

Background

This proposal invites WFDF to recognise International Test Matches that occur apart from WFDF tournaments. Allowing WFDF Members to arrange bilateral elite competition provides more opportunities for elite athletes and enhances Ultimate's global profile.

Australia has invited the Japanese World Games team to compete in two Test Matches against the Australian World Games team in Sydney and Melbourne on 19-21 May 2017. This match will be livestreamed free worldwide. The AFDA will provide detailed spectator, viewer and sponsorship data to WFDF on completion of the match to help promote the concept in other regions.

What is an International Test Match?

An International Test Match is a bilateral game of ultimate between teams representing two WFDF Regular Members.

Test Matches allow opportunities for full strength national teams to compete against each other in official competition outside of WFDF World Championships or Continental Championships. They are an excellent opportunity for elite athletes to perform at the highest level more regularly than at Championships tournament play.

Test Matches also allow WFDF Members to own and control a format of international competition, to showcase the sport to spectators, sponsors, media, government and prospective athletes. All aspects of event organisation are controlled by the host WFDF Member in consultation with the visiting WFDF Member.

Other sports, such as cricket, rugby and football (as “friendly” matches) have used the test match format successfully for over a century, preceding the formation of world championships or world cups. Historically, a Test Match has been a “test” of strength and competency between the countries involved, both fielding their best possible teams.

Test Matches are not practice games between national teams. They are meant to showcase the very best of our sport. Ideally they will be conducted completely separately from tournament / championship / knock-out competition, allowing both teams to be fully rested and prepared at the start of the game and giving each game “meaning” in itself without being part of a larger competition. However, a test series (see next section) is encouraged, where each game counts equally and there is no “final” game. WFDF asks its members to keep this in mind when scheduling Test Matches for official recognition.

What is a Test Series?

Test Matches can be organised into a “series” of Test Matches between the two countries, played as home and away games in both countries, or as a tour of cities hosted by one of the countries. Although the series concept is not an official format requiring endorsement by

WFDF, the winner of a series could be awarded a bilateral trophy by the two competing WFDF Members. In cricket and rugby this is common and steeped in tradition, for example:

- [The Bledisloe Cup](#) for AUS-NZL rugby
- [The Ashes](#) for AUS-ENG cricket

Eligibility Requirements

An International Test Match must:

- Be played between two teams, each of which:
 - Represents a WFDF Regular Member
 - Fits one of the gender and age divisions of play identified in Appendix B of the WFDF Rules of Ultimate
 - Consists of athletes eligible to represent that WFDF Member and play in that division in accordance with Appendix D of the WFDF Rules of Ultimate
- Be endorsed, in writing to WFDF, as an International Test Match by both WFDF Members
- Be played in accordance with the WFDF Rules of Ultimate current at the time the game takes place; variations may only be allowed if approved for experimental use by WFDF and agreed by both WFDF Members
- Be self-refereed, which may include the use of Game Advisors in accordance with Appendix B6 of the WFDF Rules of Ultimate
- Include post-match Spirit of the Game scoring between the teams, using the current WFDF-approved (or allowed variation) scoring system
- Allow third-party scrutiny of the game in progress (e.g. spectators)
- Be hosted by one of the WFDF Members, who will be designated as the Host and their team the Home team; the other being designated the Visitor and their team the Away team.
- Be reported to WFDF after its completion in accordance with these rules (see below)

Notification to WFDF

To assist in advertising an upcoming game as a Test Match, the Host WFDF Member must notify the WFDF Ultimate Committee Chair in writing as follows:

- Confirmation that each of the Eligibility Requirements (above) will be met
- Date, Time, Location, Teams, in the same format as the Reporting Requirements (below)

This notification will help WFDF to ensure that the planned game will meet the requirements and will allow WFDF to advertise the game through its communication channels.

Historical games played before 1 January 2017 are not eligible for Test Match status. If sufficient records of those games exist, they can be recorded and noted as “pre-Test Match era” games.

Reporting Requirements to WFDF

On completion of the Test Match, the Host WFDF Member must report the following information to the WFDF Ultimate Committee Chair:

- Confirmation from both WFDF Members that the eligibility requirements were met
- The **Date and Time** that the Test Match commenced (in the local time zone)
- The **Location** where the Test Match was played (country, city and preferably stadium or geographical co-ordinates)
- The Home and Away **Teams**, designated by WFDF Member country, gender division and age division
- The athletes rostered onto each team, including their WFDF eligibility status, with captains identified
- The winning team
- The final score
- Spirit scores awarded to each team
- Names of any Game Advisors or Line Assistants used

Optional reporting includes:

- Names of other match officials (e.g. scorekeepers)
- Match statistics, including at a minimum all assists and goals

Upon written confirmation from the WFDF Ultimate Committee Chair that this information is complete, the game will be designated an International Test Match.

WFDF may use the results of Test Matches for the purposes of ranking national teams in the relevant division.

Matches played at WFDF World Championships and Continental Championships between national teams are not awarded Test Match status, given the current arduous tournament format of those championships and the differing importance of pool games and knock-out stages in those competitions.