



*International  
Cricket Council*

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# ICC PLAYER ELIGIBILITY HANDBOOK

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## 1. Introduction

The [ICC Player Eligibility Handbook](#) has been prepared to clarify issues relating to player eligibility for governing bodies and players. The handbook relates to all matches or tournaments, for both men's and women's cricket, played under the ICC Player Eligibility rules and contains all the relevant information that governing bodies (and players) need.

These matches include Women's Test Matches, Men's and Women's One Day International Matches, Global and Regional ICC World Cricket League Events, Global and Regional Under 19 level or above events and the ICC Intercontinental Cup.

## 2. ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket Council Matches, Series and Competitions

The ICC Website ([www.icc-cricket.com](http://www.icc-cricket.com)) contains the official [ICC Qualification Rules](#) document and in addition a brief easy-to-understand document entitled [ICC Eligibility Guidance Notes](#).

## 3. Player Registration

For a team to participate in any ICC-sanctioned fixture or event the respective governing body must submit an [ICC Squad Registration Form](#). There are separate forms available for both men's and women's events.

Team squads (number of players and reserves as notified by ICC) and verification documentation (see 5) need to be submitted on the form no later than 30 days before the start of the tournament. This may be requested earlier by the event organisers.

## 4. ICC Player Eligibility Database

Following the registration and verification process, ICC enters all verified players into the ICC Player Eligibility Database. This negates the need for countries to re-submit backing documentation for players who qualify by birth or nationality. In the case of resident players or players who apply to ICC for exceptional circumstances this information will need to be re-submitted and re-checked for each tournament.

Please note this does not negate the fact that the ultimate responsibility for ensuring all players are eligible to participate in an event lies with the Member Country. Please refer to section C and D of the ICC Qualification Rules.

Member Countries are required to keep a database of their players and it is requested for consistency, and ease of reference, that this mirrors the format of the ICC Squad Registration Form.

## 5. Player Verification

To register any player for an event, the relevant national body needs to submit background information to prove conclusively that that he/she meets the ICC Eligibility Criteria.

Once a player (except for resident players and those applying for special dispensation for genuine commitment or exceptional circumstances) has been registered and his/her details entered into the ICC Player Eligibility Database, the relevant documentation **does not** need to be re-submitted, unless specifically requested by the event organisers.

The following is a summary of the required background information for player registration. This must be submitted by each country's national governing body for players who are not already on the ICC Player Eligibility Database.

### 5.1 Core Nationality Criteria

Criteria	Documentation Required to Prove Core Nationality Criteria
Players who qualify by birth	A copy of the title page of their passport showing place of birth, or a copy of their birth certificate.
Players who qualify as nationals	A copy of the title page of their passport showing nationality, or a confirmation letter/document from the relevant government department.
<u>Resident Players:</u> Men's Players who qualify as four or seven-year residents Women's Players who qualify as two-year residents	Any information that can confirm they have been in the country for the required 183 days per year for the preceding two, four or seven years, as appropriate. This should normally include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Printout of time spent in the country from the relevant government department</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copy of passport pages showing relevant visa and/or entry date stamps</li> </ul> <p><u>And in addition:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation letters from president of club(s) represented</li> <li>• Letter from an employer or school</li> <li>• Residence permit and any other relevant documentation</li> </ul> <p><b>All Resident players need to submit the <a href="#">Data Summary for Resident Players</a> form, which should correspond to all the backing documentation required to prove the time spent in the country.</b></p>

## 5.2 Development Criteria (Men's only)

The signature of the President /Chairman of the relevant national governing body for cricket on the ICC Team Registration Form will be regarded as positive evidence that all players meet the development criteria as submitted. ICC reserves the right to request any further documentary evidence should it so require. This would normally include:

Criteria	Documentation required to prove Development Criteria
The player shall have played 50% or more of the scheduled games for his team in a national cricket competition in the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country in any 3 of the preceding 5 years; <b>OR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation letters from president of National Body <b>AND</b> club(s), team(s) represented <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Press clippings or other relevant documents from previous years showing the players involvement <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Score-sheets from official National Body sanctioned competitions</li> </ul>
The player shall have spent a cumulative total of 100 days or more during the preceding 5 years in the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country coaching, playing or working in the administration or development of cricket in that country; <b>OR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation letters from president of National Body, outlining the scope of work completed and a breakdown of the days worked</li> </ul>
The player shall have played Representative Cricket for the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country at U19 or above either under previous ICC rules or where the current ICC development criteria had applied	As listed on the ICC Player Eligibility Database or other past player registration records held by ICC or the Regional Development Office

## 6. Resident Players

For all players who register as recent residents, their registration documents must be re-checked prior to each tournament. As such, the Data Summary for Resident Players document needs to be signed and completed for every tournament they participate in.

