

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1437

Zurich, 23 July 2014
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Amendments to

- **the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players**
- **the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber**

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that on 22 March 2014, the FIFA Executive Committee approved an amendment to Annexe 4, art. 5 par. 3 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*) as well as an addition to art. 12 par. 3 of the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber (hereinafter: *the Procedural Rules*). These changes will come into force on 1 August 2014.

We enclose a copy of both the aforementioned amended articles for your information and records. The revised Regulations and Procedural Rules are also available on FIFA's website (www.FIFA.com), from where they can of course be downloaded. Three copies of the Regulations and the Procedural Rules in their usual booklet form will follow under separate cover in due course.

The revised text of Annexe 4, art. 5 par. 3 of the Regulations brings the scope of the relevant provision back to its original wording. In keeping with the principle under which a provision could not be applied retrospectively, in its jurisprudence the Dispute Resolution Chamber (DRC) had yet to apply the amendment introduced on 1 October 2009. Furthermore, it appeared that applying the higher costs of the actual category to the training years of very young players would not be justified.

The addition to art. 12 par. 3 of the Procedural Rules aims at strengthening the parties' duty to help clarify the facts of a case before FIFA's bodies.

Finally, we take this opportunity to remind you that on 1 August 2014, the new Annexe 1, art. 1 and Annexe 1, art. 3 par. 2 of the Regulations will also come into force. Please also find enclosed a copy of the relevant provisions. In this respect, we kindly refer you to FIFA circular no. 1356 of 13 May 2013.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions in this connection.

Yours faithfully,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Encl. as mentioned

cc: FIFA Executive Committee
Confederations
Players' Status Committee
Dispute Resolution Chamber
FIFPro
ECA
EPFL



Release of players to association teams

1 Principles

1.

Clubs are obliged to release their registered players to the representative teams of the country for which the player is eligible to play on the basis of his nationality if they are called up by the association concerned. Any agreement between a player and a club to the contrary is prohibited.

2.

The release of players under the terms of paragraph 1 of this article is mandatory for all international windows listed in the international match calendar (cf. paragraphs 3 and 4 below) as well as for the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, the FIFA Confederations Cup, and the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations, subject to the relevant association being a member of the organising confederation.

3.

After consultation with the relevant stakeholders, FIFA publishes the international match calendar for the period of four or eight years. It will include all international windows for the relevant period (cf. paragraph 4 below). Following the publication of the international match calendar only the final competitions of the FIFA World Cup™, FIFA Confederations Cup and of the championships for "A" representative teams of the confederations will be added.

4.

An international window is defined as a period of nine days starting on a Monday morning and ending on Tuesday night the following week, which is reserved for representative teams' activities. During any international window a maximum of two matches may be played by each representative team, irrespective of whether these matches are qualifying matches for an international tournament or friendlies. The pertinent matches can be scheduled any day as from Wednesday during the international window, provided that a minimum of two full calendar days are left between two matches (e.g. Thursday/Sunday or Saturday/Tuesday).

5.

Representative teams shall play the two matches within an international window on the territory of the same confederation, with the only exception of inter-continental play-off matches. If at least one of the two matches is a friendly, they can be played in two different confederations only if the distance between the venues does not exceed a total of five flight hours, according to the official schedule of the airline, and two time-zones.

6.

It is not compulsory to release players outside an international window or outside the final competitions as per paragraph 2 above included in the international match calendar. It is not compulsory to release the same player for more than one "A" representative team final competition per year. Exceptions to this rule can be established by the FIFA Executive Committee for the FIFA Confederations Cup only.

7.

For international windows, players must be released and start the travel to join their representative team no later than Monday morning and must start the travel back to their club no later than the next Wednesday morning following the end of the international window. For a final competition in the sense of paragraphs 2 and 3 above, players must be released and start the travel to their representative team no later than Monday morning the week preceding the week when the relevant final competition starts and must be released by the association in the morning of the day after the last match of their team in the tournament.

8.

The clubs and associations concerned may agree a longer period of release or different arrangements with regard to paragraph 7 above.

9.

Players complying with a call-up from their association under the terms of this article shall resume duty with their clubs no later than 24 hours after the end of the period for which they had to be released. This period shall be extended to 48 hours if the representative teams' activities concerned took place in a different confederation to the one in which the player's club is registered. Clubs shall be informed in writing of a player's outbound and return schedule ten days before the start of the release period. Associations shall ensure that players are able to return to their clubs on time after the match.

10.

If a player does not resume duty with his club by the deadline stipulated in this article, at explicit request, the FIFA Players' Status Committee shall decide that the next time the player is called up by his association the period of release shall be shortened as follows:

- a) international window: by two days
- b) final competition of an international tournament: by five days

11.

Should an association repeatedly breach these provisions, the FIFA Players' Status Committee may impose appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to:

- a) fines;
- b) a reduction of the period of release;
- c) a ban on calling up a player(s) for subsequent representative teams' activities.

2 Financial provisions and insurance

1.

Clubs releasing a player in accordance with the provisions of this annexe are not entitled to financial compensation.

2.

The association calling up a player shall bear the costs of travel incurred by the player as a result of the call-up.

3.

The club with which the player concerned is registered shall be responsible for his insurance cover against illness and accident during the entire period of his release. This cover must also extend to any injuries sustained by the player during the international match(es) for which he was released.

4.

