

TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA

Circular no. 1233

Zurich, 12 July 2010
SG/oon**Amended Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players and reviewed 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 the occasion of its recent meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 6/7 June 2010, the FIFA Executive Committee has approved a series of amendments to the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*) as well as few marginal adaptations to the Rules Governing the Procedures of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber (hereinafter: *the Procedural Rules*). We are pleased to herewith inform you of the pertinent changes.

A) *The Regulations*

Please find enclosed a copy of the amended Regulations for your information and records. The new edition of the Regulations is also available on FIFA's website (www.FIFA.com), from where it can, of course, be downloaded. Three copies of the Regulations in their usual booklet form will be distributed in due course.

All amendments to the Regulations will come into force on 1 October 2010.

a) *New Annexe 3 to the Regulations*

First and foremost, the amended Regulations include a complete new Annexe 3, which concerns the Transfer Matching System (TMS). The relevant Annexe comprises 9 articles and will form the regulatory framework for the use of TMS. In this respect, we would like to point out that, in substance, the pertinent provisions are the compilation of the guidelines and directives which have already been applicable to the use of TMS for the last 18 months and on the basis of which the various member associations as well as their affiliated clubs have been trained and instructed to act.

The Annexe describes clearly and in detail the system and its scope (cf. art. 1 and 2). Furthermore, it enumerates the users of TMS (cf. art. 3) and establishes their respective obligations (cf. art. 4 and 5) and roles (cf. art. 6 and 7).

/...

A major part of the Annexe is dedicated to the administrative procedure governing the transfer of professionals between associations (cf. art. 8). In this regard, we would like to emphasise that as far as this particular part of the use of TMS is concerned, the relevant provisions will only apply, but then compulsorily, to **all international transfers of professional male players within the scope of eleven-a-side football** (cf. art. 1 par. 5). The administrative procedure of all other international transfers of players will be governed by Annexe 3a of the Regulations, which basically corresponds to the current Annexe 3 of the Regulations.

Finally, the new Annexe also establishes the sanctioning system in relation to the use of TMS (cf. art. 9).

In relation to the implementation of the new Annexe 3, certain marginal adaptations of pure administrative nature to the following articles of the Regulations became necessary:

- art. 6 par. 2: Registration periods
- art. 9: International Transfer Certificate
- art. 23 par. 3: Players' Status Committee
- Annexe 4, art. 4 par. 2: Training costs

b) Art. 17 par. 3 of the Regulations

In order to bring the wording of art. 17 par. 3 of the Regulations in line with the existing and well-established jurisprudence of the Dispute Resolution Chamber with regard to the start of the sporting sanctions imposed on a player, the pertinent segment of the provision in question was rephrased.

c) Annexe 1, art. 1 par. 4 lit. b) of the Regulations

With respect to the obligation for clubs to release players to their representative teams also for the period of preparation before an international match, a specification has been included for the particular situation pertaining to the release of players prior to the so-called "double dates". This amendment was introduced in relation to the previously decided change to the dates listed in the international match calendar for "double-dates" so as for them to cover the period Friday/Saturday/Tuesday as opposed to the previous positioning Saturday/Wednesday (cf. FIFA circular no. 1207 of 14 October 2009).

d) Art. 24 of the Regulations

With the aim to increase congruence between the competence of the Single Judge of the Players' Status Committee and the DRC judge, the competence of the latter to deal with specific issues has been concretised.

B) The Procedural Rules

Please find enclosed a copy of the reviewed Procedural Rules for your information and records. The new edition of the Procedural Rules is also available on FIFA's website (www.FIFA.com), from where it can, of course, be downloaded. Three copies of the Procedural Rules in their usual booklet form will be distributed in due course.

Pure linguistic and administrative adaptations were made to the following provisions:

- art. 4: Composition [of the Players' Status Committee and the Dispute Resolution Chamber]
- art. 13 par. 1: Proposals from the FIFA administration
- art. 15 par. 1: Decisions without grounds

C) *Reports*

Finally, please find enclosed the three reports presented on the occasion of the 60th FIFA Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 10 June 2010, regarding strategic and sports political matters. The three reports given to the FIFA Congress under agenda item 11.1 "Update on decisions passed at 2009 Congress" refer to strategic and sports political matters in general (provided by Mr Juan-Angel Napout, President of the Paraguayan Football Association), the status of the ongoing revision of the regulations on agents on the basis of intermediaries (provided by Mr Khaled Mortagy, Member of the FIFA Committee for Club Football and the relevant working group on the revision), as well as an update on the measures taken to protect minors, including the current status of the TMS (provided by Mr Geoff Thompson, Chairman of the FIFA Players' Status Committee). We trust you will appreciate them.

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

We thank you for your kind attention to the above.

Yours faithfully,
FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke
Secretary General

Encl. as mentioned

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