- [Data Summary for Resident Players](#)

## 7. Applications for Exceptional Circumstances

This application relates to players who do not meet any or all of the ICC Eligibility Rules, but the Home Board believes that there are exceptional circumstances which require ICC consideration. A detailed written application can be made (by the Home Board) to ICC which will consider these circumstances.

For players who apply under this category, their registration documents must be submitted prior to each tournament. The Application for Exceptional Circumstances document needs to be signed and completed for every tournament they participate in.

### [Application for Exceptional Circumstances](#)

Where applicable the [Data Summary for Resident Players](#) form will also need to be submitted.

All applications for Exceptional Circumstances need to be submitted to the ICC no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tournament the country wishes the player(s) to participate in. Any applications not adhering to this deadline may not be considered.

Please note any approval (received from ICC) to play under Exceptional Circumstances applies to that specific event only. Players will be required to re-apply for any subsequent events they wish to participate in.

Please note that each case is considered on its own merits and no precedents will be formed.

## 8. President/Chairman's Signature on Eligibility Documentation

The ICC [Squad Registration Form](#) must be signed by the President/Chairman of the national cricket body. This signature is regarded as a positive affirmation that all players meet the eligibility criteria and that the details supplied on the form are correct. It is the responsibility of the National Cricket Body to verify any evidence provided by its players prior to submitting its squad registration form.

The registration of ineligible players is an extremely serious matter and the sanctions available to ICC as set out in the ICC Qualification Rules are as follows:

- Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in representative cricket will forfeit all points gained in each match in which such player plays and that player shall be suspended for a period not exceeding the balance of any competition of which the match forms part.
- Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in representative cricket in two or more matches will be further subject to such disciplinary procedures as the Executive Board deems fit.

Any breach of the ICC Qualification Rules would be considered a severe misdemeanour by the ICC Executive Board.

ICC reserves the right, at any time, to request further documentary evidence should it so require. Member Countries should be aware that it is their responsibility to ensure that the information on the ICC [Squad Registration Form](#) and any subsequent evidence provided has been authenticated.

## 9. ICC Date of Birth Matrix

The ICC Associate and Affiliates [Date of Birth Matrix](#) outlines the age qualification dates for Global and Regional age group events run by ICC.

Please note that for Associate or Affiliate Member countries participating in the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup the participant's age will be calculated as U/20 on the 1 September prior to the event.

## Qualification Rules for International Cricket Council Matches, Series and Competitions

### A. DEFINITIONS

1. 'Immediately preceding years' means the years immediately preceding the date by which applications are due to be submitted to the ICC by Members concerning their nominations for a particular tournament or competition, regardless of whether those years predate the Effective Date.
2. 'Member' means a Full, Associate or Affiliate Member of the ICC and 'Member Country' shall be construed accordingly.
3. 'Representative Cricket' means any cricket match or matches in which a team representing a Member Country at Under 19 level or above takes part and which takes place under the auspices of ICC.
4. 'the Effective Date' is 1st October 2002.

### B. QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

#### I MEN

1. A cricketer is qualified to play Representative Cricket for a Member Country of which he is a national or, in cases of non-nationals, in which he was born provided that:
  - i) (subject to (c) and (b)5 below) he has not played Representative Cricket for any other Member Country during the 4 immediately preceding years; and
  - ii) (subject to (b)5 below) in the case where the Member Country is an Associate or Affiliate Member, the cricketer satisfies one or more of the Development Criteria in paragraph (b)4 below and the 'quota' requirement of (b)3.
2. A player who has resided for a minimum of 183 days in a Member Country in each of the 4 immediately preceding years shall be a 'deemed national' of that country for the purpose of these Rules.
3.
  - i) Subject to 3(ii) below, Affiliate and Associate Members may not field more than 2 players in any one team who are deemed nationals under paragraph (b) 2.
  - ii) For the purposes of this sub- rule , a player who has resided in an Affiliate or Associate Member Country for a minimum of 183 days in each of the 7 immediately preceding years shall be classified as a national rather than a 'deemed national 'of that Member Country.

