a Club in Level 4 or above who is leaving or proposing to leave his Current Union must be accompanied by clearance from his Current Union to participate in the Game under the jurisdiction of the GRFU.

1.6.9 An application for registration with a Club in Level 4 or above of a person who was an Overseas Player at the time of:

(a) previously been registered with a Club at Level 5 or below; or

(b) played for a club or team which does not require registration; ("a former Overseas Player") must be accompanied by clearance from that Player's former Current Union to participate in the Game under the jurisdiction of the GRFU.

Players who were not born in Ghana

Registration with Clubs at Levels 1 to 4 or at Levels 5 and below where the Player receives a Material Benefit

1.6.10 A copy of the Player's passport must accompany an application for registration of a Player, who was not born in Ghana with a Club at Level 1 to 4.

1.7 List of Effectively Registered Players

1.7.1 On or before 14 August each year the Registrar will provide to each Club a complete list of its Players showing those with Effective Registration and those pending movement to or from the Club.

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1.8 De-Registration

1.8.1 A Player (other than a Contracted Player) may apply in writing to the Registrar to be de-registered from a Club. The Player must notify the Club of his application and confirm to the Registrar that he has notified the Club. The Player will cease to hold Effective Registration with the Club 7 days from the Registrar's receipt of the application.

1.8.2 A Club may apply in writing or by email to the Registrar or online for a Player to be de-registered. The Club must notify the Player of its application and confirm to the Registrar that it has notified the Player. The Player will cease to hold Effective Registration with the Club 7 days from the Registrar's receipt of the application.

1.8.3 No application for de-registration may be withdrawn during the 7 day de-registration period. For the avoidance of doubt, an application for Effective Registration may be made in respect of the Player by another Club during that period which, if accepted, will be effective at the end of the Waiting Period.

1.9 Loss of Effective Registration

1.9.1 A Player will cease to have Effective Registration with a Club immediately:

- (a) upon being Effectively Registered with another Club;
- (b) upon expiry of 7 days following a valid application for de-registration
- (c) following a valid application for formal consent, registration or other approval to play for any team in or under the control of a Union other than the GRFU;
- (d) if his Effective Registration is cancelled or suspended by the relevant Organising Committee;
- (e) upon the expiry of any work permit visa or other permit or consent required by law unless he is an Overseas Player registered with a Club at level 5 and below who has a properly completed Amateur Declaration lodged with the Registrar on or before the date of the expiry of the said work permit visa or other permit or consent required by law.

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(f) where a Player enters a Contract or receives a Material Benefit and the terms of his permit or visa do not permit him to receive payment of other Material Benefit from participating in the Game;

(g) where he is an Overseas Player seeking registration at a Club at Level 5 or below and his Current Union refuses to grant clearance or any consent or clearance is withdrawn or delayed;

(h) where he is an Overseas Player registered with a Club at Level 5 or below and he enters a Contract or receives a Material Benefit without clearance from his Current Union;

(i) where he is a former Overseas Player and his Club is promoted to Level 4 and he does not have the requisite clearance to play for such Club from his Current Union;

(j) where a Player playing for a Club at Level 5 and below and the Club is promoted to Level 4 and the terms of his permit or visa do not permit him to play for a Club at Level 4;

(k) where he plays for a Club which is promoted to Level 4 and the Club has not within three months of the start of the Season lodged with the GRFU either a Contract or Amateur Declaration in respect of that Player;

(l) where a Club has failed to update the GRFU with changes to the Player's details under Regulation 1.4.6.

1.9.2 A Player will cease to have Effective Registration with a Club at the end of the Season if he is a Loan Player who is returning to his loaning Club.

1.9.3 A Player will cease to have Effective Registration with a Club:

(a) if he is a Contracted Player and the Club has not registered his Contract with the GRFU (in a form approved by the GRFU) within three months of the earlier of

- (i) the Contract being entered into or
- (ii) Material Benefit being received by the Player; or

(b) if he is not a Contracted Player but is playing at a Club in Levels 1 to 4 and the Club has not provided an Amateur Declaration within three months of the Effective Date; and in either case the Club has failed to provide the documentation with 14 days of a reminder from the GRFU.

1.9.4 A Player's Effective Registration will be void and invalid as at the Effective Date where the Club in making the Player's application for Effective Registration supplied false,

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inaccurate or misleading information or forged any signature on any Registration Form or Application Document.

1.10 Disputes

1.10.1 Any dispute on the application or interpretation of this GRFU Regulation 1 must be referred to the relevant Registrar in writing stating the grounds for the objection or dispute.

1.10.2 If a dispute is not resolved within 7 days of receipt of the complaint under 1.10.1 above, the Club or Player may submit the original complaint in writing to the GRFU Head of Discipline.

1.11 General

1.11.1 The Committee may delegate its powers under this Regulation (other than those under GRFU Regulation 1.10, 1.11.2 and 1.11.3) to any Division, Constituent Body or other company, person, association, group, body or committee.

1.11.2 During the Season the Committee may in its sole discretion rectify any error or omission in this GRFU Regulation 1 which comes to its attention.

1.11.3 The Committee shall have the discretion to decide upon any matter not provided for in this GRFU Regulation 1 and upon its interpretation. The Committee's decision shall be final and binding.

1.11.4 In the event that any provision of this GRFU Regulation 1 is found by any Court or competent authority to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable in whole or in part that provision shall be deemed not to form part of this Regulation and the legality, validity and enforceability of the remainder of this Regulation shall not be affected.