



New Zealand
Indian Sports
Association Inc.

PERSONAL CONNECTION PLAYER

Version 2 - March 2015

1. This proposal was developed collectively by CDISC, CISC and WISC.

Background

2. Under the currently player eligibility rules an Indian Sports Club (ISC) can select resident players as of right. Resident players are those that live in an ISC's boundary or who play regularly for a club team in the local competition. The rules also require that a certain number of players in a team must be resident players – in the case of hockey 9 players out of a squad of 16 must be resident players.
3. Some clubs are struggling to find enough players to meet the minimum resident player requirement, which could result in those clubs not being able to field a team at NZISA events.

Personal Connection Player Proposal

4. This proposal does not change the minimum number of resident players required. Instead it adds a new category of person that can be considered a resident player. If this proposal were adopted resident players could be:
 - A person who lives within an ISC's boundary,
 - A person who plays for an ISC's regular playing team in a local competition, or
 - A person who has a close personal connection with an ISC.

Close personal connection criteria

5. The new category is for those that have a personal connection with the ISC. A person will have a close personal connection if they meet the following objective criteria:
 - Lived in the ISC's boundary for at least 5 years, and
 - Were a member of the ISC for at least 5 years, and
 - Given at least 5 years of service to the ISC.
6. The years of service can be made up of service to the ISC in one of the following roles:
 - Players for the ISC (regular or at an NZISA event)
 - Coach for the ISC
 - Manager for the ISC
 - Office holder or executive committee member for the ISC.
7. Objective criteria have been proposed rather than subjective criteria to avoid lengthy debate as to whether someone has connection or not. The criteria are also about the person themselves – not parental or extended family conditions.
8. The criteria all have a five-year threshold, and all three criteria must be satisfied. The reason for this is that a close personal connection cannot be demonstrated by just living in a boundary. There must be a connection with the ISC itself. The connection would be evidenced by membership and doing something for the club (in other words it would exclude passive members).

Determining membership of an ISC

9. Membership is determined in different ways by ISCs, and it is not for NZISA to dictate to ISCs how they manage their membership. To make this work simply and easily each ISC should provide a statement as to what its membership policy is with reference to the club constitution or other club documentation to the NZISA. When an application is made, the ISC will have to show that the person they put forward meets their own membership policy.

Resident vs. personal connection

10. A person who fits this new category will inevitably live in another ISC's boundary if they live in New Zealand. This means they would be able to be a resident player for the other ISC. To manage this conflict the proposal is that once a person is approved as a personal connection player for an ISC they must play for that ISC at NZISA events, unless that ISC does not enter a team at a particular NZISA event. In that case they may play for the ISC in whose boundary they live or they may be borrowed by the ISC in whose boundary they live for that event.

Process for assessing and approving players

11. Approving personal connection players is something that should happen in a systematic fashion rather than as part of checking entry forms as there could be a considerable amount of information to assess and check depending on the numbers that are submitted for approval. Also, such people are likely to be known and could be submitted for approval well in advance of events.
12. A subcommittee of three people appointed by the AGM (in the same way as other subcommittees) should assess applications and approve personal connection players. The subcommittee should be responsible for making the decision with a right of appeal to the Executive Committee (similar to the judicial committed process).
13. Those elected to the subcommittee should have knowledge and experience of NZISA rules. To that end one member should be a NZISA past president or office holder. There are however limited numbers of past office holders consequently it may be difficult to make it a firm requirement, but it could be part of appointment guidelines for the AGM to consider. For continuity purposes the appointments to the subcommittee should be for more than one year (2-3 years) with a staggered vacancy system (i.e. only 1 or 2 positions up for election year rather than the whole committee).
14. There could be two approval rounds each calendar year. The steps that must be followed in each round are:
 - Applications for clubs by set deadline.
 - Applications notified to all other clubs and given 2 weeks to submit any information or objections to the applications.
 - Subcommittee assesses applications and objections, and seeks further information if necessary to determine whether the criteria are met (4-6 weeks).
 - Subcommittee notifies all ISCs its decisions on applications.
 - ISCs have 2 weeks after subcommittee decision to lodge an appeal within reasons.
15. The process will likely take 12 – 14 weeks from the date applications are received. The exact timing of when each of the two rounds should be held will need to take into account the timing of our major events and meetings, and the practicalities of getting applications together and finding time for the subcommittee to meet and make decisions.

Redrafting of eligibility rules

16. Developing this proposal adds another category of person to the player eligibility rules, which means that the complexity of the rules is increased. Therefore if this policy change is adopted the eligibility rules should be redrafted to rationalise and simplify them as much as possible to make it easier for everyone to read and apply them to their situation.

Amendment made at the NZISA Executive Meeting on 08/03/2015:

17. Approved applications are valid for five (5) years, at the end of which the player must reapply to NZISA to continue as a Personal Connection Player to their nominated ISC.