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4. A player wishing to represent an Associate or Affiliate Member Country shall be required to satisfy one or more of the following additional Development Criteria:
- i) the player shall have played 50% or more of the scheduled games for his team in a national cricket competition in the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country in any 3 of the preceding 5 years; or
  - ii) the player shall have spent a cumulative total of 100 days or more during the preceding 5 years in the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country coaching, playing or working in the administration or development of cricket in that country; or
  - iii) the player shall have played Representative Cricket for the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country either under previous ICC rules or where the current ICC development criteria had applied; or
  - iv) the player shall have dedicated a reasonable period of time to activities which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Cricket Committee (CC), constitute a sufficient demonstration of a player's genuine commitment to the development of cricket in the relevant Associate of Affiliate Member Country.
5. Where an Associate or Affiliate Member Country is fielding a team in a match against a Full Member or in any match which forms part of a tournament or competition involving teams from one or more Full Members, the requirements of b1(ii), b(3), b(4) and c(3) shall not apply.
- 6. Transfer of 'Playing Nationality'**
- i) Cricketers qualified to play for a Member Country can continue to represent that country without negating their eligibility or interrupting their qualification period for another Member Country up until the stage that the cricketer has played for the first Member Country at Under 19 level or above.
  - ii) Cricketers qualified to play for Associate and Affiliate Members can continue to represent that country without negating their eligibility or interrupting their qualification period for a Full Member Country up until the stage that the cricketer has played for the Full Member Country at Under 19 level or above.
  - iii) Associate and Affiliate Members shall be limited to 2 players per team who have formerly played Representative Cricket for a Full Member Country.

## **II WOMEN**

1. A cricketer is qualified to play Representative Cricket of a Member Country of which she is a national or, in case of non-nationals, in which she was born provided that she has not played Representative Cricket for any Member Country during the 2 immediately preceding years.
2. A player who has resided for a minimum 183 days in a Member Country in each of the 2 immediately preceding years shall be a 'deemed national' of that country for the purpose of these Rules.

**Clause (c) and (j) shall apply to Men and Women and shall be read and constructed accordingly**

## **C. APPLICATIONS**

1. Each Member Country shall require each player to certify his eligibility to represent that Member Country. All applications nominating players for Representative Cricket shall enclose copies of the certification accompanied by a sworn or other formal statement from the President of the Board of each Member Country attesting to the fact that, to the best of his information and belief, all nominated players duly meet the Qualification Criteria (including as appropriate the Development Criteria) set out in these Rules.
2. Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in Representative Cricket will forfeit all points gained in each match in which such player plays and that player shall be suspended for a period not exceeding the balance of any competition of which the match forms part.
3. Any Member knowingly playing an ineligible player in Representative Cricket in 2 or more matches will be further subject to such disciplinary procedures as the Executive Board deems fit.

## **D. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. Should a player be ineligible to play for a Member Country in a particular competition or match under these Rules and his Board believes that there are exceptional circumstances requiring consideration, a detailed written application shall be made to the Chief Executive ICC prior to the event who shall refer the matter to the Chairman of CC for determination. The Chairman shall be free to take into account all matters which he deems relevant. The Chairman's decision as to whether that player may represent that Member in the particular competition or match shall be final and binding.
2. Should any Member consider itself unable to field a team of acceptable standard in a particular competition or match under these Rules, that Member's Board may make detailed, written application for dispensation. The application shall be made to the Chief Executive ICC who shall refer the matter to the Chairman of CC for determination. The Chairman shall be free to take into account all matters which he deems relevant. The Chairman's decision as to whether that Member may field a team in the particular competition or match other than strictly in accordance with these Rules shall be final and binding.

#### **E. REGISTER OF CRICKETERS AND PROOF OF QUALIFICATION**

1. Each Member Country, shall, prior to the Effective Date, establish and thereafter maintain a register of cricketers which shall record the name, address and nationality of those cricketers who shall in each year commencing at the beginning of that Member Country's domestic cricket season be seeking to play first-class cricket in that Member Country (or the equivalent national competition in those countries which do not have first-class cricket) for any local club or team including any State or County team.
2. Each Member Country shall from time to time provide to the Chief Executive ICC on request and at the expense of that Member Country details as to any entries made in its register of cricketers in respect of any year, including copies of the register or of the relevant extracts there from.
3. Each Member Country shall from time to time provide to the Chief Executive ICC on request and at the expense of that Member Country, any relevant information as to the fulfillment by a particular player or players of any one or more of the applicable Qualification Criteria (including as appropriate the Development Criteria) under these Rules.

