

**TO THE MEMBERS OF FIFA**

Circular no. 1297

Zurich, 19 April 2012  
SG/mav/oon**Release of players to association teams – Men's Olympic Football Tournament**

Dear Sir or Madam,

With reference to the above-mentioned matter, we are pleased to inform you of the decision passed by the FIFA Executive Committee on the occasion of its recent meeting held at the Home of FIFA in Zurich, Switzerland, on 29-30 March 2012.

In accordance with Annexe 1, art. 1 par. 1 and 2 of the Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (hereinafter: *the Regulations*), clubs are obliged to release their registered players for international duties for matches on dates listed in the international match calendar *“and for all matches for which a duty to release players exists **on the basis of a special decision by the FIFA Executive Committee**”* (emphasis added; cf. Annexe 1, art. 1 par. 2, *in fine*, of the Regulations).

On the basis of the aforementioned provision, the FIFA Executive Committee has decided to declare the release of all duly summoned U-23 players to their association teams mandatory for the Men's Olympic Football Tournament London 2012 as well as for the Men's Olympic Football Tournament Rio de Janeiro 2016.

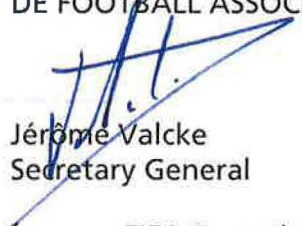
We kindly ask you to inform your relevant affiliated clubs accordingly without delay.

In order to avoid misunderstandings, we would like to emphasise that the aforementioned special decision of the FIFA Executive Committee does not concern the three over-age (over 23) players eligible to participate in the Men's Olympic Football Tournament.

However, as regards the latter players, as always FIFA is calling on all stakeholders in the clubs to uphold the spirit of solidarity within the football family by also releasing these players, especially as participation in such a competition is a unique opportunity for them. It gives them the chance to gain international experience that will stand them in good stead in the future. It stands to reason, therefore, that it is not only the player and his national team who can benefit from such an experience, but also his club.

We thank you for your kind attention to the above and for your valuable collaboration.

Yours faithfully,  
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

cc: - FIFA Executive Committee  
- Confederations  
- FIFA Competitions Division