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# INDIAN RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION (IRFU)

## SPORTS PERSONS OF OUTSTANDING MERIT (SOM) ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES, DOCUMENT CHECKLIST & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### INTRODUCTION

The Indian Rugby Football Union (IRFU) is inviting applications from eligible retired rugby players for inclusion in the **Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) category** of the IRFU Roster of SOMS, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the National Sports Governance Act and associated rules framework.

Preference for inclusion in the SOM Roster will be given to applicants based on seniority (by age), followed by playing experience, provided that they meet/satisfy all eligibility criteria applicable to SOMs

Please note that only SOMs included in the SOM Roster shall be eligible to be elected/nominated to the membership slots reserved for SOMs in the General Body of IRFU (4 SOMs in total, 2 male SOMs and 2 female SOMs) and/or be eligible to be elected for the posts-reserved for SOMs on the Board of Directors of IRFU (2 SOMs in total, 1 male SOM and 1 female SOM) in accordance with IRFU's Articles of Association.

Eligible applicants are invited to submit their applications directly to IRFU within the prescribed timeline.

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### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must satisfy **all** of the following criteria:

- Be an **Indian citizen**;
- Be **at least 25 years of age** as on the application closing date;
- Be of **sound mind**;
- Have **retired from active competition**; and
- Not have participated in any competitive event leading to selection for district, state or national representation for at least **one year immediately preceding the date of application**.

Additionally, for Rugby, applicants must satisfy the applicable **Tier 8 criteria**, namely:

- Have represented India in **at least five (5) sanctioned international rugby matches**.

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### SANCTIONED INTERNATIONAL MATCHES




For the purposes of this application process, a **sanctioned international match** means a rugby match:

- Recognized by the relevant international governing body - World Rugby or Asia Rugby and/or
- Verified through official records maintained by IRFU.

Both **Rugby Sevens** and **Rugby Fifteens** international appearances shall be considered. IRFU reserves the right to determine the eligibility of international appearances based on its official records.

Indian Rugby Football Union

305, Floor - Basement B/2, Churchgate Chambers, Vitthaladas Thackersey Marg, New Marine Lines, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India - 400 020.

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## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Applicants must submit the following documents along with the completed application form:

### Mandatory Documents

- Completed and signed **IRFU SOM Application Form**
- Proof of age and citizenship (any one):
  - Passport
  - Aadhaar Card
  - Voter ID Card
  - Any other government-issued identification document
- One recent passport-size photograph

### Supporting Documents

- Documentary evidence of international representation, such as:
  - Match participation certificates
  - Team lists
  - Tournament accreditation cards
  - International caps certificates
  - Relevant correspondence or records

*Applicants who do not possess documentary evidence of all international appearances may still apply by seeking required information from IRFU.*

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## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted directly to IRFU.

**No nomination, recommendation or endorsement from any State Rugby Association is required.**

Applications must be received on or before **24<sup>th</sup> August, 2026**

via

**Email:** [info@rugbyindia.in](mailto:info@rugbyindia.in)

**Subject Line:** Application – Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit – [Applicant Name]

Or

via Post on **Postal Address:** 305, Basement Floor, Plot-5, Churchgate Chambers, VT Marg, Churchgate, Mumbai Maharashtra, India, 400020

For queries relating to the application process, please write to [info@rugbyindia.in](mailto:info@rugbyindia.in)

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## IMPORTANT NOTES

- Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- IRFU reserves the right to seek additional information or documentation.
- Any false declaration or misrepresentation may result in rejection of the application.
- IRFU reserves the right to verify all information submitted.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### 1. What is the Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) category?

The SOM category comprises eligible retired athletes who are included in the IRFU Roster of SOMs in accordance with the applicable National Sports Governance Act and associated rules framework.

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**SOMs included in the SOM Roster are eligible to be elected/nominated to the General Body of IRFU as members and/or to the Board of Directors of IRFU, for the slots/posts reserved for SOMs in accordance with IRFU's Articles of Association.**

## **2. Who can apply?**

Retired rugby players who satisfy all eligibility criteria specified, including having represented India in at least five sanctioned international rugby matches.

## **3. Are Rugby Sevens and Rugby Fifteens players eligible?**

Yes. International appearances in both Rugby Sevens and Rugby Fifteens are eligible, subject to verification by IRFU.

## **4. Can current players apply?**

No. Applicants must have retired from active competition and must not have participated in any competitive event leading to selection for district, state or national representation for at least one year immediately preceding the date of application.

## **5. Do I need a nomination or recommendation from my State Rugby Association?**

No. Eligible applicants may apply directly to IRFU.

## **6. What if I do not have records of all my international matches?**

Applicants should provide any supporting documents available to them and IRFU may verify eligibility through its official records.

## **7. What happens after I submit my application?**

IRFU will review and verify all applications received. Eligible applicants will be considered for inclusion in the SOM roster in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures.

## **8. How long will the application window remain open?**




Applications will remain open for **60 days from the date of issuance of the call for applications**. Applications received after the prescribed deadline will not be considered.

## **9. Will IRFU acknowledge receipt of my application?**

Yes. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement upon successful receipt of their application.

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