#### **F. DISPUTES**

1. In the event that there shall be any dispute arising out of or in connection with the interpretation of these Rules, that dispute shall be decided by the President whose decision shall be final and binding.
2. In the event that there shall be any dispute arising out of or in connection with the application or implementation of these Rules, including the ICC's processing and approval of player applications, the complaining party or parties shall make a detailed application to the Chief Executive ICC who shall refer the matter to the Chairman of CC. The Chairman shall be free to take into account all matters which he deems relevant. His decision shall be final and binding.
3. All other disputes in relation to these Rules shall be referred to the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee for final determination.

#### **G. MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY IMPOSE MORE STRINGENT RULES**

Any Member Country may impose more stringent qualification rules for that Country.

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## H. TRANSITIONAL

### Hardship

1. If, because of contractual or other legal commitments relating to cricket or any other serious reasons affecting a particular cricketer on the date on which these Rules are approved by Ordinary Resolution of the Members and which still remain in existence on the Effective Date, that cricketer's ability pursuant to these Rules to qualify or remain qualified to play Representative Cricket for a Member Country after the Effective Date is prejudiced, the matter may be referred to the Chief Executive ICC who shall refer the matter to the Chairman of CC to decide what, if any, dispensation should be made in the case of that particular cricketer so as to remove so far as possible, such prejudice. The Chairman shall be free to take into account all matters which he deems relevant. His decision shall be final and binding.

## I. DISCRETIONARY POWERS

1. In appropriate cases and after consultation with the Chief Executive ICC, the Chairman of the CC may delegate any of his discretionary powers under these Rules to whichever person, persons or body he deems fit.
2. Any decision by the Chairman of the CC or any other person or body exercising his powers pursuant to delegation under paragraph (i) 1 of these Rules, or any decision of the ICC Disputes Resolution Committee under paragraph (g) 3 of these Rules shall not operate as a precedent or give rise to any legitimate expectations as to the exercise of that person's or body's discretion in respect of the same or other players or Members in the same or different matches or competitions.

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## ICC Player Eligibility Guidance Notes

### I Qualification Criteria – Men

To be eligible to represent an ICC Member at Under 19 level or above, a player must meet at least one of the following core nationality criteria;

#### **A. Core Nationality Criteria**

- A1. A national of the country (as defined by the country); or
- A2. Born in the country; or
- A3. Resident in the country for at least 183 days in each of the immediately preceding seven years;  
or
- A4. Resident in the country for at least 183 days in each of the immediately preceding four years (some restrictions for Associates and Affiliates detailed below).

#### **B. Restrictions**

- B1. The player must not have represented another ICC Member at Under 19 level or above - in an ICC sanctioned match (e.g. in a Test match, ODI, or ICC Global or Regional event) - in the immediately preceding four years (at Under 19 level or above).
- B2. For Associate and Affiliate Members, a player must also meet at least one of the following development criteria;
  - B2.1 Played 50% of games in national / domestic competition of the country in any three of the five preceding years
  - B2.2 Spent a cumulative total of 100 days over the preceding five years doing cricket work in the country
  - B2.3 Represented that country at Under 19 level or above in the past (in an ICC sanctioned match), either under previous ICC rules (i.e. prior to Annual Conference 2006) or where the current ICC development criteria had applied
  - B2.4 Done enough to convince the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee that he has genuine commitment to the development of cricket in that country (i.e. special dispensation of development criteria granted, upon application)
- B3. Associate and Affiliate Members are limited to a maximum of two players who qualify under A4 in any team (i.e. those entitled to bat and bowl)

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- B4. Associates and Affiliates are limited to a maximum of two players in any team who have formerly represented a Full Member at Under 19 level or above

**C. Notes**

- C1. The restriction at B1 does not apply for a player progressing from representing an Associate or Affiliate Member to representing a Full Member
- C2. For Associate and Affiliate Members, when playing a Full Member or in a tournament involving a Full Member(s), or when playing any One Day International, or when playing in the ICC World Cup Qualifier (formerly ICC Trophy), the restrictions at B2, B3 and B4 do not apply
- C3. Upon application, Chairman of ICC Cricket Committee may grant a player that is ineligible under these rules the ability to be able to play due to exceptional circumstances
- C4. Countries may enforce stricter eligibility rules for their own selection processes

**II Qualification Criteria – Women**

**A. Core Nationality Criteria**

- A1. A national of the country (as defined by the country);
- A2. Born in the country ;or
- A3. Resident in the country for at least 183 days in each of the immediately preceding two years.

