

**ICC POLICY: FULL MEMBER COUNTY / PROVINCE / STATE PLAYER
RELEASE TO ASSOCIATE/AFFILIATE MEMBER INTERNATIONAL DUTIES**

Adopted by ICC Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) February 2005

Reinforced by CEC February 2006

Updated by CEC July 2006

Updated by CEC February 2008

Since 1 January 2006, it is “mandatory” for all Full Members to enforce that their County/Province/State Cricket Bodies release Associate and Affiliate players that are required for international cricket in the following events i. – vii. and to “encourage” such release for events viii. – xiii:

“Mandatory”

- i. ICC Cricket World Cup (senior & U19)
- ii. ICC Champions Trophy
- iii. Any direct World Cup qualifying event (senior & U19, e.g. ICC World Cup Qualifier tournament of the ICC World Cricket League)
- iv. Any direct ICC Champions Trophy qualifying event
- v. ICC World Twenty20
- vi. Any direct ICC World Twenty20 qualifying event
- vii. Any other ODI or Twenty20 International match versus a Full member

“Encourage”

- viii. Any other ODI or Twenty20 International match (not versus a Full member)
- ix. Any other ICC World Cricket League global events
- x. ICC Intercontinental Cup
- xi. ICC World Cricket League regional events
- xii. Other ICC global or regional events
- xiii. National events (including U19)

The summary of the ICC's position on this matter is as follows:

- The ICC's Executive Board has stressed that the concept of nation-versus-nation cricket is the lifeblood of members and this must always be given the highest possible priority
- It has further agreed that all parties compromise or fail to protect this belief at their peril
- This stance applies to *all* ICC Members
- The ICC has a Player Release Policy that counties/states/provinces must provide mandatory release for Associates players for certain matches including all ODIs against Full Members and the upcoming WT20 Qualifier event. This policy was adopted by all Full Members in February 2006 and also goes on to encourage release for other matches, including the ICC Intercontinental Cup
- The ICC and its Members have been disappointed and concerned that the Player Release Policy has thus far not always been able to achieve its express aim of ensuring that Associates are at full strength for vital international matches. This has been unfortunate. The idea that an Associate Member is not at full strength when playing an ODI against a Full Member that is at full strength does not match the ICC's development objectives and is obviously not good for the development of the game
- The ICC's significant investment in the globalisation of the game across all of its 104 Members, and especially in regard to targeted assistance to the High Performance Associate Members, means that the nation-versus-nation priority principle must stand and that the aims of the Player Release Policy must be achieved
- The ICC would like to see all counties/states/provinces take a public and private position that a) players' careers would benefit greatly from representing their countries in such matches and events, b) those players' developing or on-going careers would not be adversely affected in any way by missing county/state/province matches for those internationals and c) performances in such matches – especially those against Full Members – would be held in even higher regard than performances in domestic cricket
- The ICC would like to see all relevant players and their clubs support the position as all of the above is in the best interests of the sport