



## Player Eligibility Rules World Netball Champs, World Youth Champs & Commonwealth Games

Changes to the International player eligibility rules were introduced by IFNA following the 2003 World Champs. Netball New Zealand has updated all National Squad Selection policies to be in line with the IFNA rules and also the Commonwealth Games athlete eligibility rules. These changes have considerable implications for New Zealand players who are eligible to play for New Zealand as well as another country.

### a) IFNA Player Eligibility Rules:

1. To be eligible to play for a country in the World Youth Netball Championships or World Netball Championships, a player must;
  - (a) Be a citizen of that country, or
  - (b) Be born in that country or have at least one parent born in that country, or
  - (c) Have resided in that country for a period of 24 months immediately prior to the start of the relevant Championships.
2. A player who has played for a country in a World Netball Championship or World Youth Championship shall not be eligible to participate in either the following the World Netball Championship or World Youth Championship for another country. However the IFNA Board may approve exceptions in the following situations:
  - (a) Where players, under the age of 21, who have played for one country and will be playing for another country because of extenuating circumstances
  - (b) Where players are returning to their place of birth or
  - (c) Where there are exceptional circumstances

### b) Implications for Players and Netball New Zealand:

1. If a player wishes to be considered for selection in the 2010 - 11 Silver Ferns, National and Emerging Talent Accelerant Groups, NZU21 Squads and teams including the NZSS and NZ Fastnet Ferns team, they would firstly need to be eligible for selection.
  2. Any player who has played for a country other than NZ at the 2009 World Youth Championships, 2007 World Champs (WNC) or the 2006/2010 Commonwealth Games is not eligible.
  3. Ineligible players (as detailed in 2. above), would need to have secured a clearance from Commonwealth Games Federation and/or IFNA to be considered for selection in any of the above NZ National Squads.
  4. Players that have played for another country at the 2009 World Youth Champs and who are still eligible to play in the 2013 World Youth Champs would need to stand down from the 2011 World Champs and the 2013 World Youth Champs before they are eligible for selection.
  5. If a player chooses to play for a country other than NZ at the 2011 World Champs, that player would not be eligible for selection in any NZ Squad/Team until after she has stood down from the 2015 World Champs. This effectively means that the player would not be able to be considered for selection in any NZ National Squad/Team for a further 4 years until after the 2015 World Netball Champs.
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6. Players who choose to play for a country other than NZ at the 2010 Commonwealth Games will not ever be eligible to play for NZ unless a clearance is secured from IFNA and the Commonwealth Games Federation. (Note: eligibility rules differ between an IFNA event and the Commonwealth Games)
7. Playing for another country other than NZ will also impact on a player's potential to be selected in a NZ Franchise for the ANZ Championships and players need to also refer to the ANZ Championship eligibility rules before deciding to play for a country other than NZ at a World Championship, World Youth Championship or Commonwealth Games.
8. NNZ is committed to developing and supporting players who are eligible and available to NZ National Squads and Teams.
9. NNZ recommends that players who have a desire to one day represent New Zealand as a Silver Fern or to play in the ANZ Championship, seek further advice before agreeing to play for a country other than New Zealand at a World Championship, Commonwealth Games or World Youth Championship.
10. This document serves to outline the Player Eligibility rules so that players are able to make an informed decision on their netball future in New Zealand.

NNZ has updated all Selection Policies and these are available through your region or the NNZ website.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact Tracey Fear, NNZ High Performance Director, email: [traceyf@netballnz.co.nz](mailto:traceyf@netballnz.co.nz)

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