**B. Restrictions**

- B1. The player must not have represented another ICC Member in an ICC sanctioned match (e.g. in a Test match, ODI, Full Member 'A' Team, or ICC Global or Regional event) - in the immediately preceding two years (at Under 19 level or above)

**C. Notes**

- C1. Upon application, Chairman of ICC Cricket Committee may grant a player that is ineligible under these rules the ability to be able to play due to exceptional circumstances.
- C2. Countries may enforce stricter eligibility rules for their own selection processes

*As approved by Annual Conference 2006*



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In addition to the above the player meets the Development Criteria as having; please insert relevant statement (played 50% of domestic games in 3 of the preceding 5 years in this country) or (Proven 100 days cricket work in administration/development of cricket in this country in preceding 5 years) or (Played Representative cricket for this Country in and event where the ICC Eligibility Rules applied in the past).

Signature of Player

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Date:

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Name of President/Chairman of national cricket body

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Signature:

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Date:

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Please refer to the ICC Player Eligibility Handbook section titled President/Chairman's signature on eligibility documentation to ensure the signatory is aware of the implications of this signature.

Please also refer to section C of the Official ICC Qualification Rules for penalties and responsibilities.

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## Application for Exceptional Circumstances

The ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket allow for applications for Exceptional Circumstances under the following rules:

In relation to a specific inability to meet the Development Criteria:

- B4(iv) the player shall have dedicated a reasonable period of time to activities which, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Cricket Committee (CC), constitute a sufficient demonstration of a player's genuine commitment to the development of cricket in the relevant Associate or Affiliate Member Country.

In relation to an overall inability to meet the above or other Eligibility Rules:

- (d)1. Should a player be ineligible to play for a Member Country in a particular competition or match under these Rules and his Board believes that there are exceptional circumstances requiring consideration, a detailed written application shall be made to the Chief Executive of ICC prior to the event who shall refer the matter to the Chairman of CC for determination. The Chairman shall be free to take into account all matters which he deems relevant. The Chairman's decision as to whether that player may represent that Member in the particular competition or match shall be final and binding.

Please note ICC will determine which of the above is applicable to this application.

All applications for Exceptional Circumstances need to be submitted to the ICC no later than 60 days prior to the start of the tournament the country wishes the player(s) to participate in. Any applications not adhering to this deadline may not be considered.

Please complete the following:

**Player Information:**

Full Name as per Passport:

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Date of Birth:

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Country of Birth:

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Nationality:

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Past Countries Represented  
(please provide detail):

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**Event Details:**

Event Name:

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Event Start Date:

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Country Making Application:

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This application of Exceptional Circumstances must be signed by both the President/Chairman of the national cricket body, and the applicant. These signatures are regarded as a positive affirmation that all of the information submitted in this application is correct and can be verified by both parties.

Registration of ineligible players is an extremely serious matter and the sanctions available to ICC are clearly set out in the ICC Qualification Rules for International Cricket.

**Signature of Player:**

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**Date:**

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**Name of President/Chairman of national  
cricket body:**

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**Signature:**

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**Date:**

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Please refer to the ICC Player Eligibility Handbook section titled President/Chairman's signature on eligibility documentation to ensure the signatory is aware of the implications of this signature.

Please also refer to section C of the Official ICC Qualification Rules for penalties and responsibilities.

## ICC Associate and Affiliate Events – Date of Birth Matrix

- Players must be born on or after the date specified
- Timelines are based on age at the immediately preceding 1st September

	1 Sept 2006 to 31 Aug 2007	1 Sept 2007 to 31 Aug 2008	1 Sept 2008 to 31 Aug 2009	1 Sept 2009 to 31 Aug 2010
Events commencing between:				
U/19 CWC		01.09.87*		01.09.89
U19 CWC Qualifier	01.09.87	01.09.88	01.09.89	01.09.90
U/17 Events	01.09.89	01.09.90	01.09.91	01.09.92
U/15 Events	01.09.91	01.09.92	01.09.93	01.09.94
U/13 Events	01.09.93	01.09.94	01.09.95	01.09.96

\* For Associate or Affiliate Member countries, any player born on or after 1st September 1987 is eligible to play in the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup 2008 whereas those representing Full Member countries must be born on or after 1st September 1988.