



## England Masters Lionhearts – Player Selection Policy

Masters Rugby League is a non-competitive variant of Rugby League and as such the process for selection of players for the England representative team to play international fixtures is also non-competitive. A reward and recognition selection process for their continued participation & contribution to Masters Rugby League. The aim of England Masters Lionhearts is to provide an equal opportunity to Masters players from each region of the country to represent England Community Lions programme in Masters Rugby League – “England Masters Lionhearts”. The England Community Lions programme is a self-funded programme, players are expected to meet the full financial commitments required for representing the England Masters Lionhearts.

### 1. Masters Player Requirements

- 1.1. Must be eligible under IRL regulation to play for England. Valid English Passport or Birth Certificate or 5-year residency.
- 1.2. Must be registered on the RFL STG registration system as a Masters Rugby League player.
- 1.3. Must be registered on the RFL STG system for Masters Rugby League for more than 2 years from the date of nomination. (Please see 1.2.)
- 1.4. A player must have attended at least a minimum of three Masters Festivals, for example a regional season launch festival, a regional festival and the national festival. Evidence of this will only be verified by submitted team sheets from the listed events in the present calendar year.  
  
Season Launch, Cumbria, South, North East, Lancashire, Yorkshire & National Festival(s)
- 1.5. A player must be nominated by their Team Manager from the RFL Masters affiliated club via the appropriate link sent to them by the RFL and have replied by the closing date to be eligible.
- 1.6. A player may only represent England Masters Lionhearts once in each coloured set of shorts.
- 1.7. A player can only be selected to play for England Masters Lionhearts for a second time if the player is wearing different coloured shorts to their previous international appearance.
- 1.8. A player must not be registered in the open age section or have represented an open age team in that same calendar year.
- 1.9. A player must not have played in any unsanctioned games for/against any unaffiliated teams as deemed by the RFL.



## 2. Masters Clubs & Team Managers Requirements

- 2.1 Nominate up to six Masters players, one from each category colour of shorts (white, black, red, gold, light blue & green) using the appropriate link sent to the Masters clubs and have replied by the closing date for the player to be eligible and base their decision on the player requirements above. (Please see section 1.1. to 1.8 for minimum requirements)
- 2.2. A maximum of two players from each Masters club will be selected, unless there are less than ten Masters clubs (20 players) which do not attend the required amount of Masters festivals.
- 2.3. The online form for Team Managers to nominate Masters players will be sent out in February in each calendar year.
- 2.4. Paid the RFL affiliation fee before the Season Launch Festivals to become a recognised RFL Masters affiliated club before the club participates in any Masters Festival.
- 2.5. Submitted all team sheets for Masters festivals to their Regional Representative/Festival Organiser, Masters Fixture Secretary [masters.secretary@rfl.co.uk](mailto:masters.secretary@rfl.co.uk) & RFL Competitions [competitions@rfl.co.uk](mailto:competitions@rfl.co.uk)
- 2.6. Team Managers/Clubs must have paid the team deposit for each Masters Festival by the deadline assigned by the Regional/National Festival organisers.
- 2.7. If a regional festival has a limited number of spaces available for clubs to attend due to pitch availability, their will be an opportunity to sanction/organise an alternative festival for the clubs that were unable to secure a place at the regional festival (only clubs who register the expression of interest on the may have the right organise an alternative festival). This will then count towards their appearances at Masters festivals for the England Masters Lionhearts squad.

## 3. England Masters Lionhearts Staff - Player Selection Requirements

- 3.1. The England Masters Lionhearts squad will be selected by the Team Coach in accordance with section one and two of the Masters Community Lionhearts Player Selection Policy document. The Team Manager will ensure the correct checks, procedures and processes have been followed before the public announcement of the squad is made.
- 3.2. A maximum number of twenty players are selected within an England Masters Lionhearts squad.
- 3.3. If a player who has been selected for the squad is unable to play for England Masters Lionhearts, the Team Manager and Head Coach are allowed to select a replacement player who was nominated in the same calendar year (see 2.1.).



- 3.4. A minimum of one player from each age category stated here must be selected to ensure a balanced squad of short colours. (35-40 years), (40-49 years), (50-59 years) & (60+ years).
- 3.5. To ensure there is a geographical selection of players within the England Masters Lionhearts squad based on the registered RFL affiliated Masters clubs.
- 3.6. If a player/club is unable to attend the required number of festivals to qualify for selection via nomination, the England Masters Lionhearts Team Manager, Team Coach and Team Manager may present this to the RFL and request an extenuating circumstance.

### **How to Nominate**

Player nominations are collected via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/QGgtCXvyjw>

Please can all Team Managers make sure they have the following details before completing the form:

- Players Name
- Date of Birth
- Shorts Colour
- Masters Club Name
- Position(s)
- Medical Conditions/Requirements
- Emergency Contact Name, Relation to Player & Mobile Number