



## International & Professional Player Policy

This policy sets out the definitions and limitations of use of international and professional players in the Gridiron NSW Competitions. This policy applies to all competitions run by Gridiron NSW (GNSW).

### Policy

Teams are limited to having a **maximum of 2 (two)** international players and **NO** Professional Players.

Should 1 (one) of those players not be able to complete the season for any reason the team **cannot** source a replacement international player.

Under no circumstances is a team allowed to field more than 2 (two) international players on the field, regardless of if a team is low on numbers.

### International Player Definition

An international player is one who meets **all** the following requirements:

- A playing participant.
- Is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australian or New Zealand
- Has previously played football in a football system as per the following leagues: NCAA (All Divisions), Canadian Collegiate, NFGL, Japan, Arena Football League (AFL), Mexico, Germany, ELF, Austria.

### Professional Player Definition

A professional player is defined as a player who

- Is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australian or New Zealand
- played in any of the following leagues: NFL, CFL, XFL, USFL regardless of practice or active squad.

### Professional Player Policy

Gridiron in NSW is an amateur sport. As such the participation of professional or former professional players is not permitted.

This is as much out of concern for the amateur players safety as it is to protect the fairness of play across the league.



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### International Player Exemptions

Any full-time university student is also exempt. That player will have to provide evidence of full-time enrollment in a NSW university to qualify for this exemption.

### International Player Reporting

All clubs are required to advise GNSW, utilising the attached form, of any international players participating on the roster.

For the purposes of clarity and visibility, regardless of a player's playing history, clubs should provide GNSW a completed form for any player who is not an citizen or permanent resident of Australian or New Zealand. GNSW will then assess the player and confirm their status.

Clubs are required to advise GNSW of the jersey number of the international player. Any changes to the jersey number of the players must be advised to GNSW as soon as practical. If jersey numbers are required to change on game day, they should be reported to the League Rep before the change is made.

The international player declaration is required to be submitted to the GNSW board on an annual basis. GNSW requires a minimum of 2 weeks to assess any international players and determine their status. Forms should be emailed to [secretary@gridironnsw.org.au](mailto:secretary@gridironnsw.org.au).

### International Player Identification

International players are to identify themselves to the officials and the opposing team as part of the coin toss process.

A failure for an international player to declare their categorisation will be considered a breach of this policy and will result in sanction.

In the event that an international player arrives late they are required to immediately notify the league rep at the field and the white hat.

### Payments to Players

Gridiron in NSW is an amateur sport, as such no players are allowed to receive financial benefit or payment for their participation. Clubs are allowed to assist players in finding work and accommodation, but not make direct payments to players including via sponsors or other members of the club. International players are also



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not to receive any other form of financial benefit. This would include, but is not limited to, paying for accommodation, gym memberships, vehicles, flights etc.

### Vetting and Approval of International Players by GNSW

All international players must be approved by GNSW. Any club wishing to have an international player compete for their club must send the following to the GNSW Board;

- copy of the player's visa
- clearance and release (as per IFAF) from previous club
- signed player agreement or contract that the club and the player have entered into
- history of the player's experience and clubs played for

### Breach of Policy

Breaches of this policy will be dealt with through loss of competition points and financial penalties to the club. As well as deeming the player unable to play.

### Expectations of International Players

International players are expected to contribute to the development of the sport both within the club and within the league. This may be through their participation in coaching clinics, officiating duties, coaching teams, and various other activities.

GNSW would expect that teams should not use their international players in situations where the mercy rule is in place. This should be seen as an opportunity to allow other players in the team to get experience and develop.

### Coaches

There are no limits to the participation of international coaches in the competitions.