

**Section 32A of the ICC Operating Manual**  
**(Domestic Cricket Events)**

**Questions & Answers**

NOTE: THESE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE INTENDED TO BE READ ALONGSIDE SECTION 32A OF THE ICC OPERATING MANUAL.

**1. Why has Section 32A been introduced?**

With the emergence of new domestic events that have to be accommodated into an increasingly busy cricket calendar, the ICC Board has decided that regulations are required to recognise and protect the primacy of international cricket as the pinnacle of the game, by introducing a mechanism that permits Member boards to determine when players who are qualified to play international cricket for them may participate in other Members' domestic events.

The regulatory imperatives behind this decision are explained in further detail in the notes to Section 32A.4.

**2. How does Section 32A protect international cricket?**

Section 32A protects the primacy of international cricket by requiring a Member board to make it a condition of a foreign player's participation in its domestic event(s) that the player's own Member board (i.e., the Member for which the player plays/or is qualified to play international cricket) does not object to his participation in such event(s).

The foreign player may only participate in the domestic event(s) if (and to the extent that) his Member board issues a 'No Objection Certificate', or 'NOC', confirming that it has no objection to that participation.

If the Member board declines to issue a NOC, then the original Member board cannot allow the player to participate in its domestic event. Instead, the player has to be released (where required) to play international cricket for his Member board.

**3. What form must the NOC be in?**

An NOC is simply a written document stating whether or not the relevant Member board objects to its player playing in the other Member's domestic cricket event. There is no set format required for the NOC. A letter will suffice.

The NOC may state that the Member board only objects to the player playing in part or parts of a domestic event. So, for example, it could say it only objects to the player playing in a domestic league on the dates when it wants him to participate on its behalf in international matches/events. (These dates could include time required for travelling, training, other preparation for the international match/event, etc.). The player would then be able to play in the domestic league on all other dates.

**4. On what basis may a Member board decline to issue an NOC for one of its players to participate in another Member's domestic event(s)?**

That will be a matter for the Member board to decide, acting in accordance with its responsibilities as custodian of the sport within its territory, and in compliance with all applicable laws.

The explanatory notes to Section 32A.4 detail some of the factors that a Member board may wish to consider in exercising its discretion.

**5. Does this mean clubs/counties/provincial teams/regional teams have to release their players for international cricket?**

Yes. However, there is one exception to this. A club/county/provincial team/regional team is only bound to release a player to play for an Associate Member for the following matches:

- ICC Cricket World Cup matches
- ICC Champions Trophy matches
- ICC World Twenty20 matches
- ICC U19 Cricket World Cup matches
- ICC World Cup Qualifiers
- ICC World Twenty20 Qualifiers
- ICC U19 Cricket World Cup Qualifiers
- ICC Intercontinental Cup matches
- All one day internationals and Twenty20 internationals against Full Members

**6. What if they do not release their players in accordance with the new regulations?**

If the player's Member board has objected to his participation in a domestic event during a particular period, then the player will not be able to participate in that domestic event during that period.

It will be the responsibility of the Member board in whose territory the domestic event is played to enforce that regulation (subject to the requirements of applicable law), i.e., to ensure that a foreign player does not play in a domestic event under its jurisdiction unless he has a valid and applicable NOC from his Member board for the relevant period.

This should be made a part of the Member board's regulations. It should also be put into the rules issued by the organiser of the event, i.e., those rules should require presentation of a valid NOC as a condition of a foreign player's eligibility to participate in the event.

In any case, if a club/country/provincial team/regional team attempts to field a player in a domestic event who does not have the necessary NOC, the Member board in whose territory that event is staged will be required (subject to the requirements of applicable law) to prevent that from happening, and/or to take appropriate disciplinary action against the player and/or team(s) involved.

**7. Do the new rules apply to all foreign players, or only those who are contracted by their Member board?**

The new rules apply to all foreign players, whether or not they are under contract to their Member board.

**8. What if a foreign player has retired from international cricket and therefore no longer has any relationship with his home Member board?**

The player is required to obtain an NOC from the Member for whose national representative team that player last played, notwithstanding that he has retired from international cricket.

**9. What if a foreign player has not yet played for any Member Board and/or would be eligible to play for more than one Member board?**

He must obtain an NOC from the Member board for whose national representative team he is eligible to play pursuant to Section 35 of the ICC's Operating Manual. If he is eligible to play for more than one Member board, he must designate one of those Member boards as the relevant Member for purposes of Section 32A, and must get an NOC from that Member board.

**10. What if a Member board considers that it is not entitled to prevent one of its players from participating in a domestic cricket event, whether for legal reasons or otherwise?**

In that case the Member should simply issue the NOC, stating that it has no objection or is not in a position to object to the player participating in the relevant domestic cricket event.

**11. When will these new regulations become operative?**

These new regulations will become operative as from 1 June 2009.

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