



England Qualified Player (EQP) Application Process

A Player can be England Qualified by birth, ancestry or residency via one of five different qualification routes. England Qualified Player (EQP) status is only applicable for players competing in the Men's Premiership or Championship; or the Premiership Women's Rugby competition. The EQP funding from the RFU is based solely on each club reaching a minimum number of EQ players per match day squad during the season.

It is therefore up to each club to ensure all relevant players are verified as having EQP status where applicable. Supporting documents via an EQP Application should be submitted at the time of registration or immediately after they become EQ.

All clubs are obligated to inform the RFU Registrar immediately, if any of their players have lost their EQP status, by playing for another Union, in accordance with RFU Regulation 14.

If a player moves to a new club in England or returns to an English club from a club in another Union, then the player must submit a new EQP application to the RFU Registrar, unless they have been captured by representing England. Further information can be found on pages four and five below.

The RFU player registration system will log the final and conclusive list of EQPs and therefore the EQP status of each applicable player.

The following documents are required to be submitted, depending by which route the player qualifies for EQP status.

Qualification by Birth in England

1. Qualification by birth in England

- A completed RFU Player Declaration Form
- A copy of the player's current passport photo page

If born on a British Armed Forces base outside of England, an official signed confirmation letter is required.

Qualification through Ancestry

2. Qualification through a Parent (who was born in England)

- A completed RFU Player Declaration Form
- A copy of the player's current passport photo page
- A copy of the player's unabridged birth certificate (or adoption certificate if applicable)
- A copy of the relevant parent's unabridged birth certificate

3. Qualification through a Grandparent (who was born in England)

- A completed RFU Player Declaration Form
- A copy of the player's current passport photo page
- A copy of the player's unabridged birth certificate (or adoption certificate if applicable)
- A copy of the relevant parent's unabridged birth certificate
- A copy of the relevant grandparent's unabridged birth certificate

Qualification through Residency

(Applications must be submitted via email only, using the editable PDF application forms)

4. Qualification through Residency (36 months) (60 months if residency began after 1st January 2019)*

- A completed RFU Player Declaration Form
- A completed RFU Player Whereabouts Form
- A copy of the player's current passport photo page
- A copy of every single page of the player's passport (including blank pages and the front cover page)
- If previous passports were valid, during the qualifying period, please also provide every single page of these passports, as above
- A copy of the player's current visa (if applicable)
- A completed RFU Player Residence Declaration Form
- Evidence that the player actually lived and/or lives at each address stated in the Residence Declaration Form (see acceptable evidence below). If living or lived in British Armed Forces accommodation, use the requirements for the letter outlined in Section C below; replacing the Club with the player's Regiment within the Armed Forces and it must be signed by the player's Commanding Officer.

Acceptable Evidence documents which can be used (must include full name, relevant address and date)

Tenancy Agreements, Council Tax, Phone (landline or mobile), Gas, Water and Electricity bills as well as Bank Statements, all of which can be redacted, and must demonstrate that England has been the player's primary and permanent residence.

Applicants are required to submit evidence to bookend the qualification period including proof for each address. The current address is evidenced by documents from the start of the period and within the last month before submission of the application. Dependent on the time lived at each address, we may need additional evidence, for example once a year. Please contact the RFU Registrar if you have any questions.

Lack of Sufficient Evidence at an Address

If the player does not have sufficient evidence in their own name for a specific address, please provide the following, dependent on which applies to the player, to ensure that the entire qualification period at the relevant address(es) are evidenced.

A. Parent(s) Address

If the player lived with one or both of their parents for any time during the EQP qualification period; you should provide evidence (as outlined above in acceptable documents) in one or both of the parent's names, as well as an official document which provides evidence of the familial link:

- A copy of the player's birth certificate (or adoption certificate if applicable) which includes the name of parent who appears on the evidence provided at that address
- If the parent has changed their name, after marriage or otherwise, then please provide evidence of this change with a marriage certificate or deed poll
- An official signed letter (which can include a report of the student's results), on the educational establishment letterhead, sent to the relevant parent's address and includes the player's full name and the dates during which the player lived at the address during the 36 month qualification period

