

INTERNATIONAL MATCH SANCTION FORM - GUIDELINES



These guidelines accompany the International Match Sanction form.

The need for sanctioning

There are a number of reasons why official matches between senior or junior representative sides should be sanctioned. Simply, unless a match is sanctioned by the proper governing body then it will not be deemed official. This can have the following ramifications:

- Insurance claims in the event of injury may be affected
- No world rankings points will be awarded [if the match is between senior national teams]
- There will be no grounds for National Governing Bodies to appeal for support to the appropriate regional confederation or RLIF if a need for mediation arises

What are the criteria for an officially sanctioned match?

A match qualifies for official status if it has met the following criteria:

1. It is between two national teams representing NGBs that have an official status [Member or Observer] under the RLIF or its Associate Members [confederations]
2. The fixture has been sanctioned according to the process outlined in this document
3. All players named in the 17-man squad have had their eligibility cleared
4. It adheres to the international laws of rugby league
5. It is controlled by an accredited match official registered with an RLIF NGB

Who does the sanctioning?

Matches are sanctioned by the regional confederations, the APRLC and the RLEF. If necessary, an application may be dealt with by the RLIF's International Competitions Committee.

If a match involves a team from different confederations, the host nation, as agreed by both participating NGBs, will be responsible for applying to their confederation.

What is the process to sanction a match?

- Two NGBs agree a proposed fixture that falls outside an official competition
- The two NGBs agree the level of the proposed fixture, date and venue
- Any other details are agreed and clearly stated in the application form. They include but are not limited to: split of gate proceeds, hosting support [food, accommodation, transportation], reciprocal fixture, clear deadlines by which the NGBs must make certain commitments [booking flights, written confirmation of fixture etc]. and so on and so forth
- It is the responsibility of the host nation to complete the International Match Sanction form and submit it to the regional confederation
- The regional confederation will process the form and then make a decision

- In the case of a dispute the matter will be referred to the RLIF Board for a final and binding decision

What are the timelines involved?

- NGBs should seek to sanction matches no later than three-months before the date of the match in question. However, NGBs that seek a sanction within this timeframe will still be considered for the time being, until the process has become familiar.