If a professional male player participating in eleven-a-side football suffers during the period of his release for an international "A" match a bodily injury caused by an accident and is, as a consequence of such an injury, temporary totally disabled, the club with which the player concerned is registered will be indemnified by FIFA. The terms and conditions of the indemnification, including the loss-handling procedures, are set forth in the Technical Bulletin – Club Protection Programme.

3 Calling up players

1.

As a general rule, every player registered with a club is obliged to respond affirmatively when called up by the association he is eligible to represent on the basis of his nationality to play for one of its representative teams.

2.

Associations wishing to call up a player must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the first day of the international window (cf. Annexe 1, article 1 paragraph 4) in which the representative teams' activities for which he is required will take place. Associations wishing to call up a player for the final competition of an international tournament must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the beginning of the relevant release period (cf. Annexe 1, article 1 paragraph 7). The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time. Equally, associations are advised to copy the association of the clubs concerned into the summons. The club must confirm the release of the player within the following six days.

3.

Associations that request FIFA's help to obtain the release of a player playing abroad may only do so under the following two conditions:

- a) The association at which the player is registered has been asked to intervene without success.
- b) The case is submitted to FIFA at least five days before the day of the match for which the player is needed.

4 Training costs

1.

In order to calculate the compensation due for training and education costs, associations are instructed to divide their clubs into a maximum of four categories in accordance with the clubs' financial investment in training players. The training costs are set for each category and correspond to the amount needed to train one player for one year multiplied by an average "player factor", which is the ratio of players who need to be trained to produce one professional player.

2.

The training costs, which are established on a confederation basis for each category of club, as well as the categorisation of clubs for each association, are published on the FIFA website (www.FIFA.com). They are updated at the end of every calendar year. Associations are required to keep the data regarding the training category of their clubs inserted in TMS up to date at all times (cf. Annexe 3, article 5.1 paragraph 2).

5 Calculation of training compensation

1.

As a general rule, to calculate the training compensation due to a player's former club(s), it is necessary to take the costs that would have been incurred by the new club if it had trained the player itself.

2.

Accordingly, the first time a player registers as a professional, the training compensation payable is calculated by taking the training costs of the new club multiplied by the number of years of training, in principle from the season of the player's 12th birthday to the season of his 21st birthday. In the case of subsequent transfers, training compensation is calculated based on the training costs of the new club multiplied by the number of years of training with the former club.

3.

To ensure that training compensation for very young players is not set at unreasonably high levels, the training costs for players for the seasons between their 12th and 15th birthdays (i.e. four seasons) shall be based on the training and education costs of category 4 clubs.

4.

The Dispute Resolution Chamber may review disputes concerning the amount of training compensation payable and shall have discretion to adjust this amount if it is clearly disproportionate to the case under review.

6 Special provisions for the EU/EEA

1.

For players moving from one association to another inside the territory of the EU/EEA, the amount of training compensation payable shall be established based on the following:

- a) If the player moves from a lower to a higher category club, the calculation shall be based on the average training costs of the two clubs.
- b) If the player moves from a higher to a lower category, the calculation shall be based on the training costs of the lower-category club.

2.

Inside the EU/EEA, the final season of training may occur before the season of the player's 21st birthday if it is established that the player completed his training before that time.

petition will not be dealt with in the event of non-compliance. Petitions with improper or inadmissible content will be rejected immediately.

3.

If there is no reason not to deal with a petition, it shall be sent to the opposing party or the person affected by the petition with a time limit for a statement or reply. If no statement or reply is received before the time limit expires, a decision shall be taken upon the basis of the documents already on file. There will only be a second exchange of correspondence in special cases.

10 Venue

The proceedings and deliberations of the Players' Status Committee (including the single judge) and of the DRC (including the DRC judge) shall take place at FIFA headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, subject to exceptions.

11 Oral hearing

1.

If the circumstances appear to warrant it, the parties may be summoned to attend an oral hearing. A record of the hearing shall be conducted by a person appointed by the chairman. The testimonies from parties, witnesses and experts are to be signed by them.

2.

On timely request, an interpreter will be provided by FIFA. The costs for the interpreter are to be borne by the requesting party.

12 Taking of evidence

1.

Evidence consists of party testimony, witness testimony, documents, expert reports and all other pertinent evidence.

2.

Evidence shall be heard only in respect of facts relevant to the case.

3.

Any party claiming a right on the basis of an alleged fact shall carry the burden of proof. During the proceedings, the parties shall submit all relevant facts and evidence of which they are aware at that time, or of which they should have been aware if they had exercised due care.

4.

The Players' Status Committee and the DRC may also consider evidence not presented by the parties.

5.

If the hearing of presented evidence is associated with high costs, it may be made dependent upon the party paying the anticipated costs within a set time limit.

6.

Evidence shall be considered with free discretion, taking into account the conduct of the parties during the proceedings, especially a failure to comply with a personal summons, a refusal to answer questions and the withholding of requested evidence.

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Proposals from the FIFA administration

1.

In disputes relating to training compensation and the solidarity mechanism without complex factual or legal issues, or in cases in which the DRC already has clear, established jurisprudence, the FIFA administration (i.e. the Players' Status & Governance Department) may make written proposals, without prejudice, to the parties regarding the amounts owed in the case in question as well as the calculation of such amounts. At the same time, the parties shall be informed that they have 15 days from receipt of FIFA's proposals to request, in writing, a formal decision from the relevant body, and that failure to do so will result in the proposal being regarded as accepted by and binding on all parties.

2.

If a party requests a formal decision, the proceedings will be conducted according to the provisions laid down in these rules.