B. Non-Parental Family or Friend's Address

If the player lived with a non-parental family member, friend or another player from the same team, for any time during the EQP qualification period; you should provide the following signed letter as evidence. A letter from one or several of the tenants/owners of the accommodation, to include and confirm the following:

- Name of the tenant/owner of the property whom the player was or is living with and explain their relationship to the player
- Full Address of the property
- The months during which the player lived at the address
- Confirmation that the player has no bills in his name at the address
- Finally, the letter should be signed and dated by the tenant/owner of the property

C. Club Owned or Rented Accommodation

If the player lived in Club owned or rented accommodation for any or all of the time during the EQP qualification period; you should provide the following signed and dated letter from a senior representative of the club, to include and confirm the following on club letterhead, as evidence:

- The name of the Club who rented or owns the property, in which the player was or is living
- The full address of the property/properties
- The exact dates during which the player lived at this address/or these addresses
- Confirmation that the player has no bills in his name at this address/or these addresses

5. 10 year Cumulative Residency Route

This does not have to be one consecutive period.

To apply, you should submit the same documents which are required for the 36 or 60 month residency applications, with the addition of further evidence spanning throughout the applicable 10 year period.

Due to the complex nature of this type of application, please contact the RFU Registrar in the first instance to discuss whether this is the correct route and to answer any questions you may have.

Students

Please note that, if the residency period is during the player's time in education, it is unlikely that the player will qualify unless they can demonstrate that England has been their primary and permanent residence. You can find more information about this in World Rugby Regulation 8. The explanatory guidelines can be found here on the World Rugby website: <https://www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations/reg-8/explanatory-guidelines>.

If the qualification period includes time spent as a student, during which the player lived with his parents in England for the full qualification period, it will be ordinarily be considered as their primary and permanent residence.

Application Process

Once the completed application is submitted, it will be reviewed by the RFU Registration & Eligibility team. This includes receiving confirmation from the Union where the player was born (if applicable) that they have not represented that Union.

After the application has been reviewed, the applicant club will receive either:

- Confirmation of the player's EQP status with your club;
- Be required to provide further information or clarification; or
- Be informed that the player does not meet the required criteria to obtain EQP status

Once a player has been confirmed to have EQP status, the player's status in the GMS and Elitehub will be updated and the club registrar will receive confirmation via email from the RFU Player Registrations & Eligibility team.

Change of Club - Player's EQP Status

If a player moves to new club in England or returns to an English club from a club in another Union, then the English club must submit a new EQP application for the player, as follows, to the RFU Registrar.

The only exception is when the player has already been captured by England (by playing for either the senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, the next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team and the senior National Representative Sevens Team of the RFU).

If there is any doubt, please contact the RFU Registrar at mensplayerregistration@rfu.com.

When a player moves to a new English club and they have previously held EQP status at another English club, the following application process should be followed.

1. If a player qualifies by Birth or Ancestry (who are not yet captured by England), please submit the following via DocuSign:
 - A completed RFU Player Declaration Form
 - A copy of the player's current passport photo page
 - If they qualify via the Ancestry route, see additional documents required on either page one or two above

2. If a player qualifies via the 36 or 60 month Residency routes, a new full application will need to be completed and submitted, via email only.

If the player's previous EQP application was submitted by another English club in less than either the corresponding 36 or 60 months, the player's previous English club may be able to help you to obtain relevant documents for your new application. You will be required to provide evidence for the full qualification period, using both the previous documents, if obtained, and the additional documents gathered for this new EQP application.

Loss of EQP Status – Responsibility of the Player's Current Club

Even if EQP status is achieved, it can still be subsequently lost if:

- (a) A player no longer satisfies the requirements of World Rugby Regulation 8.1; or
- (b) A player is captured by World Rugby Regulation 8.2 by having played for another Union in their senior, next senior, or sevens national representative team.

It is the responsibility of each club to notify the RFU Registrar asap, to any change in EQP status of a player at any time at mensplayerregistration@rfu.com.

For example, if a player represents another Union for either their senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team, their next senior fifteen-a-side National Representative Team or their senior National Representative Sevens Team, the player will lose their EQP status immediately.

* Residency Requirements

It is a 36 month application period, if the residency began by 31st December 2018 & a 60 month application period, if the residency began from 1st January 2019.